



Name of Property: W. A. Young & Sons Foundry and Machine Shop
City, State: Rices Landing, Pennsylvania
Period of Significance: 1900 - 1965
NHL Criteria: 1 and 4
NHL Theme: V. Developing the American Economy
1. extraction and production
Previous Recognition: 1991-1992 Historic American Engineering Record (#PA-199)
1993 National Register of Historic Places (contributing resource, Rices Landing Historic District)
National Historic Context: XVIII. Technology (Engineering and Invention)
D. Tools and Machines
American Labor History (draft)

NHL Significance:

- W. A. Young & Sons Foundry and Machine Shop is an outstanding example of a small, family-owned, twentieth-century foundry and machine shop. “Job shops” like W. A. Young & Sons, which did custom jobs for a variety of clients, were an important component of the American industrial economy facilitated by the development of machine tools and line-shaft power systems in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries.
- The property includes one of the finest, if not the finest, collection of machine tools found in a small job shop.
- According to Robert Vogel, Curator Emeritus of Mechanical and Civil Engineering for the National Museum of American History, W. A. Young & Sons is “...one of the nation’s best-preserved machine shops of the period.”



Integrity:

- W. A. Young & Sons Foundry and Machine Shop retains an exceptionally high degree of historic integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and continues to clearly convey its character-defining form and features.
- The totality of the property -- the collection of buildings and work spaces, machine tools, foundry equipment, patterns, work benches, finished products such as hardware, and miscellaneous materials fully captures the material culture of a twentieth-century small foundry and machine shop.

Owner of Property: Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area

Acreage of Property: 0.2

Origins of Nomination: The owner of the property, the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, requested consideration of the resource as an NHL by the Northeast Regional Office.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Designation will highlight a neglected aspect of the history of the American industrial economy, the small, family-owned twentieth-century job shop.
- Designation will contribute to the long-term preservation of one of the finest surviving examples of a small, twentieth-century foundry and machine “job” shop.
- Designation of W. A. Young & Sons as an NHL will support ongoing regional preservation and education efforts related to the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None is known.

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Designation. Dr. Allan moved, Dr. Carson seconded; unanimous approval.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 10/18/16):

James M. Vaughan, Director and State Historic Preservation Officer, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Advisory Board Recommendation: