



FRIENDS OF COL. JOHN TAYLOR'S GRIST MILL, INC.
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A New Jersey Registered Charitable Organization

"The Mill That Fed Washington's Troops"

For Immediate Release
April 5, 2024

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Mill location:
Corner of Rockaway & Taylor's Mill Roads near Tewksbury

(READINGTON TOWNSHIP, N.J.) – Today's earthquake in central New Jersey damaged Taylor's Mill, a Revolutionary War-era grist mill highlighted on Preservation New Jersey's 2023 Most Endangered List.

Part of the front façade of the 264-year-old mill collapsed, sending stones down onto the roadway. Portions of a chimney stack stand precariously.

"We have been working for six months to move this effort forward," says Patricia Fisher-Olsen, President of the Friends of Taylor's Mill and Chair of the Readington Township Historic Preservation Commission. "This is a setback. But the mill itself is still standing and we build from here."

The Friends is offering assistance to the Township as it begins looking at how to stabilize the building. They have also contacted preservation engineers for assessments.

"Old buildings are tough: they were built to last," notes Matt Metcalf, historic preservationist and Treasurer of the Friends. "There is damage, no doubt about that. But given how close the epicenter was to Taylor's Mill, a newer building might not have survived. This one did."

"The spirit of the Revolution is here right now!" added Fisher-Olsen. "No matter how bad it got for Washington and his army- they persevered. Taylor's Mill will persevere, too."

Taylor's Mill is "the mill that fed Washington's troops." Documentation provides a direct link between the requisitions of General Washington and the flour produced at the mill. John Taylor himself, a local carpenter and miller, served the Revolutionary Army in the 4th Hunterdon Militia and fought in the Battle of Trenton. This site bore witness to history: as the only remaining pre-Revolutionary grist mill in the state, it provides a tangible, local link to the Revolution, a story that defines us all. Taylor's Mill was featured as one Preservation New Jersey's Most Endangered historic places in 2023.

The Friends of Taylor's Mill is a 501(c)3 New Jersey Registered Charitable Organization that supports work to preserve and interpret this site in advance of America's Semiquincentennial in 2026. The group is accepting donations to support stabilization work. Please visit taylorsgristmill.org to donate.

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