

## Smokestack comes down at the former New York Wire plant in Mount Wolf

By TERESA ANN BOECKEL *Daily Record/Sunday News York Daily Record/Sunday News*

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Explosives toppled a smokestack and a paint tower at the former New York Wire Co. plant in Mount Wolf at 9:50 a.m. Wednesday.

"It was a crack; they leaned over and fell down," said Jim Nipps, project manager for Hub-Scrap of Hagerstown, Md.

Pat Sheaffer, who had worked at the plant for 37 years, watched the demolition from the upstairs of a friend's home. She said a police officer told her that she wasn't allowed to observe it from outside.

"There was a lot of dust afterwards, but it didn't last long," the Mount Wolf resident said.

Crews then worked to clean up the rubble.

"We really didn't draw a big crowd, and that's what we wanted," Nipps said. "You can't be too safe."

The manufacturing icon had stood in Mount Wolf for more than a century. Operations at the plant ceased in October 2010.

Hub-Scrap started tearing down the plant last year to salvage the scrap metal and then remarket the property.

The office, which offers about 8,000-square-feet of space, could be renovated and will remain standing. The site of the former manufacturing plant is for sale, Nipps said.

This is the second smokestack to come down in York County in less than a month.

The 125-foot-tall Foust distillery smokestack - built in the 1940s but never used - was torn down Aug. 28 in Springfield Township.

It had been damaged by lightning earlier in the month and posed a safety concern. That smokestack took hours to bring down with a crane, cable lasso and another piece of heavy equipment.

In Mount Wolf, though, the towers fell quickly with the use of explosives.

Council president Pat Poet works for the Northeastern York County Sewer Authority just across the street, so she was able to get a good view of it.

The blast wasn't as loud as she thought it would be, she said.

"They're gone now," she said. "It was pretty exciting for this small town."

### History

The former New York Wire Co. plant demolished in Mount Wolf has a lengthy history.

It started as the Pennsylvania Wire Cloth Co., which was incorporated in 1904, according to Robert D. Horn in the

book "A History of Mount Wolf."

It changed ownership several times, and the New York Wire Co. bought it in the late 1950s, said Horn of East Manchester Township.

Louis D. Root, the former New York Wire president, established Root Industries at the plant. Employees made crutches, insect sprayers, fire extinguishers and commercial dishwashers for restaurants, Horn's report states.

However, that was not successful and it closed within a few years.

Several businesses operated in the facility after that time, but it later began manufacturing again under the New York Wire Co.

To read more about the history of Mount Wolf, visit [www.mtwolfborough.com](http://www.mtwolfborough.com).