

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Montgomery</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Kuster Mill**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Custer's Fulling Mill and Skippack Creek Farm**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Skippack Creek at Mill Road and Water Street Road**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Collegeville**

STATE <b>Pennsylvania</b>	CODE <b>42</b>	COUNTY: <b>Montgomery</b>	CODE <b>091</b>
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Joseph J. Peters, M. D.**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Mill Road and Water Street Road**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Collegeville</b>	STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>	CODE <b>42</b>
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Philadelphia Court House**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Philadelphia City Hall**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Philadelphia</b>	STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>	CODE <b>42</b>
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1970**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Box 1026**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Harrisburg</b>	STATE: <b>Pennsylvania</b>	CODE <b>42</b>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania  
COUNTY: Montgomery  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The mill races on this property are intact. These were stone lined. The house and cool cellar were built of stone taken from the quarry located on the property. Kaulus Kuster, (sic) the first of the Kuster clan was a mason in Germantown in the seventeenth century. The house and premises evidence the residence of competent stone masons. The basement and cool cellar floors are covered by large flags of stone. The original part of the dwelling uses the local redbrown rock as evidenced in the facade of tailored or dressed courses of stone. Fenestration consists of four windows across the facade. The house has a central chimney with corner fireplaces as found also in Germantown homes. Alterations in the roofline have occurred. It is possible that the house once had a gambrel or hipped roof. The present fulling mill addition replaced the original burned in 1936. An open spring is located in the basement of the house suggesting that this structure also might have had a part in the fulling operation. Certain alterations of the roofline can be traced.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1702 original part

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education           | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering         | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | <u>Mennonite Culture</u>                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture            | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> Military            | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               |   | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation |  |   | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Skippack Creek Farm and Fulling Mill was originally sold by Mathias VanBebber to John Krey on December 25, 1702. By 1706 when the deed was recorded in Philadelphia, there were messuages, houses, building and other improvements. Hermanus Custer purchased it April 20, 1717.

The land borders the Skippack Creek in a bucolic setting. A stone house, pegged Dutch bank barn and fulling mill exist on the property. The datestone for expansion of the house to the present size by John Custer bears 1767.

This is no doubt the first fulling mill in Montgomery County, if not in the State. The house was the first in Montgomery County with indoor water, it was built over a spring providing water and a cooler for milk and food. Title searches revealed that an unusually large number of property owners in the Skippack area had a trade besides farming; the occupation of weaver occurs frequently. Historic documentation corroborates that many of the purchasers stemmed from the Krefeld region, one of the leading European textile centers in the eighteenth century. A blue dyer's establishment was operated alongside the fulling operation. The 1756 census of Skippack taken by Walter Johnson includes one fuller, John Custer.

In summary, the house merits attention because of its age, its connection with the personages of a Paulus and Kerminus Kuster and the Germantown complex as well as for its technological significance as an early and unique industrial site.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Skippack, James Y. Heckler, 1896, Vol IX, No. 2 pg 5  
 History of Montgomery County, Buck, pg. 21.  
 The Custer Family 1684-1934, by A. W. Storer, 1934, Chpt. III.  
 Custer's Fulling Mill & Skippack Creek Farm, by Eva Boswell, Historian  
 Skippack Historical Society, Valley Forge Picket Post, Oct. 1970.  
 Historical Relationship of Germantown and the Skippack, J. Petters, M.D.,  
 Germantown Crier, Vol 22, No. 2, Spring 1970, pg.57-60.  
 History of Montgomery County, Bean (Theodore W.), Everts & Peck, Phila.  
 1884 pg. 1020 -- Hermanus Kuster & John Kuster

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		40°	11'	16"
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		75°	24'	33"
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8 Acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY Joseph J. Peters, M.D.

NAME AND TITLE:

For: Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

ORGANIZATION

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

Jan. 20, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:

Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN:

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name

*J. J. Peters*  
 State Liaison Officer

Title Executive Director

Pa. Historical and Museum Commission

Date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

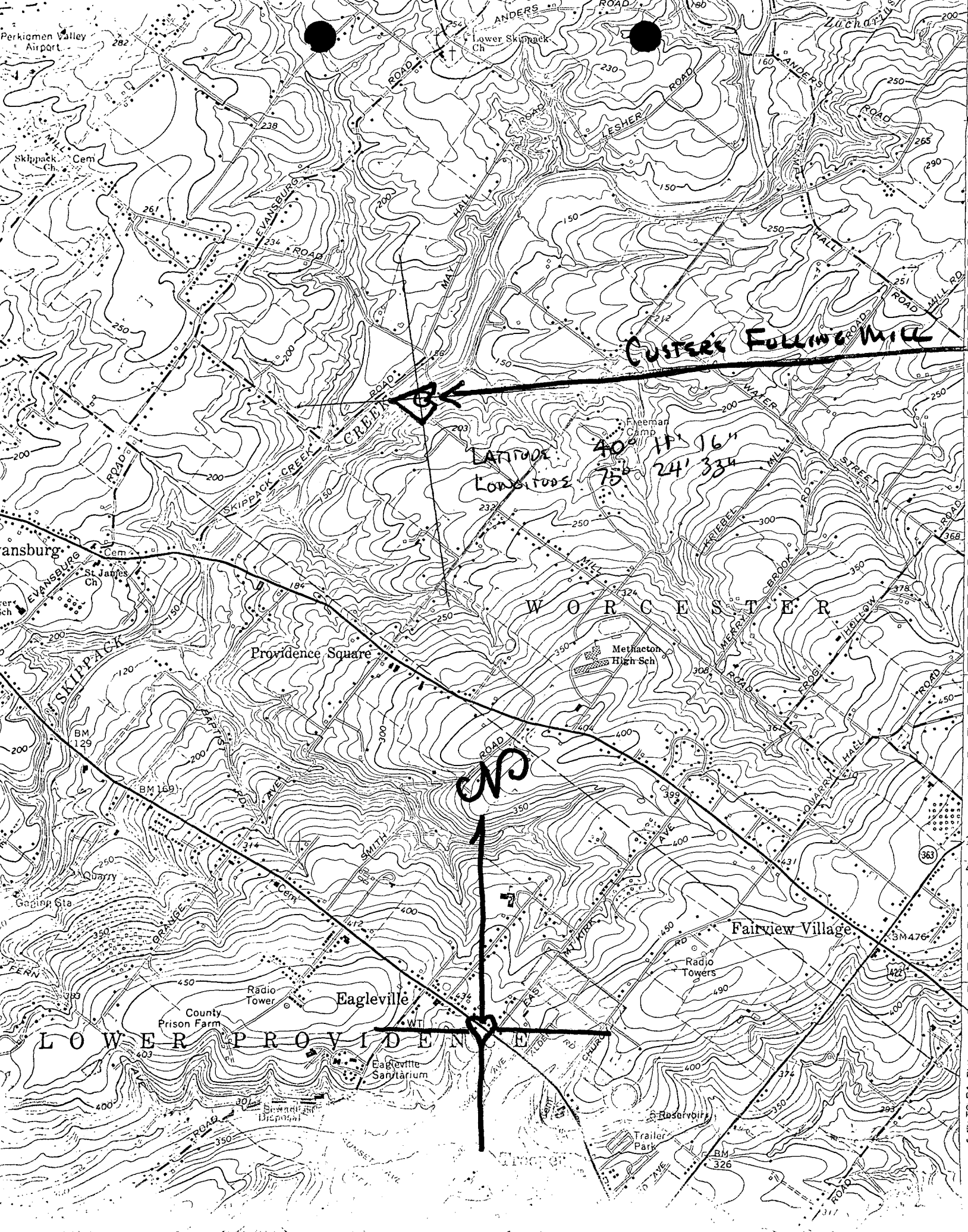
ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Accepted by NRE March 2, 1971



Perkiemen Valley Airport

Skippack Cem

Evansburg Cem

St James Ch

Quarry

County Prison Farm

Eagleville

Eagleville Sanitarium

Reservoir

Trailer Park

Lower Skippack Ch

Custer's Fulling Mill

LATITUDE 40° 11' 16"  
LONGITUDE 75° 24' 33"

WORCESTER

Fairview Village

LOWER PROVIDENCE