

2/1/77

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Lebanon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 24 1972

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: Brendle Farms
AND/OR HISTORIC: 1. Alexander Schaeffer Farm 2. Sheetz Farm

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Intersection of State Routes 501 and 897			
CITY OR TOWN: Schaefferstown			
STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 42	COUNTY: Lebanon	CODE 075

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 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: 1. Historic Schaefferstown, Inc. 2. Ammon Fisher			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: 1. Schaefferstown 2. Reistville	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Lebanon County Court House			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Lebanon	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: William Penn Memorial Museum			
STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1026			
CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania	ENTRY NUMBER JUL 24 1972	DATE
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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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 Alexander Schaeffer Homestead includes the original John Miley buildings on the 347 acre land grant in Heidelberg Township, Lebanon County. Miley was the architect of the Cloister buildings at Ephrata. Schaeffer, architect and planner of Schaefferstown (originally called Heidelberg) bought the property in 1758. The original buildings consisted of two houses--the main house, a tile-roofed limestone Swiss Weinbaueren house with two pot stills attached to the central fireplace, and a stone and log house (no longer standing) built over the original spring. The house and barn of what is known as the Lower (Sheetz) Farm are also part of the Schaeffer Site, though they remain in private hands at this time and are unavailable for study.

The two and one-half story Swiss bank house of Alexander Schaeffer exhibits typical Rhine Valley architectural features (limestone walls, segmented brick arches over first floor windows, and arched doorways leading to the distillery area in the lowest level). The Schaeffer house corresponds, at the ground floor level, to the three room central fireplace plan common to the Rhenish Palatinate, probably the most ubiquitous Germanic plan in Pennsylvania. The ground floor was used as work space and the upper floors as a dwelling area. A large arched wine cellar with distilling area behind is an integral part of the structure. The chimney of the central fireplace, standing in the late nineteenth century, is no longer extant. Otherwise, there has been no significant alteration in the appearance of the building.

In the typical Swiss bank house, the front door to the living area, on the high level, is approached at ground level and is the main and formal entrance. The doorway to the cellar is usually near the opposite gable and enters the cooking, processing, and cold storage areas at the lower level. Connecting these two doorways is a set of stone stairs which provides access from the processing or work area at the lower level to the living, sleeping, and storage areas on the upper floor.

The large, arched central fireplace of the Alexander Schaeffer house had two stills attached to the rear, with openings in the front to fire the stills and control the draft around them. The two large arched doors provide access for the transporting of cider barrels to the cellar working and fermenting areas. A large door near the arched wine cellar in the rear provided space for the loading of containers of finished beverages. Water was conducted through the cellar from a ditch in the meadow above the house. The two coils from the stills were housed in large wooden tubs which received this water continually to provide

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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7. Description

the cooling required for the distilling of whiskey or applejack,

The one hundred foot long Swiss bank barn on the property, rebuilt ca. 1894 on the foundations of the log structure erected by Captain Henry Schaeffer in 1786, is reputed to be one of the best built barns in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania.

Other buildings on the property include:

A stone pigsty located in the traditional Swiss farmstead pattern between house and barn which dates from ca. 1740 and remains in nearly original condition.

An original limestone smokehouse built ca. 10 feet square to accomodate the large farming operations carried out on the site.

A wheat barn dating from ca. 1840 built to house sheaves of grain prior to threshing. Recently the barn has been used for tobacco curing.

A wagon shed and corn crib built from parts of earlier structures.

The Lower Farm is a two and one-half story stone house with a one and one-half story addition with overhanging roof. The farm is privately owned and is unavailable for study at the present time. Its orientation to the stream on the property is similar to that of the Schaeffer Farm. The barn on the Lower Farm is another excellent Swiss bank barn.

A final feature of the site is a partially extant eighteenth century irrigation system which parallels the stream from near the headwater of Sheep Hill to the Lower Farm. This canal served both irrigation needs and brought cold water to the house where it was conducted into the work room to cool the coils. The natural meadow could be extended and a heavier crop produced through irrigation. The garden may also have been irrigated.

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)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Schaeffer and Scheetz Homesteads possess several features worthy of note. First, the two farms are set in an environment worthy of preservation for open space and ecological conservation. Second, the farms and nearby town of Schaefferstown are extant relics of a unique eighteenth century cultural pattern which was brought from Europe to America by Swiss immigrants and subsequently modified by New World conditions. This way of life can be recovered through archeological, architectural, and folk cultural research. Third, the Lower Farm is the birthplace of the Reverend Thomas R. Brendle, whose collection of Pennsylvania German folklore now in the possession of Historic Schaefferstown, Inc. is unsurpassed in its scope and completeness. Reverend Brendle's life is linked to both farm sites, since he lived on the Lower for eight years following his birth and on the Upper for an additional fourteen. Fourth, the Lower Farm was also the site of the Sheetz murder, an incident which has occupied an important position in the folklore of the area. Finally, a well-organized, active, and effective program of preservation, restoration, research and education has been underway since 1965 under the impetus of Historic Schaefferstown, Inc. to support the development of the site. Scholarly interest in the area has been aroused and the potential for the development of an open air folk museum on the grounds is high.

There is considerable evidence of an alcoholic beverage industry in Schaefferstown in the eighteenth century. The Alexander Schaeffer farmstead presents the most complete evidence of such activity. The Schaeffer house is the only Pennsylvania house located thus far to retain evidence of the pot still. Beyond the numerous taverns in Schaefferstown in the 1790s, the Philadelphia market was also within reasonable distance.

The Schaeffer Farmstead is significant as a representative of the farmhouse indigenous to the Swiss Weinbauern culture. It is in the Schaefferstown area that the most distinctive, most European, and possible the most uniform type of bank-house is found. Among the several Swiss bank houses in the area, the

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8. Significance

Schaeffer homestead is the earliest and most distinctive.

The Upper and Lower Farms are united both culturally and historically, sharing a common folklore, architecture, and agricultural practice. It is essential to the integrity of this historic site that their unity be preserved.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brendle, A.S. History of Schaefferstown
 Bucher, R.C. "Eighteenth Century Meadow Irrigation," Pa. Folklife
 . "Swiss Bank Houses of Pennsylvania," Pa. Folklife
 Egle, W. History of Lebanon County
 Huber, C. Schaefferstown Bicentennial History
 Sheetz Murder Broadside. Private collection of Isaac C. Kulp, Jr.
 Sheetz Murder Case Pamphlet. Rare book collection, Historic Schaefferstown Museum.

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	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	40°	17'	55"	76°	18'	29"						
NE	40°	17'	55"	76°	17'	57"						
SE	40°	17'	31"	76°	17'	57"						
SW	40°	17'	31"	76°	18'	29"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3.7 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: [Signature]
 State Liaison Officer

Title: Deputy Executive Director, Pa. Historical and Museum Commission

Date: June 19, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/24/72

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7/20/72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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