

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic *SWIGART'S MILL*

and/or common *Beaver Creek Mill*

2. Location

street & number *Berlin Road near the junction of Beaver and Great Conewago Creeks* not for publication

city, town *East Berlin* _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district *19*

state *Pennsylvania* code *42* county *York* code *133*

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <i>vacant</i>

4. Owner of Property

name *East Berlin Historic Preservation Society*

street & number *Box 73*

city, town *East Berlin* _____ vicinity of _____ state *Pennsylvania* *17316*

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. *York County Courthouse*

street & number *East Market Street*

city, town *York* _____ state *Pennsylvania*

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title *Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places* has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date *5/17/79* _____ federal state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records *Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission*

city, town *Harrisburg* _____ state *Pennsylvania*

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Swigart's Mill is located along the Beaver Creek near its junction with the Great Conewago Creek in the community of East Berlin. This 2 and ½ story stone structure measures 45' 6" by 40' 8" and appears to have originally been stuccoed. Its rubble walls terminate in large cut stone quoins. The gable roof is deteriorated and covered partially by shingles and partially by tarpaper. It's overhanging pully box is still present. The mills is three bays by three bays with six over six windows. Double doors enter both floors on the gable ends.

Originally the mill was powered by a wooden overshot wheel. The arched, vaulted mill race opening is located on the east side of the mill. In 1890, a Recharde turbine was installed by William B. Feiser, the millwright of that period. The Recharde turbine was made in York, Pennsylvania by the Codorus Iron Works and was distributed through Baugher, Kurta and Stewart.

The grinding equipment was a four-run of stones. The mill ground feed, corn meal and flour. At an early date it also powered a sawmill operation. This mill continued in operation until 1920. At that time its equipment and machinery was scrapped and the mill was left to deteriorate.

The current owners are re-roofing the structure as well as repairing the sash and doors. Re-excavation of the tail race is also under progress. Recent work on the structure includes the replacement of the tin roof with wooden shakes; the replacement of broken roof supporting beams with unbroken old beams; one sagging wall has been rebuilt and pointed as it was done originally; the tail race has been dug out and the vaulted arch restored; window frames have been repaired; door frames have been repaired.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1794

Builder/Architect Juhn Nagle

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Swigart's Mill is the only remaining mill on Beaver Creek an area which once supported at least three other mills as recorded in courty histories. This mill served the surrounding communities from 1794 until 1957.

Gristmills were an important part of the early American community. Not only processing grain for the farmers home and family, it also ground grain for animal feed. Many early gristmills were operated in conjunction with taverns. While the Swigart's mill was not, it also certainly served as a meeting place for local farmers.

Swigart's Mill operated as a mill from 1794 to 1920. There were several mills along the creeks in the area. Each one was about three miles distant from the other. Travel with horse and wagon was slow, so the farmers patronized the mill nearest their farm. If one mill didn't have a sawmill attached to the grist mill, that necessitated travel to the nearest mill which had a saw mill. Hauling logs and/or heavy loads of feed over country mud roads was a burdensome task so the customers chose to stay near home to do the milling. Swigarts Mill was at the junction of four roads and adjacent to the town of Berlin where retired farmers lived, each one owning a horse, cow, hogs and some chickens. The mill served the economy of the area and survived for 126 years as an operating mill when modern equipment, hard-surfaced roads and faster moving means of travel replace the wagons and mud roads and more distant travel wasn't any hardship. It is a "rare" survivor today in that it is still extant when most of the others have either been torn down or fallen down.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Deeds of Ownership, York County Courthouse.

Prowell, History of York County. Chicago: 1907, p.1046.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Abbottstown, Pennsylvania

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8	3	3	1	5	1	1	0	4	4	2	2	1	5	1	0
Zone	Easting			Northing												

B

Zone	Easting			Northing												

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Bounded on the east by Beaver Creek Road, on the south by the land of the former owner, Carlton Jones, on the west by Beaver Street, and the north by Township Route 234.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Yvonne S. Lau

organization East Berlin Historic Preservation Society date

street & number RD #2, Box 132 A telephone 717-259-9154

city or town East Berlin state Pennsylvania

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

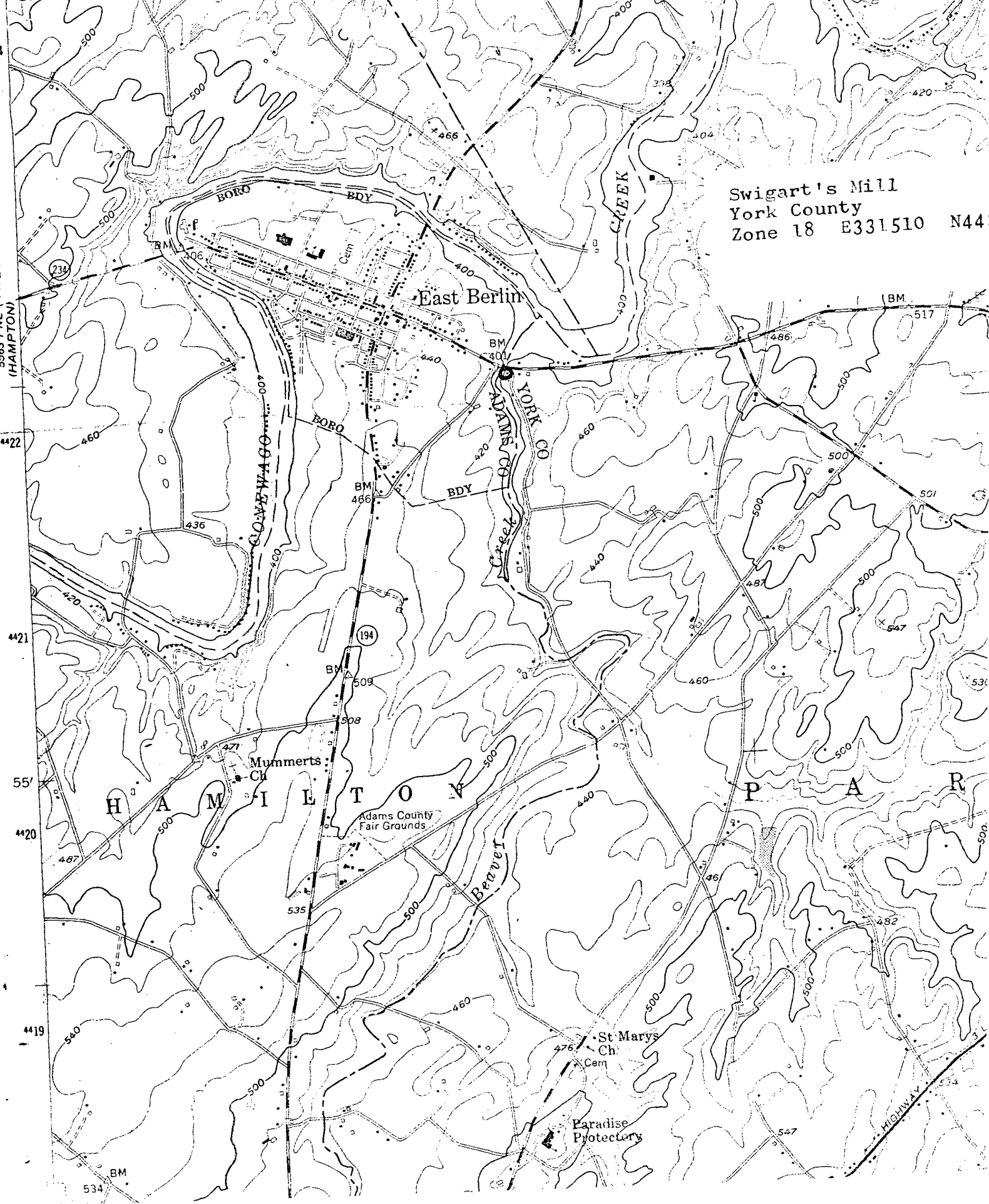
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Ed Weintraub, Director
title Office of Historic Preservation date

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	date
Keeper of the National Register	date
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

Swigart's Mill
York County
Zone 18 E331510 N441



East Berlin

Mummerts
Ch.

Adams County
Fair Grounds

St Marys
Ch.

Paradise
Protectors

H A M P T O N P A R A D I S E

HIGHWAY

234

436

420

487

487

540

534

466

400

466

509

508

535

500

476

400

378

404

420

517

486

500

501

500

500

531

500

531

500

500

482

466

547

534