

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Spring Mill Complex

AND/OR COMMON

Gunkle's Mill

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

SE corner of Moores Rd & Rt. 401

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

East Whiteland Twp.

VICINITY OF

5

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Pennsylvania

42

Chester

029

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

National Liberty Life Insurance Corporation

STREET & NUMBER

Moores Road

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Maluern

VICINITY OF

Pennsylvania 19355

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Chester County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Market & High Streets

CITY, TOWN

STATE

West Chester

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Harrisburg

Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Spring Mill is a two and one-half story stone mill set into the banks with a full basement level. It's dimensions are approximately 36' by 40'. The gable roof is covered with wooden shingles and has boxed cornices and pediments. The roof is supported by heavy beams and arches more typical in German barn construction than mill construction. A single stuccoed chimney is located in the southwest corner. Three bays by two bays, windows which the mill has are six over six. The glass does not appear to be original.

The main entrance is located in the center bay of the north facade. Approached by three stone steps the doorway is simple in design. The Dutch door is shaded by pent roof overhang. Set above the roof is a datestone with the inscription: SPRING MILL MICHAEL AND CATHARINE GUNKLE July 20th 1793.

The east gable end has a double garage type door on the Southeast end and a single door on the southwest end.

There appears to no major changes in the interior of the mill but the complex history of milling at this mill can be seen in the many shutes, notched beams, holes and additional bracing made to the mill. The new twenty foot overshot wheel installed in 1894 is no longer present however the main shaft and interior mechanisms are still present. This new wheel and additional beams and posts were added in 1894 by Samuel Fetters. The mill was also remodeled in 1863 by owner, Jonathon Miller. Neither of these re-modelings changed the basic fabric or appearance of the structure.

The mill original had two French Burr stones. One is in situ, the second is located on the grounds near the mill. Many of the early wooden shafts, as well as latter cast iron shafts, graders, sifters, and a wooden weighing scale are in storage in the mill. A small fireplace is located in the southwest corner. Numerous flour-stack stencils are located on the plaster walls.

The millers house is located north of the mill across Moores Road. This two and one-half story stuccoed stone house was badly damaged by fire in 1971 however the central stair and large fireplace remain in good condition. The gable roof is tin covered and an interior brick chimney is located in the west gable end. A smaller two story gable roof structure is located on the east gable end. A full length pent roof one story porch lines the front facade.

Located directly across Moores Road from the house is a one story stone springhouse. The gable roof is covered with abtstesos shingles. A round-arch doorway is located on the underground level.

A one-story stone smokehouse is located to the rear, northwest of the Miller's house. This structure has a gable roof covered with wooden shingles.

A one story stone carriage house is located mid-way between the springhouse and mill.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input 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 *1793*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Michael Gunkle

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1793, the "Spring Mill" was built in a farming area at the headwaters of Valley Creek, feed by a number of free-flowing springs which furnished power for 10-15 mills in East Whiteland Township. The amount of grain and lumber to be processed caused Michael Gunkle to build two more mills nearby and to purchase additional land with existing mills. The extensive acreage he purchased, totaling 1343 Acres, came to be known as the Spring Mill Farm, likewise a blacksmith shop, school, and the recent Spring Mill housing development. The prosperous owner, Samuel Fetters was cited in 1881 by Futhey & Cope as having one of the Chester County's "Fine and comfortable" homes. The mill was in continuous operation until the early 1940's , and parts of the farm are worked today.

Of the three mills built by Michael Gunkle and the approximate ten other mills operating between 1764-1776, this is the only one remaining. Fortunately, the miller's house and three other sound buildings also exist, which form an ideal early mill site. Continuous occupation or use for storage has preserved the building. Thus the mill remains structurally sound as a whole, generous in proportion and has several interesting and unusual features: heavy third floor pegged arches, French burr mill stones, flour-sack stencils on walls, wooden milling parts extant, scales and the carefully placed date-stone. The site appears almost as it did in 1881. The house was also well-built, the eastern (18th century) section still has pegged window frames and the original stairway attached to a massive fireplace; the western section was built between 1800-1815. The entire complex represents structures, ca. 1793-1815, well-built, and representative of a progressive and wealthy miller-landowner.

The mills and farms of Michael Gunkle were situated in the direct route through the Great Valley, from Downingtown to Philadelphia and along the path of the drover's wagons: Swedesford Road and the Lancaster Pike. In 1810-1812 he helped finance one section of the (Little) Conestoga Turnpike, State Route 401, Conestoga Road. This section began at the Warren Inn, crossed Lancaster Road and Swedesford, Moores Road, on which the mill exists, is mentioned as early as 1764 and farmers could reach his mill using connecting roads from all surrounding townships. The mill represents Post-Revolutionary development in the Great Valley, a period in which trails became wagon roads and turnpikes, greater affluence produced stone barns, and log cabins and one-room stone dwellings became manor houses. It represents an era of a new nation at the time of Washington's Presidency, when a certain merchant from Philadelphia purchased 974 acres containing timber, arable land and water power, and in twenty years became one of East Whiteland's most progressive and prosperous citizens.

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.67

QUADRANGLE NAME Malvern, Pennsylvania

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	4	5	1	8	3	0	4	4	3	3	5	2	0
ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

B

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

C

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

D

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

E

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

F

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

G

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

H

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING										

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see Continuation Sheet

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

Mrs. Doris M. Powell

ORGANIZATION

East Whiteland Historical Commission

DATE

215-644-0903

STREET & NUMBER

20 Doe Lane

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Malvern

STATE

Pennsylvania 19355

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: **KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.67

QUADRANGLE NAME Malvern, Pennsylvania

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 451830 4437520

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see Continuation Sheet

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE ED WEINTRAUB, Director
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

2-15-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: CLERK OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

 CLERK OF REGISTRATION