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United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For NCRS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

15

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

1. Name

historic Reiff Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number SW of Oley on T454 not for publication

city, town Oley Township vicinity of congressional district 6

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Berks code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. John Moxon

street & number R.D. #1, Box 338

city, town Oley vicinity of state Pennsylvania 19547

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Berks County Courthouse

street & number Sixth and Court Streets

city, town Reading state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Berks County Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records PHMC, Berks County Conservancy

city, town Harrisburg/Wyomissing state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input 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 Reiff Farm in Oley Township, Pennsylvania consists of a stone farmhouse, a log farmhouse, now covered with siding, and several associated outbuildings including a former blacksmith/butchering shop, barns, springhouse, summer kitchen, and various sheds.

The main farmhouse (shown as House 1) is a two and one-half story stone, Georgian style structure. The house is constructed of rough-cut fieldstone with corners quoined with dressed fieldstone. Brick chimneys are located on the gable-ends and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The original or main section of the house is five bays wide and two bays deep. The windows are 6/9 lights, double-hung sash, and feature jack-arch lintels with keystones. First floor windows feature three-panel shutters and windows on the second floor have louvered shutters. The southeast or front facade of the house faces the Old State Road and displays the most formal features. The first floor features a porch with balustrade. The centrally located double door has a transom over and decorative carved wooden frieze. The southwest facade consists of two side bays of the main house and three bays of a two and one-half story addition. Visible on this facade is the gable-end of the main house with pent roof and two rectaangular windows. The kitchen addition contains a plain frame door surmounted by a hood and 6/9 light windows with plain lintels and sills. To the rear or northwest facade is the gable-end of the kitchen addition. An enclosed porch runs along the rear of the main house. The northeast facade of the structure features the gable-end of the main house pierced by two rectangular gable windows and a pent roof. The two windows found on each story of this facade are the same as those found on the southeast facade, each having flat-arched lintels, 6/9 light sashes and three-panel shutters on the first floor, louvered shutters on the second floor.

The smaller dwelling (shown as House 2) located on the Reiff Farm is considered the older of the two houses. This structure was originally a two and one-half story log house and is thought to have been constructed between 1742-1800. The original dwelling house is now covered with German siding and features an enclosed porch on the east or front facade and an addition to the north. The main portion has a chimney flush with the gable-end, a roof covered with tin and plain cornice trim. Sash windows have 6/6 lights with plain frames and two panel shutters. The front facade features a plain frame door.

The implement shed and workshop is of interest because it is banked along the gable or east side, in such a way that vehicles could be drawn in the one side. The foundation is constructed of rough field-stone and features plain 6/6 sash windows. Vertical boards cover the upper walls and the roof is covered with metal roofing.

One of the six existing red clay tile roofed structures on the farm is the pig barn. Rectangular in shape, the piggery is one and one-half stories and constructed with white wash over rough stone. It features frame stalls for the pigs with feeding bin above. The gable-ends feature vertical board siding and rectangular openings for ventilator doors. The roof is sheathed in red clay tile shingles, indigenous to the area.

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The combination springhouse and smokehouse is located to the southwest of the main house. Constructed of rough fieldstone, this structure features a door into the foundation with steps down into the spring itself. The second floor is the smokehouse and smoke would seep out through the roof. Being rectangular in shape and one story, the springhouse also displays the red clay tile roofing. A modern addition of a greenhouse has been made to the northwest facade.

Located to the north of the main house is the summer kitchen and the bake-oven. The summer kitchen is almost square in shape, one bay with slightly overhanging eaves. Constructed of stone heavily white washed, the structure has 6/6 light windows in plain frames. The entrance, located in the southwest facade, has a plain paneled door and a small square vertical board door located directly above it. The roof is covered with red clay tiles. The bake-oven is built directly against the summer kitchen. Also constructed of white washed field-stone, the bake-oven itself is lined with brick and features a cast iron door. The roof of this structure also consists of red clay tiles.

The icehouse is constructed of rough field-stone. Rectangular in shape, the icehouse features an entrance on the north facade with a brick arch and a vertical board door. Red clay tiles also cover the roof of this structure.

Probably the oldest structure on the Reiff Farm is the combination butcher and blacksmith shop or forge. Supposedly constructed by Conrad Reiff I in 1742, the shop is a low one story rectangular stone structure with a wooden overhand on the northeast facade. A centrally located brick chimney vents a large walk-in fireplace. The structure features 6/6 light sash windows in plain frames. The gable-ends are stone and the plain vertical board door is secured with strap hinges. The broad, low gable roof is covered with red clay tiles.

Of further interest is the cellar entrance located in the stone wall in front of the original log house. It is a round-arched opening with a vertical board gate. This unique entrance leads to a cellar which was used to store and preserve vegetables through the winter.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input 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 1742, 1815–1820 **Builder/Architect** Conrad Reiff I

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Reiff Farm in Oley, Berks County, Pennsylvania remains an excellent example of a self-sufficient colonial farm. A continuously working farm from the 1740's until the year 1945, this property remains extremely well-preserved and illustrates the physical development process of a Pennsylvania family farm. The presence of a regionally typical main house and related outbuildings in a rural setting of nearly original character is remarkable.

This farm reflects both the development of agriculture and of architecture in the Oley Valley. Located in a limestone valley, with two major streams and a proximity to Philadelphia, via the Schuylkill River, Oley presented early settlers with an area of rich resources, ideal for settlement. Early farmers in this valley were presented with an abundance of useful materials. The prevalence of stone for building, lime for mortar and fertilizer for farming, as well as naturally rich soil combined to make the Oley Valley an ideal area.

The history and development of the Reiff Farm is directly related to the environment in which it was placed. The Reiff family immigrated to America around 1729 from Alsace.¹ Conrad Reiff I settled in Oley and began building on what is now the Reiff Farm. The first building constructed by Reiff was the blacksmith shop with forge, believed to have been built in 1742.² Constructed of local fieldstone, the blacksmith shop must have provided Reiff with a source of income while he undertook the task of clearing his land and preparing to plant. Serving as both dwelling and workplace, this structure is significant as the place of beginning for a successful tradesman and later farmer. A few years later, Reiff built a separate dwelling house, possibly to remove his family from the heat of the forge or because of a desire for more living space. A two and one-half story log structure, this dwelling would have been quicker and easier to construct than a stone structure, a necessary consideration for a busy farmer. Including the forge and house, the Reiff Farm began to take shape in the 1700's with the barest of essentials. The exact dates of the other outbuildings is not certain, but other farm buildings would have been built in the mid eighteenth century for the storage of food and shelter of animals.

At the time of his death in 1777, Conrad Reiff I's will refers to his farm as the "Old Plantation," an indication of its status as a successful working farm.³ Even before this time other sources refer to the Reiff Farm as successful. An entry from the journal of David Shultze (1775) discusses a dispute between Reiff and his neighbor over property boundaries.⁴ Speaking of the Reiff property, Shultze comments, "He began to clear the same land and hath until now improved a considerable part of it and also built a house thereon."⁵ Shultze's personal journal further mentions that Reiff's "plantation" as having many buildings and implies a certain measure of prosperity.

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As part of an agricultural community, the Reiff Farm plays a significant role. Its success as a farm in the Oley Valley reflects the early Pennsylvania settlers use and management of natural resources. The use of native stone and lime in building illustrates an efficient adaptation to the environment on the part of Pennsylvania German farmers. When clearing the fields for crops, the settler could often make use of the cut trees in the construction of dwellings as in the case of the Reiff's original house. The richness of the soil enabled Pennsylvania farmers to grow an abundance of crops and to maintain near self-sufficiency.

The growth and development of the Reiff Farm reflects the conditions of the environment in which it was placed. Building within the shelter of a hill, the Reiff's constructed their necessary outbuildings in close proximity to their house and the blacksmith shop, located on the Old State Road. Surrounding these on the north, south and east were their fields and pastures. On the hill to the west were fruit trees, and a spring which provided water for the farm. In this well-planned and developed location, the Reiff Farm operated successfully, utilizing the natural resources of the Oley Valley and responding to expanding agricultural needs with the addition of outbuildings to the original core.

The structures erected by Conrad Reiff I and his descendants are regionally characteristic of other Pennsylvania German settlers. The majority of the farm structures are constructed of local stone. Due to extensive quarrying in the Oley Valley, stone for construction and lime for mortar were readily available to local settlers. By the year 1815, Conrad Reiff II and his mother had constructed a large, fine dwelling to the northeast of the blacksmith shop. Constructed of locally quarried stone, this structure illustrates a dominant construction material of the Oley Valley. Georgian in style, the main house has a five-bay symmetrical plan. The front facade, facing the Old State Road, displays formal touches of woodwork in the cornice and door surround. The Georgian-style architecture of the main house reflects that of main houses on many surrounding Oley farms.

Another important early building material used extensively in the Oley area was the red clay tile roof shingles. These roof tiles are retained on a total of six of the Reiff Farm outbuildings; the blacksmith shop, the summer kitchen, the bake-oven, the springhouse, the icehouse and the piggery. The predominance of this particular architectural feature makes the Reiff Farm unique. According to Robert C. Bucher in Pennsylvania FOLK LIFE (summer 1961) these six tile roofs are "possibly the greatest number of tile roofs on any farm in America today."⁶ Although the Oley Valley contains many farms with red clay tile roofed structures, none of the area farms displays as many of these roofs as can be seen on the Reiff Farm.

Through the unique collection of buildings present at this property, it is possible to understand both the agricultural life and the architecture of the area. Due to the nature of agricultural life in the Oley Valley, the architecture present here is a reflection of the needs as well as the desires of its creators. The environment within which they existed determined much of the builders needs. The importance of farming as a way of life dictated the design and the use of the structures built. Affected by stylistic

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notions, later dwellings reflected interest in more than the utilitarian. The Reiff Farm serves as an excellent example of the development of the Pennsylvania German farm from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. Its growth from the simplest of structures to a well-planned collection of farm buildings augmented by a fashionable dwelling house reflects the continued success of the Reiff family. In the Reiff Farm we see an important illustration of an early Pennsylvania settler's adaptation to the environment, initial success and continued adaptation to changes in agricultural life. Significant as an agricultural and architectural unit, the Reiff Farm continues as a unique example of Pennsylvania's rural past.

¹Stapleton, Rev. A., Memorials of the Huguenots in America with Special Reference to their Immigration to Pennsylvania (Huguenot Publishing Co., Carlisle, Pa., 1901) p. 78.

²Reiff, Guy B., The Story of Conrad Reiff, Oley Pioneer His Descendants and The Reiff Lands, 1733-1959 (The Reiff Press, New Concord, Ohio, 1960) p. 52.

³Will Book #8 Register of Wills Office, Courthouse, Reading, Pa., p. 17.

⁴Berkey, Andrew S., Editor, The Journals and Papers of David Shultze, Volume II 1761-1797. (The Schwenkfelder Library, Pennsburg, Pa., 1953) pp. 92-95.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Bucher, Robert C., "Pennsylvania FOLKLIFE" (Summer, 1961).

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 9 acres

Quadrangle name Fleetwood, PA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 8	4 3 1 4 2 0	4 4 7 0 3 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 8	4 3 1 5 4 0	4 4 7 0 2 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 8	4 3 1 3 6 0	4 4 7 0 1 2 0
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D	1 8	4 3 1 2 5 0	4 4 7 0 2 8 0
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E			
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F			
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G			
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H			
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Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Sarah M. Kurtz and E. Garrett Brinton

organization Berks County Conservancy

date 7/80

street & number 960 Old Mill Road

telephone (215) 372-4992

city or town Wyncissing

state Pennsylvania 19610

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 Bureau for Historic Preservation

date

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Berkey, Andrew S.

The Journals and Papers of David Shultze, Volume II 1761-1797
The Schwenkfelder Library, Pennsburg, Pa., 1953

Bucher, Robert C.

"Pennsylvania FOLKLIFE," Summer 1961

Reiff, Guy B.

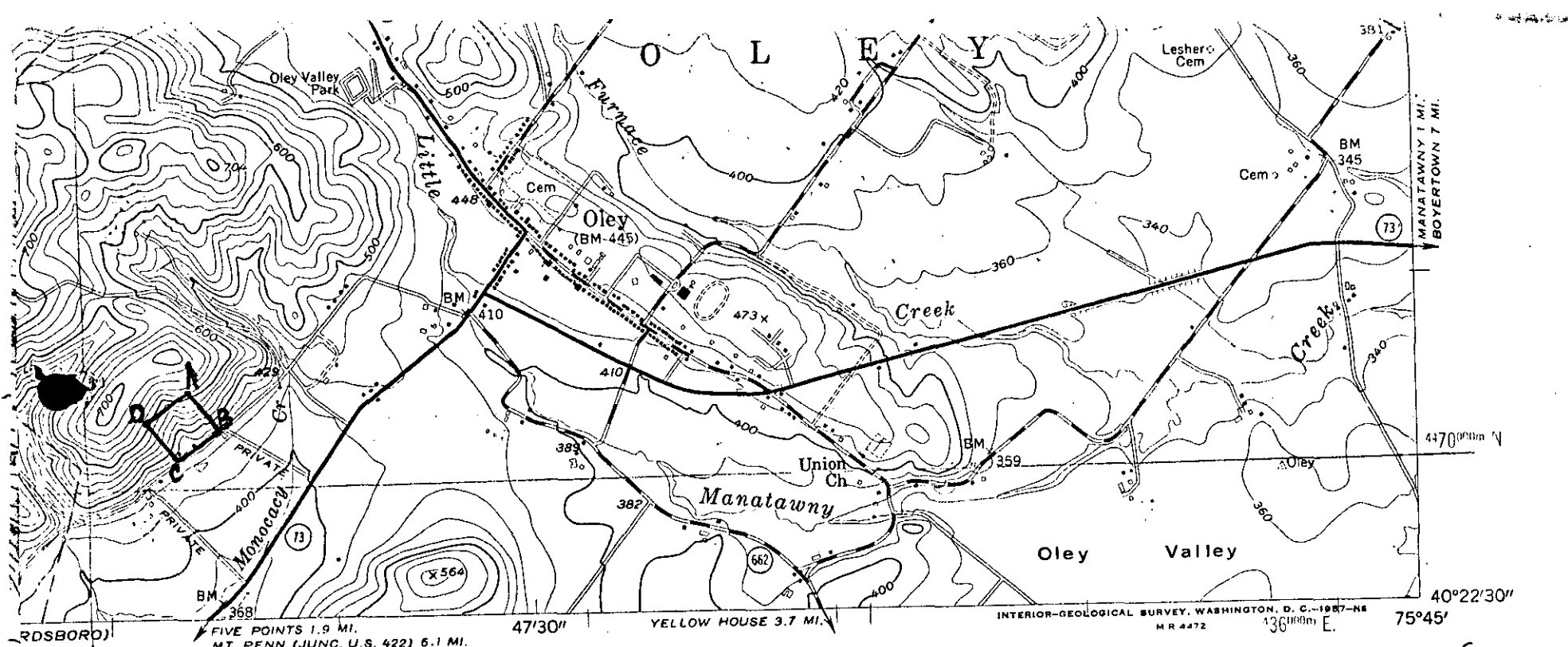
The Story of Conrad Reiff, Oley Pioneer, His Descendants and the Reiff Lands
The Reiff Press, New Concord, Ohio, 1960

Stapleton, Rev. A.

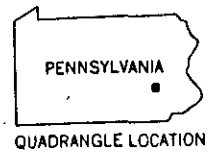
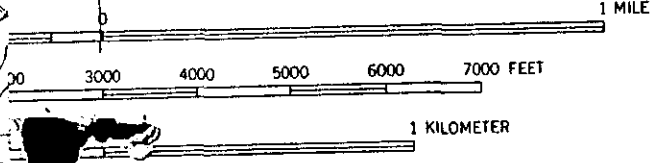
Memorials of the Huguenots in America with Special Reference to their Immigration to Pennsylvania
Huguenot Publishing Company, Carlisle, Pa., 1901

Will Books and Land Deeds

Reading Courthouse, Reading, Pennsylvania



SCALE 1:24000



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty Light-duty
- Medium-duty Unimproved dirt
- U. S. Route State Route

FLEETWOOD, PA.
NE 1/4 READING 15' QUADRANGLE
N 4022.5—W 7545/7.5

1956

11420 N4470380
11540 N4470230
11360 N4470120
11250 N4470280
QUEST