



Bull Tavern

Perkion

Pawling Chapel

CHESTER CO  
MONTEGOMERY CO

PAWLING

St Gabriel Hall

PENN CENTRAL

SCHUYLKILL

STATE PARK  
SCHUYLKILL

Impounding Basin No 21

VALLEY

Washington Memorial  
Star Redoubt

Brittains Corner

Washington's Headquaters

Museum

VALLEY FORGE

STATE PARK

Phoenixville  
Country Club

Valley Forge

Mount Joy

Guarries

Hollow

Mount Misery

Mount Joy

Lookout Tower

Memorial Arch

General Wayne Statue

Radio Tower

Covered Bridge

Sewage Disposal

Yellow Creek

SPRINGS

TURNPIKE

PENNSYLVANIA TOLL ROAD

Creek

Valley Forge Sch

Valley Forge Jr High Sch

NORTH

LEBOUITILLIER Valley

TREDFERRY

Great Valley Mills

Creek

Quarries

READING

CASSELL

SWEDSFORD

CONVENTION

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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received

date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Great Valley Mill

and/or common The Old Grist Mill In The Great Valley

**2. Location**

street & number 72 North Valley Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Tredyffrin Township N/A vicinity of congressional district 5th

state PA code 42 county Chester code 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 type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: In process of restoration

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs. W. Thomas Kelly

street & number 72 North Valley Road, R. D. #3

city, town Malvern N/A vicinity of state PA

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chester County Court House Deed Book A, Part 2, Page 267 and Deed Book B - 40 524,525

street & number High Street

city, town West Chester state PA

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Chester County Historic Sites, Survey & Inventory of Historic Sites  
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission 1968 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1980-81  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Chester County Historical Society

city, town West Chester state PA

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date EA

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Grist Mill in the Great Valley is a four-storied building that is banked, rectangular in plan and measures forty-two by forty-five and a half feet. Construction is of field stone covered with stucco. The walls are supported by heavy timbers. The roof of wood shingles is gabled with a box cornice. Two small corner chimneys are located at the southwest and northwest corners. Windows are set in plain pegged frames of 6/9 lights. Most windows are of handblown glass. The stone foundations are 2-1/2 feet thick.

The west facade of three bays has a central recessed, panelled, dutch doorway. Above the wooden lintel over the entry is the datestone inscribed "Joseph Jeanes 1859." Stone steps lead to the doorway near which is a low stone wall. On the mill's northwest corner is an arched opening 7'10" wide where the headrace enters the building. Just inside was located a wooden overshot wheel, replaced at the turn of the century by a Morgan Smith water turbine still in place. At the southwest corner the owner has hung a sign, "Old Grist Mill in Great Valley Paoli, Pa. established 1710 by Thomas Jerman."

The north facade of four stories also has a central recessed doorway. There are twelve windows symmetrically arranged and graduated in size. All have 6/9 pane sash except for the third and fourth floor and a pair of basement windows, with 6/6 pane sash. The basement windows are protected by curved dry walls.

The south facade is three bays. At each of the four levels there is a central doorway flanked by windows with 6/9 pane sash. At the roof's peak is a small projecting hood with a vertical window below. Curving pairs of iron tie rods anchor the beams and provide the only decorative motif in the plain wall surface. The doors facilitate loading and unloading grain at various stages of the milling process.

The east facade, the only wall without a door, has nine windows with 6/6 pane sash at three levels. On the northeast corner is an arched opening for the tailrace. Here water flows out of the building to rejoin the Valley Creek. This creek provides ample water for the operation of the mill in all seasons. The visual integrity of the mill in its entire setting is unchallenged by any intrusion or 20th century innovation.

The interior of the mill is highly unusual in that all the equipment is still intact and mostly operable. At ground level is the Morgan Smith turbine, circa 1900, with the related gearing to turn the mill stones located on the floor above. These gears are shaft-driven with wooden teeth, patterned after old models. At the second story level are two bare beams running the length of the building. These and all joists appear to be original. Also in place are two hoppers, crane, screw hoist, mill stones, bucket elevators, conveyors and storage bins.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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and then to the General Baking Co. to serve as a model of a commercial mill for these companies. The present owner, W. Thomas Kelly, has been restoring the mill and adjacent mill dam to which he has legal water rights in order to make the mill operable again.

9

Heathcote, C.W. A History of Chester County, Pa. National Historical Association, Harrisburg: 1932. pp 2080209.

Zimiles, Martha and Murray. Early American Mills. Crown Publishers, New York 1973. pp 3-50

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. Inventory of Historic Sites 1968. p. 80. Lists #34 Great Valley Mill.

Tredyffrin - Easttown History Club Quarterly Volume VI No. 1 pp 1-7 "The Great Valley Mill" by Franklin Burns.

C.C.H.S. Clipping File - Upper Main Line Times - May 28, 1954, Article by Dr. C. W. Heathcote.

Communication with Stephen G. Del Sordo, article "Eighteenth Century Grist Mills; some Chester County, Pa. Examples" in Proceedings of the 1981 Meeting of The Vernacular Architecture Forum, 1981.

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point marking the intersection of the center lines of Swedesford Road and North Valley Road, according to subdivision plan made by Earl R. Ewing Inc., May 3, 1971.

# 8. Significance

<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>						
<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/			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation			
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)			

Date of Construction: 1859

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**Specific dates** 1859                      **Builder/Architect** NA

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

This mill is an outstanding example of a mid-19th century "Merchant's Mill" of commercial importance. It was built using traditional construction methods based on a design first published in 1795 by Oliver Evans in The Young Millwright and Millers Guide. It shows the maintenance of a long tradition of mill building form used in southeastern Pennsylvania, and not usually found outside this region. The mill, completed in 1859, under the ownership of Joseph F. Jeanes was an important 19th and 20th century commercial industry that served both the local community, as well as state and nation. The integrity of the building is noteworthy and most of the machinery necessary to operate the mill is in place, intact and operable.

This particular mill is typical of southeastern Pennsylvania according to a description of regional style by Thomas Ellicott, a millwright of Bucks County, who wrote a chapter in Evans' book. In conformity with Ellicott's description, a water wheel and thru race are placed within the interior of the building. This type of design was introduced in the mid-18th century and became increasingly common as the century progressed. That the design lingered into the second half of the 19th century is evident by the mill's 1889 datestone. Not only is the exterior architecture important, but the mill has increased significance in that most of the milling equipment, including turbine engine, gears, hopper and vat, crane, screw hoist, pulley roller at attic level and French buhrstone millstones are in place. It is interesting to note that both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson had Evans-type mills constructed for their plantations.

The mill was constructed in 1859 by Joseph F. Jeanes (see Exhibit A, Witmar Map, 1873) and is on the site of one of the earliest mills in the Welsh Tract of Chester County. In 1710 it is known that the Welshman, Thomas Jerman owned a mill in Tredyffrin Township (see Exhibit C&D). According to local tradition the earlier stone mill, measuring 14' by 30', probably played a key role in supplying flour for George Washington's troops during the historic encampment at nearby Valley Forge 1777-78 and it is alleged that Washington may have visited this mill. At the time the mill was built in 1859, the name Great Valley Mill was transferred and applied to the 19th century replacement.

Joseph Jeanes was a well-known businessman and farmer who purchased the property October 1, 1857 from David Lewellyn (Deed Book G-6, vol. 129, p. 162) with 92 acres. Jeanes, besides being the local miller, was the first President of The Malvern National Bank. Not only did the mill serve local needs during the 19th century, but starting in 1913, under the ownership of Richard Haughton, the mill was used commercially to grind "Valley Forge Vitamin Flours & Cereals" (see Exhibit E) for a mail order business that covered the entire United States. During the 1940s the mill was leased to Pepperidge Farm Inc.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Evans, Oliver. The Young Millwright and Millers Guide. Philadelphia: 1795.  
Fletcher, S.W. Pennsylvania Agriculture & Country Life 1640-1840. P.H.M.C. Harrisburg: 1971. pp 323-6

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3/4 Acre  
Quadrangle name Valley Forge, Pa. Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A	<input type="text" value="1"/> <input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/> <input type="text" value="5"/> <input type="text" value="8"/> <input type="text" value="2"/> <input type="text" value="0"/> <input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/> <input type="text" value="4"/> <input type="text" value="3"/> <input type="text" value="4"/> <input type="text" value="9"/> <input type="text" value="9"/> <input type="text" value="0"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Old Grist Mill in the Great Valley is situated on the east side of North Valley road on a lot of 3/4 acre that is six sided in shape, beginning at a point on the east side of North Valley Road (sixty feet wide) said point being measured six courses and distances from a

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state		code	<u>PA</u>	county	<u>PA</u>	code	<u>PA</u>

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Haon Cook  
organization N/A date February 22, 1982  
street & number 451 Schoolhouse Lane telephone (Rev. 12-1-82)  
(215) 688-6442  
city or town Devon state PA

## 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

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date

For HCRS use only.

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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A	<u>18</u>	<u>458200</u>	<u>4434990</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

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<u>PA</u>			
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title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 2/18/83

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date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration