

RECEIVED  
APR 20 1985

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Oregon Mill Complex

and or common Oregon Mill - Twin Springs Farm

2. Location

street & number 1415 Oregon Road not for publication

city, town Oregon vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 042 county Lancaster code 071

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

(House name & Barn) Mr. & Mrs. William H. Wilson (Mill) Larry Patterson

street & number Twin Springs Farm 2364 Coventry Road  
Oregon Road, R D 1

city, town Leola, PA 17540 vicinity of state Lancaster, PA 17601

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Lancaster County Courthouse

street & number 50 North Duke Street

city, town Lancaster state PA 17601

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Lancaster County Architecture has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1982-1984 federal state X county local

depository for survey records Bureau for Historic Preservation of the PHMC, Harrisburg, PA 17120  
Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County

city, town 123 North Prince Street, Lancaster state PA 17603

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

Located in the Village of Oregon, Manheim Township, the chief buildings included in this nomination are the Oregon Mill, the former miller's house, and a stone end bank barn. All buildings are situated near the intersection of Oregon and Creek Roads; Carter's Creek separates the mill from the house and barn. Although these structures are within sight of Route 272, the meadows which constitute the immediate surroundings retain a rural feeling.

The chief building, visually and historically, is the Oregon Mill, which faces Oregon Road. This limestone structure, with a two story height on its northern elevation, has a full three story height on the southern elevation. The northern and southern elevations have five bay designs, with stone flat arches spanning the door and window openings on the basement and first stories. Both gable ends have three bay designs, with central doorways on the first, second, and attic stories. There is one doorway on the first floor level of the northern elevation. Both ground level doorways on the southern elevation are later alterations. On the southern elevation are paired datestones, in English and German, documenting the fact that this mill was built for Jacob Steman and his wife, Barbara in 1814. A central datestone near the eaves of the northern elevation states that the mill was rebuilt for Henry and Anna Withers in 1909.

The basic structure of the walls of the mill and the placement of most exterior doors and windows is original to the 1814 construction. The most obvious change of the 1909 rebuilding is the elevation of the roof line; this is clearly evident in the masonry. The exterior doors, windows, and window frames generally appear to date c. 1909. Only some beams survive from the original 1814 interior. The Trusses which support the roof are part of the 1909 work. The interior of the mill's western section was gutted from ground level to the roof some years ago. No mill machinery survives.

The former miller's house, of stucco-coated stone, bears a diamond shaped datestone recording construction for Abraham and Eliza Shenk in 1868. However, one interior stone wall, some foundations, and portions of the present exterior walls are re-used parts of a house predating 1798. Despite these earlier elements, the prevailing architectural character is that of a conservative Italianate style dwelling of 1868. This symmetrical house is two and a half stories in height, with a hipped roof terminating in a central deck with encircling balustrade. The present balustrade is not original; there is no evidence of a belvedere. The northern, eastern, and western elevations have three bay designs; there are central doorways on both the northern and western elevations. The exterior is relatively intact to the original state, retaining the original (1868) placement of most doors and windows, the original shutters, the original six-over-six window sash on the first and second stories, and the original entry porch on the northern elevation. The original entry porch on the facade (western elevation) was replaced by a pedimented doorway in the 1950's; the size of the original entry porch is indicated by visible marks on the masonry. Other alterations of the 1950's include the enclosure of the long porch facing Carter's Creek, and the projecting entrance on the southern elevation. To the rear of the house is a detached summer kitchen, with foundations and parts of the wall structure probably dating about the middle of the 1800's. The interior of the house has a variant of the traditional central hall or entry plan, with a simple open staircase. There have been modifications to the interior, but the 1868 period floor plan, doors, and moldings are intact. The 1868 house was built with flues for stoves instead of fireplaces.

Immediately southwest of the house is a limestone end barn with high-pitched gable roof. Built between 1798 and 1815, this barn is very intact to its original condition, with the exception of the enclosure of part of the area beneath the forebay, and the later installation of several large windows on the ground level. This barn retains most of the original structural fabric, vertical ventillators, and a round ventillator on the northern gable end.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Mill - 1814 & 1909

**Specific dates** House - pre1798&1868 **Builder Architect** Unknown  
 Barn - c. 1798-1815

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

The Oregon Mill<sup>1</sup>, with the adjoining Italianate style house and stone barn, constitute a group of buildings significant for the fields of commerce, industry, transportation and architecture in Lancaster County history. Milling commenced on or near this site between 1717 and 1735; the present stone mill was built for Jacob Steman (Stehman, Stayman, etc.) and his wife, Barbara in 1814. In 1909, it was rebuilt for Henry and Anna Withers. In the related fields of regional commerce, transportation, and industry, the mills on this site were important for more than two centuries. When the Newport-Gap Road (present Oregon Road) was laid out in 1735, the earlier Bear's Mill on this site was its western terminus. This location along an important route of trade between Delaware ports and inland Pennsylvania gave the mill site, which was one of the oldest in Lancaster County, strategic importance into the first half of the nineteenth century. With the construction of new roads and railroad routes in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the relative importance of the mill in broad-based trade declined. However, at the same time, in the c. 1840-1870 period, the mill was the focal point for a concentration of industries: a distillery was located less than 800 feet away, and about a mile to the east was Henry E Leman's rifle factory. (The buildings of the distillery and rifle factory have either been destroyed or altered beyond recognition.) Gradually, in the late 1800's, Oregon became a quiet country crossroads, and the merchant mill became a custom mill. The grinding of grain in the Oregon Mill declined during the 1930's, and was discontinued by the late 1940's.

The architectural significance of the Oregon Mill must be evaluated in the context that mills are one of the most endangered types of buildings in Lancaster County. For example, of the five grist mills which existed in Manheim Township in 1815, only the Oregon Mill and Flory's Mill now survive. In overall form and building materials the Oregon Mill is representative of many stone mills built in southeastern and south central Pennsylvania for about seventy years following c. 1790. The significance of the mill is accentuated by the adjacent 1868 Italianate house and stone barn. This is the only extant group of stone mill, house, and barn remaining in Manheim Township.<sup>2</sup>

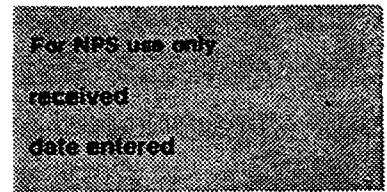
The first mill on or near the site of the Oregon Mill was built for Jacob Bear between 1717 and 1735; there are inferences that this mill may have existed in 1726. The Bears, a Mennonite family, were prominent as millers, tavernkeepers, and landowners in the eighteenth century. The small community which grew around the mill and tavern was locally known as Catfish in this period. In fact, it is reputed that the ill-fated Major Andre, while a prisoner in Lancaster during the Revolutionary War, often went fishing here.

1. This locale was called Catfish in the 1700's and early 1800's. At the suggestion of Henry E. Leman, the hamlet was named Oregon when the Oregon question was before the U. S. Congress in the 1850's. The name Oregon was officially used for a post office in this community by 1864.
2. The stone house and barn at Flory's Mill were razed in 1983.

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

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

Oregon Mill Complex, Lancaster Co.



Continuation sheet	Item number	Page
1	8	1

On January 4, 1750, Michael Sharer, Isaac Bear (Bare), and Abraham Bear sold the "Grist Mill, Oil Mill, and Saw Mill and Appurtenances to Michael Mayer". Michael Mayer sold the property to his son, Martin on July 20, 1751. Martin Mayer sold the "Messuage, Grist, Saw and Merchant Mills" to his namesake son on March 21, 1793. Secondary sources have claimed that two mill structures existed here in the eighteenth century, during the period of Bear-Mayer family ownership. The only primary documentation for the mill which existed here before 1814 appears in the 1798 Direct Tax. There Martin Mayer was listed as owning a "Merchant Mill: measuring 50 feet by 25 feet (of unspecified materials), a "Sawmill", a two story stone house, a stone kitchen, a stone springhouse, a log barn, and two stables.

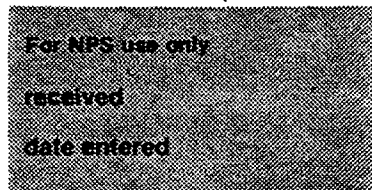
The assignees of Martin Mayer sold this property to Jacob Steman (Stehman, Stayman) on March 4, 1812. Jacob Steman was the son of Henry Stehman (1748-1793) and Veronica Neff Stehman (1764-1844) of Hempfield Township; he was the great-grandson of Joseph Stehman (Stoneman, etc.), a Mennonite who settled in Lancaster County in 1717. Jacob Steman married Barbara Frantz, a member of another early Mennonite family of Lancaster County. Evidently, the Stemans immediately embarked on the improvement of this property, as witnessed by the construction of the mill in 1814. The stone end barn also may have been erected about this time, it existed in 1815, as witness by the Direct Tax of that year. The property was sold at Sheriff Sale on December 20, 1824. As advertised in the Lancaster Journal for November 26, 1824, this sale included not only all the mill property, but also unimproved lots in Millport, Warwick, Neffsville, and New Ephrata. After this Sheriff Sale, Jacob and Barbara Steman seemingly left Lancaster County.

The mill was purchased at this 1824 sale by John Leib. Five years later, it was purchased by Benjamin Landis. In 1850, John Hess bought the premises for \$13,000. It was about this time, in the middle of the nineteenth century, that the traditional name of "Catfish" for the hamlet was changed to Oregon. The name, which honored the then-new state, was proposed by a local rifle-manufacturer, Henry E. Leman.

On May 5, 1866, John Hess and his wife, Elizabeth sold this property, including a "Grist and saw mill, dwelling houses, barn..." to Eliza, the wife of Abraham Shenk for \$20,133.33. Abraham Shenk (1805-1885) and his wife, Eliza H. Shenk (1813-1889) owned the premises for only six years, but were important to its overall history as the patrons for the construction of the Italianate house. Abraham Shenk is believed to have been a descendant of a Mennonite family which had lived in Manheim Township since the middle of the eighteenth century. She held the mill property in her own name, and on tax lists was designated as "Lady". The house which was built for Abraham and Eliza Shenk in 1868 (documented by the datestone) incorporated into its walls structural elements of the pre-1798 residence of the Mayer family. As reported in 1883, this, the 1868 construction for the Shenks cost \$3,000. In choosing the then fashionable Italian villa style for the house, the Shenks revealed a cultural orientation that was conservative, but up-to-date. Although this was neither the first nor the most elaborate symmetrical Italianate house ever built in Lancaster County, it was among the earliest built outside Lancaster City or the County's boroughs. The general design of the exterior may have been inspired by plates in A. J. Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses (1850); more specific design sources may be found in a combination and simplification of two plates in Samuel Sloan's The Model Architect (1852).

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

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



Oregon Mill Complex Lancaster Co., PA.

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

2

8

2

Eliza H. Shenk sold the property to Simon Hostetter on March 16, 1872. Simon Hostetter owned the mill, house, barn, and accompanying acreage at the time of his death on September 26, 1903. Simon Hostetter's heirs sold this "certain Mill Property, dwelling house, barn and tract..." to Harry (Henry) S. Withers on November 3, 1909 for \$8,500.

Immediately after this purchase - and possibly extending into 1910 - Withers rebuilt the mill into its present work. This rebuilding process included the elevation of the roofline, the installation of new window frames and sash, and considerable work to the interior. Withers sold the mill to James V. Bitner on May 28, 1920. Milling diminished in importance here during the following two decades; it had ceased by the late 1940's. The mill subsequently served a number of commercial functions, in addition to being vacant for a time. The house and barn were sold from the Withers family in 1951.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached list.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.85 acres

Quadrangle name Leola

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	8	3	9	3	4	8	0	4	4	4	0	8	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

See the continuation sheet

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John J. Snyder, Jr., Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County date December 1984

street & number 123 North Prince Street telephone 717-291-5861

city or town Lancaster state PA 17603

# 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 Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 4/18/85

For NPS 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

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Oregon Mill Complex, Lancaster Co., PA.  
Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

3

9

1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Published Sources:

Jane Evans Best, "Three Bears of Earl Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, And Other Early Bears", Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage, October, 1981, pp. 12-27.

A. J. Downing, The Architecture of Country Houses, New York, 1850.

H. Frank Eshleman, "History of Lancaster County's Highway System from 1714 to 1760, and Map", Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society, vol. XXVI, No. 3, 1922, pp. 37-80.

Franklin Ellis and Samuel Evans, History of Lancaster County, Philadelphia, Everts & Peck, 1883, p. 982.

Lancaster County Atlases for 1864, 1875, and 1899.

Lancaster Intelligencer-Journal, July 16, 1973.

Lancaster Journal, November 26, 1824.

Lancaster New Era (Daily), July 18, 1927.

Arthur C. Lord, Water Powered Grist Mills of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, 1971, available at the Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster.

Samuel Sloan, The Model Architect, Philadelphia, E. S. Jones & Co. 1852 (2 vol.).

Unpublished Sources:

The following at the Archives of the Lancaster County Courthouse, 50 North Duke Street, Lancaster:

Deeds: L-8-539 (1951); P-24-20 (1920); 12-84 (1812); Z-8-451 (1860); N-9-69 (1866); R-11-56 (1872); Y-19-189 (1909); D-5-211 (1825); and QQ-143 (1793).

Will: K-3-542 (1931).

The following at the Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster:

R. Harold Barton, "The Mills of Lancaster County" c. 1966, unpublished Typescript, #214.

1798 Direct Tax, Manheim Township.

1815 Direct Tax, Manheim Township.

Manheim Township Tax Lists, 1867-1872.

Information Files.

Shank (Shenk) and Stayman (Stehman, etc.) Genealogical Files.

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

For NPS use only

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

received

date entered

Oregon Mill Complex, Lancasdter Co., PA.  
Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

4

9

2

At the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, Lancaster:

Shank (Shenk) and Staymen (Stehman, etc.) Genealogical Files.

Interview with Mr. & Mrs. William H. Wilson, Twin Springs Farm, December 1984.  
Mr. & Mrs. Wilson own unsigned and undated blueprints of the Oregon Mill; these  
were made for Henry (Harry) Withers, and possibly date c.1909.



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

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Oregon Mill Complex, Lancaster Co., PA.  
Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

5

10

1

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Commencing at the northeast corner of the driveway of the mill's parking lot at the Oregon Road, thence southwest on the Oregon Road for about 628 feet to the intersection of Creek Road; thence south on Creek Road for about 267 feet to the church property; thence eastward to the west bank of Carter's Creek; thence approximately northward along the west bank of Carter's Creek to the southern boundary of the mill lot; thence east for about 163 feet; and northeast for 112 feet to the point of beginning.

It should be noted that the ownership of the three principal buildings included in this nomination are held in two separate parcels. The mill and its lot have been separate property since 1920. The house and stone end barn, on the west side of Carter's Creek, have been under different ownership from the mill since that time.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

576  
(F.P.)

76°15'  
40°07'30"

WARWICK

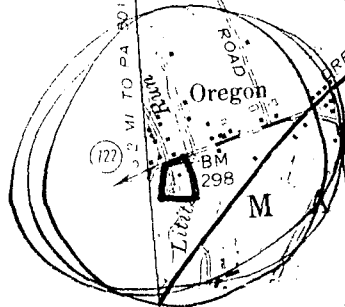
Coolico  
Creek

Brownstown

Township Sch

Talmage

Groff W E S



Oregon Mill Complex  
Lancaster Co., PA.  
Zone 18, Leola Quad  
E. 393 480 N. 4440 890

Carpenter Ch

Center Square

BM  
Cem 338

Penn John  
Sch

