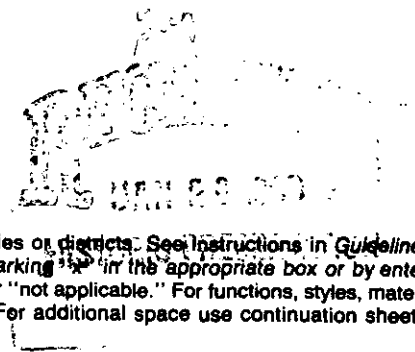


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Guldin Mill  
 other names/site number Lauer's Mill

**2. Location**

street & number Guldin Road  not for publication N/A  
 city, town Blandon (Maiden Creek Township)  vicinity N/A  
 state PA code PA county Berks code 011 zip code 19510

**3. Classification**

<p>Ownership of Property</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> public-local</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> public-State</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal</p>	<p>Category of Property</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> building(s)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> site</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> structure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> object</p>	<p>Number of Resources within Property</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Contributing</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Noncontributing</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____ buildings</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____ sites</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____ structures</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____ objects</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>2</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u> Total</td> </tr> </table>	Contributing	Noncontributing	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings	_____	_____ sites	<u>1</u>	_____ structures	_____	_____ objects	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total
Contributing	Noncontributing													
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings													
_____	_____ sites													
<u>1</u>	_____ structures													
_____	_____ objects													
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total													

Name of related multiple property listing: Gristmills in Berks County  
 Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/ processingDomestic/ single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Work in ProgressDomestic/ single dwelling**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: gristmill with attached house

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stonewalls Stoneroof Tin

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Guldin Mill is located on Guldin Creek just east of the village of Blandon at the base of a wooded hill where the land opens to farm fields adjacent to the village. This area is under current development pressure. The two contributing resources include a house-mill combination constructed of stone, and its water courses. The present mill building was built in 1822, the house portion in 1781. The water courses are intact, the head race and two ponds having been restored by the present owner. Water flows through the series of ponds to an outlet that by-passes the mill on the north. It is kept out of the mill by the closed head gate at the end of the steel pipe flume which leads to the turbine. The tail race runs under Guldin Road to the creek, northwest of the mill.

This mill is the best surviving example in Berks County of a gristmill and house combined under one roof. Both the house and mill are large structures built of limestone. The center chimney Germanic style house has a decorative 1781 datestone in the gable end. It is two and one-half stories high plus basement. The mill section forms an extension of the house to the north with similar construction features. This part of the structure has a datestone of 1822. The owner has records of a mill built by Frederick Schmale c.1781 and believes that the original mill was a timber-frame building at the same site connected to the house. The roof over the entire building features massive trussing carried through the 80 foot length of the mill-house combination.

The dimensions of the building are 42' by 80'. The roof is tin. Windows have six over six sash and plain frames. Entrance to the house is at the gable end, where a porch with roof has been constructed over a stone springhouse. The mill has entrances from the house at each level and at east and west sides. There is no hoist hood.

On the west facade there is a clear demarkation line in the masonry indicating the juncture of house and mill. There are two basement entrances, one each to house and mill. The tail water arch, near the northwest corner is below grade. However, there is an arched opening with door above it which gives access to the water wheel pit running through the north end of the building.

 See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Guldin Mill

Section number 7 Page 2

All but the gable portion of the north mill wall is covered by a modern masonry addition. Inside the addition, in the north wall at basement level, are the two water wheel bearing arches, indicating the mill originally had two vertical wheels, which allowed installation and replacement of the wheel shafts and maintenance of their outboard bearings. The shaft and bearing of the last vertical wheel are in place within the east arch, a rare artifact. Centered below the roof ridge is the mill datestone.

The east facade of the mill is banked, the basement level being below grade. In the northeast corner is the head water arch through which a wooden flume would have brought water to the vertical water wheels. Just to the south is a small square opening with battened door entering into the area of the stone floor. On the second floor level there are two doorways, one each to the house and mill sections.

The entire building is of rubble stone construction, architecturally quite simple with an early "feel" to it, and is in generally good condition. The roof is covered with early steel roofing.

The house portion is an extremely fine example of a little altered Germanic style center-chimney building with a traditional three-room plan on each floor. The gable entrance opens into the kitchen which runs the full length of the house, with a back door directly into the first floor of the mill. The main feature of the kitchen is a very large walk-in fireplace, complete with crane and a through opening into the parlor for a jamb stove. North of the fireplace is the winder stairway with its paneled doors and strap hinges virtually untouched. The west side of the this floor consists of a parlor and a smaller back room, now a library, divided by an original hand planed board partition. Upstairs is the main bedroom above the kitchen, featuring a deep open fireplace with paneled surrounds. Two other bedrooms to the west of the chimney are divided by a nicely paneled board partition wall. There is a fine early built-in corner cupboard in the larger of these rooms. All three rooms have chair rails and baseboards. Floor support is summer beam and large hewn joist construction.

The mill is a building properly designed and built to house the machinery and carry the heavy weight of stored grain. The basement has wood floors other than in the wheel pit area which is set off by a board partition. The first floor is supported by two hewn summer beams, running north and south, which, by their length and other evidence, indicate that the present spur gear drive configuration was preceded by an earlier counter shaft or "Ellicott" form having two vertical water wheels and probably four pairs of millstones.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Guldin Mill

Section number 7 Page 3

The center section of the basement is dominated by the massive white oak hurst frame supporting the power drive and three pairs of millstones. There are numerous storage chests on this level. Framed into the first floor is a bag trap opening with hinged door.

There is an open ladder stair to the first floor. Flooring of the first floor is random width tongue and groove, showing sash saw marks. In the center of this level is the stone floor, clearly separated from that surrounding it and elevated three inches, with three pairs of millstones and associated furniture. To the south of this are the roller mills. In the southwest corner, but not extending to the south wall, is the office set off by three vertical board partition walls. The first floor is currently on two levels with the housing over the wheel pit raised two feet ten inches and floored over. In the earlier configuration the longitudinal (currently square) stone floor would have been lowered resulting in the typical three levels. A doorway in the south wall leads to the house kitchen. In the east wall, near the northeast corner, is the head water entrance arch.

There are two summer beams with lambs tongue stopped chamfers on their lower edges and sash sawn joists supporting the second floor. An open ladder stair, its current location to the south of the original, leads to the second floor. The flooring is random width, to eighteen inches wide, and tongue and grooved. This level is an open area with bins in the north portion and roller mill machinery to the south. An exterior doorway is on the east wall and one in the south wall leads to the room over the kitchen.

Two summerbeams, above those of the second floor, and joists showing sash saw marks support the attic floor. The summer beams have been spliced at their north ends and the scarfed joints secured by hand wrought "U" bolts using keys rather than nuts. An open ladder stair leads to the attic level which is full length over mill and house. This level is dominated by the massive central chimney and the heavily trussed roof. Location of the four trusses indicates that the system was installed over both buildings at the same time. The rafters are hewn, taper to the peak, and are there pegged together. This is an extremely fine example of a trussed roof. The building interior is in very good condition.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Guldin Mill  
Section number 7 Page 4

The complete east water wheel shaft, of white oak, remains in place having not been removed when the turbine system was installed. It is sixteen sided, approximately two feet four inches in diameter, but has lost its arms and housings. Evidence suggests that the wheel was perhaps twenty feet in diameter and five wide. On the inboard end of the shaft, within the hurst frame remains two thirds of the large wooden clasp arm bevel mortise pit wheel framed around a square section of the shaft, the top having been cut away to accommodate the turbine drive. Also in place are the shaft bearing, head block, and its support blocks. All of these early remnants of mill machinery constitute rare surviving artifacts.

The hurst frame is complete and in good condition. With its components it represents a typical spur gear drive. The vertical shaft and spur gear were removed to make room for the existing flat belt drives from the turbine shaft to the stone spindles. All three stone spindles have rectangular cross sections indicating they were originally made for wooden lantern pinions.

The existing turbine is steel encased at the bottom of a vertical steel flume pipe of riveted construction. The manufacturer has not been identified. Its gate control passes horizontally through the hurst frame to the south and west sides.

A steel horizontal shaft within the hurst frame transferred power to another, near the south wall, from which the roller stands overhead and their machinery on the second and attic levels were powered by flat belts. A vertical wooden shaft on the floor of the wheel house extended to the attic level where it powered the wheat scourer, elevator heads, and bag hoist.

The three pairs of millstones, each four feet in diameter, and plaster backed, are very complete. Two pairs are of French buhr used for wheat flour production. The third, in the southeast corner of the stone floor, appear to be local stones and their location indicates their use for animal feed, and corn meal. Stone furniture for all three pairs is complete. The hoops surrounding them are of the single board type. The horses of two have large bulbous turned legs and beautifully turned stretchers. The crook strings for adjusting the shoes, the crook string rollers and knobs, along with the tenting system, wheel gate controls, and open meal bins all indicate that the millstones were operated from the basement - as in pre-elevator technology. Of importance is the addition of a bucket elevator to the southwest stones. This is accomplished by a chute from the meal spout through the side of the typical meal bin to the elevator boot - a seldom found example of the transition from meal bin to bucket elevator.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Guldin Mill

Section number 7 Page 5

There are two stone cranes in place complete with screws, bales, and pins. One has a steel crane screw, the other is of wood. There are three pint staffs, a jackstaff, a tramstaff, and box of mill picks, all necessary to maintain millstones. Tentering, controlling the distance between the turning millstones, is of the "bottle and beam" type and complete except for the wooden "bottles" supported on leather straps. Complete examples of this early tentering form making use of three connected levers are extremely rare.

Used with the millstones, and the roller plant, is a scouring machine located in the attic. Though it appears to be factory made, the feed system is similar to that of the millstones and millwright constructed. In the area of the stone floor there is a factory made ear corn cob breaker and a "decorticator and separator" for hulling and cleaning grain manufactured by the Keystone Manufacturing Co, Reading, Pennsylvania. both machines associated with millstone animal feed processing. There are four stands of roller mills on the first floor, each containing one pair of one foot eight inch by six inch diameter chilled iron rolls, manufactured by Griscom & Co. & McFeely, Philadelphia. On their cast iron bases appears "E. T. Butler, Pat. July 17, 1883". They are of the wishbone type roll adjusting, are in excellent condition, and represent the earliest complete set of rolls found in Berks County. The two east roll stands are corrugated and those to the west smooth. Located on the floor of the first floor water wheel house is a flat belt driven electric generator which supplied power to the house-mill and another house some distance away.

On the second floor, directly above the roll stands, are the machines for separating the various parts of the wheat berry during the reduction process. To the east is a Sieve, Scalper Grader, manufactured by J. A. McNulty's Millwork, Manheim, PA. To the west is a form of middlings purifier or bran duster made by John T. Noye Mfg. Co., Buffalo, NY. To the west of it are two Fleetwood Inter-elevator Flour Dressers, by the Merkle Co., Fleetwood, PA. These are round reels nine feet six inches long covered with several grades of silk. In the south west corner is a dust room, with sides of muslin, within which is a sheet metal cyclone dust collector. Flour dust laden air from the Noye machine is blown into this collector.

On the attic level are the heads of the bucket elevators associated with the roller system. The bag hoist mechanism, of wood, for moving materials from the basement to the first floor only is supported above the attic floor at the rafter tie level. It is of the friction drive type, complete except for its vertical wooden drive shaft. There is limited "knob and tube" wiring of this system still in place.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Engineering  
Industry  
                    
                    
                    
                  

Period of Significance

1781 to 1940  
                            
                          

Significant Dates

1781  
1822  
                  

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
                            
                          

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Schmale, Frederick and Hannah  
Guldin, Frederick

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Guldin Mill is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A, C and D. Historically it is one of the earliest mills extant in Berks County. Its large size and vast storage areas suggest that the milling industry was very important in this location at the edge of the productive limestone soils of the Great Valley region. Technologically, it has the earliest equipment of any of the county mills, and is the most completely equipped. The equipment spans the time period from the early operation of the mill to the 20th century. Thus the history of mill engineering is illustrated in this one building for a time span from 1781 to 1940. The Guldin Mill is one of approximately five house mills still standing in the county. These mills offer intriguing evidence of the persistence of European folk practices among American colonists. The evidence in the house of early Germanic architectural features and in the mill of its earliest working elements make this particularly valuable study artifact. The Guldin Mill was one of two mills identified in the 1988-89 Berks County Conservancy gristmill survey, and one of approximately thirty determined eligible for the National Register.

The datestone on the house section of the mill reads 1781. This portion of the building is believed to have been built by Hannah and Frederick Schmale. The datestone on the mill portion of the building is 1822, and was built by Frederick Guldin. A member of the Schmale family had married Guldin. The mill was owned successively by Frederick, Levi, Lewis, Irene and Albert Guldin. Lewis Guldin who owned the mill in 1862 also conducted a store at the site.

The 1850 census shows that Levi Guldin then owned the mill which had two pairs of stones and a capital of \$6,000; 7,000 bushels of grain were ground having a product value of \$11,500. One man operated the mill and earned \$20 a month. In 1862 Lewis Guldin owned the mill and also had a store nearby.

See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation Sheet**

Guldin Mill

Section number 8 Page 2

The mill has continued operation through the first half of the twentieth century. The last full time operating miller was Irene Lauer who ran the mill between 1933 and 1946. Albert Lauer conducted a part-time milling operation between 1946 and 1954, when floodwater damaged the upper headrace at Guldin Creek. After the flood, Mr. Lauer, did not reactivate the mill but neither did he change or remove anything from the mill or house. The current owner has rebuilt the entire upper water system, including three ponds and a headrace. He has also been restoring the mill machinery to working condition. He plans to erect a new water wheel or install a new turbine and operate the mill which is virtually intact mechanically.

Under Criteria C and D, the house-mill is of great importance for many reasons, primary of which is its overall integrity. This is true for all of the numerous physical aspects of architecture and technology which it demonstrates. The house and mill portions are individually dramatic examples of their type and period and, taken together, represent the best existing example of a house-mill combination in Berks County.

The house is a pure example of the Germanic three room plan in basically unaltered condition. It demonstrates all the elements associated with this form. Because it is attached to the mill it includes the interesting difference of the entrance facade being the gable end rather than the usual long dimension wall.

The mill portion is a building reflecting the considerable knowledge and skill of the millwrights who designed and erected it for the specialized purpose of processing grain. With its virtually complete turbine water power system, power transmission equipment, and millstone and roller mill machinery it constitutes a study artifact of the first order. Add to this the remains of the original wooden vertical water wheel and drive train of the current spur gear hurst frame configuration, and the clear evidence for the earlier elongated hurst frame and two vertical water wheels, and this mill becomes a model for milling technology interpretation from its earliest American forms to the end of the nineteenth century. The quality of the millstone furniture, three "bottle and beam" tentering systems, the clear example of the adaptation of a pre-continuous production meal bin to a bucket elevator, and the early wishbone single pair roller mills are without peer in this county, or, indeed, among the great number of mills that have been examined nationwide by Stephen Kindig, Technical Consultant to the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills, a national organization.



**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Berks County Atlases  
Berks County Conservancy Mill Survey and Multiple Property Nomination: Gristmills in Berks County, 1989.

Kindig, Stephen, Guldin Mill Survey, 1989.

Willing, Matthew, Guldin Mill Survey, 1989.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Berks County Conservancy

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Approximately seven acres

UTM References

A 18 425800 4476400  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 18 424850 4476070  
 Zone Easting Northing

B 18 425900 4476270  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 18 425740 4476400  
 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Starting at a pin in Guldin Road northwest of the mill, continue southeasterly along the property boundary to a pin, and continuing in the same direction to a pin on the northwestern side of the mill pond, thence along the contour line to the northeast corner of the bridge at Route 73, thence along the bridge to the northeast side of the creek, thence downstream along the creek, under Guldin Road, to the property boundary, thence northeasterly along the property line to the place of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification The boundary is drawn to include the mill and its water system adjuncts, stream, dam, ponds, headrace and tailrace, and not to include the barns and other outbuilding northeast of the pond which were built at a later date than the mill and were not directly involved in the milling use of the property. This boundary follows property lines on the north, contour lines on the east, and the creek on the southwest.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

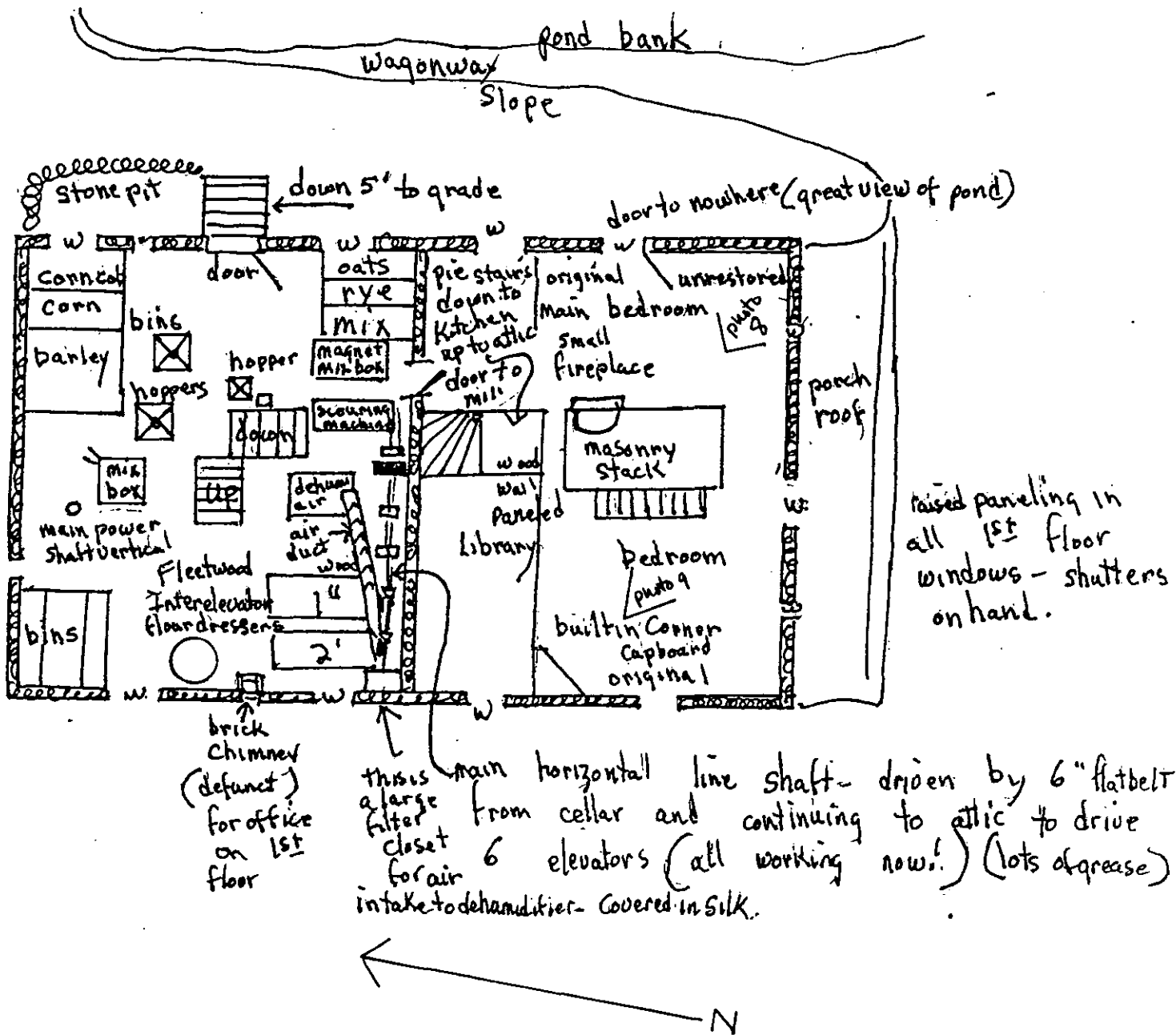
name/title Phoebe Hopkins, Project Director & Stephen Kindig, Project Consultant

organization Berks County Conservancy date July, 1989

street & number 960 Old Mill Road telephone (215) 372-4992

city or town Wyomissing state PA zip code 19610

2nd Floor  
Guldin Mill  
Berks County



1st Floor  
 Guldin Mill  
 Berks County

Photo 1

Guldin Mill - 83

1st Floor  
 Guldin Mill

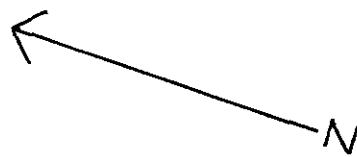
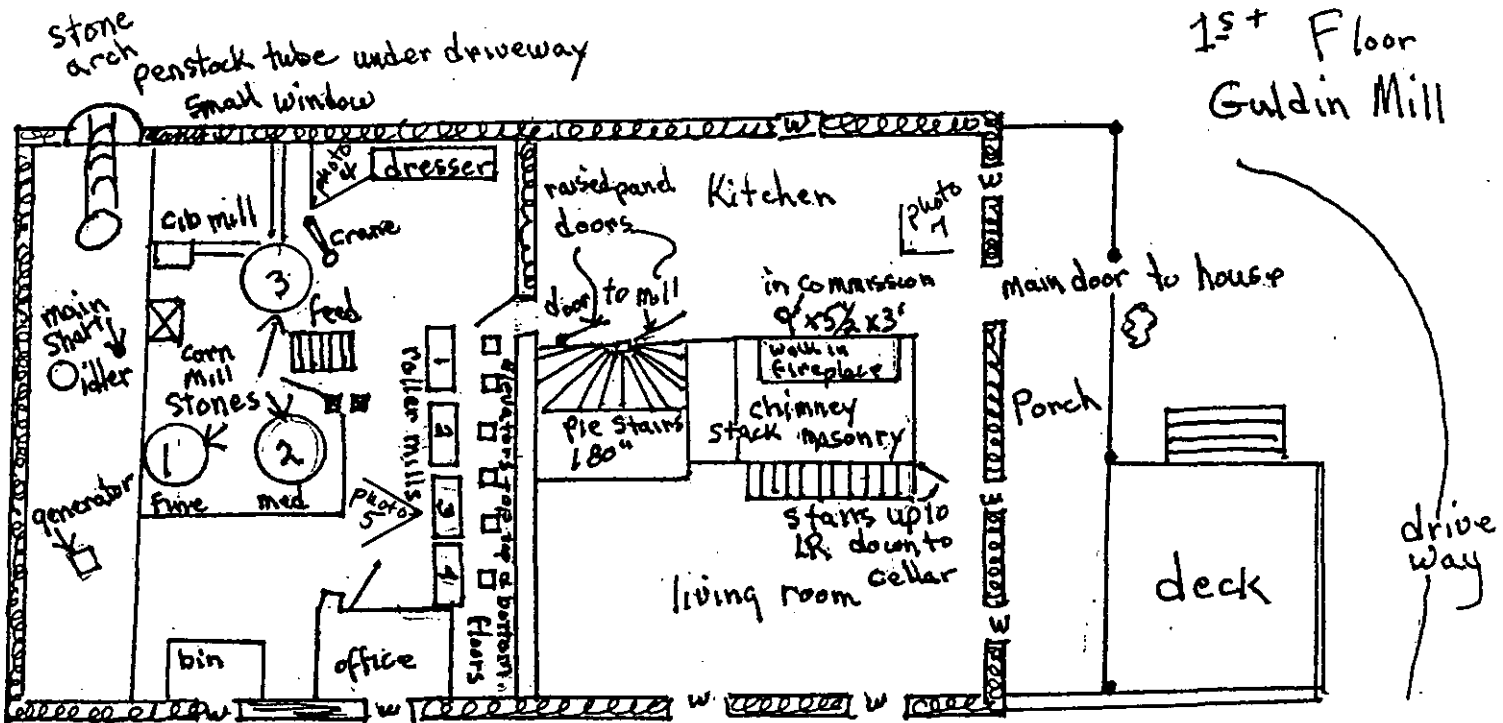


Photo 2



479  
27'30"

4478  
FLEETWOOD (JUNC. PA. 662) 3 MI.

(FLEETWOOD)  
5864 IV NE

476

4475

25'

Goldin Mill  
Berks Co.  
Temple Quad  
Zone 18

UTM:

D 425740-4476400

(continued on  
Fleetwood Road)

Guldmill  
Berks Co.  
Fleetwood Quad #71  
Zone 18

- A 425800-4476400
- B 425900-4476270
- C 425850-4476070

(Continued on  
Temple Quad)

