

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 18). 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 Stupp-Oxenrider Farm

other names/site number Oxenrider Farm

2. Location

street & number Dundore Road

not for publication N/A

city, town Robesonia (North Heidelberg Township)

vicinity N/A

state PA code PA county Berks code 011 zip code

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>
<u>4</u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>14</u>	<u>2</u>

- buildings
- sites
- structures
- objects
- Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Agriculture in Berks County: 1700-1945

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)

Domestic: single dwelling
 Agriculture: animal facility
 Domestic: secondary structure
 Agriculture: agricultural outbuildings

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling
 Agriculture: animal facility
 Domestic: secondary structure
 Agriculture: agricultural outbuildings

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular house banked

Other: Pennsylvania Bank Barn

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls stone, wood, log

roof tin

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Oxenrider farm is situated in the rolling hill and valley country of North Heidelberg township. The house and barn face southeast and have a linear orientation to both Dundore Road and the creek. The farm buildings are situated on the edge of the west side of the road. The fourteen historic resources include nine vernacular style buildings, four contributing structures and one site. The principal resources are a two-and-one-half story, log, vernacular Swiss bank house, ca. 1784; a two-story, log, tenant/grandfather's house, ca. 1790; a frame bank barn ca. 1850; and a group of frame out-buildings ca. 1845-1940. The resources have no changes that would interfere with their ability to portray the significant time period ca. 1784-1940.

This farm consists of ninety three acres, eighty of which are tillable. The land is rolling hill and valley. Limestone and shale comprise the soil types. A creek runs in a north-south direction, through the meadow east of Dundore Road. The farm buildings have a valley setting among trees, on the west edge of Dundore Road. The farm outbuildings are clustered for easy access to barn, house and road. An old apple orchard is located on the hill west of the house.

The farm land is divided into four fields and a meadow. The fields, starting northwest of the barn and moving counter clockwise, are eighteen acres, twenty six acres, fifteen acres, and thirteen point two acres respectively. The latter two fields and the meadow lie east of Dundore Road. The other two fields lie south and west of the house and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Stupp-Oxenrider Farm

Section number 7 Page 2

barn. These fields are divided into contour strips for erosion control. These strips produce wheat, oats, and hay in a rotation typical for a modern Berks County farmer. Although the previous dairy operation was discontinued in 1989, the land use patterns and landscape remain unchanged. The boundary of the farm is delineated by fence rows comprised mainly of hardwood trees, which appear to be fifty to one hundred years old.

The two-and-one-half story, log, vernacular Swiss bank house consists of four bays, a one-story Victorian style porch on the southeast side, and a one story stoop on the northwest side. The window sashes are two over two, which indicates that they were replaced ca. 1900. The exterior of the house is covered by asphalt siding which was applied ca. 1950. The front and back doors are opposite each other, and enter into the Germanic kuche. The current tin roof, which was previously wood shingle, has snow catchers, and gable end pents on both the north and south ends of the house. The style and construction of the house are consistent with the time period 1770-1790.

The main floor of the house retains its Germanic three room plan. The kuche located on the north side of the house, is the current kitchen. The large walk-in central fireplace, which faces the north wall is intact. It has a molded fireplace mantle and retains its folding doors, which are made of twelve to fourteen inch wide beaded boards. A closed staircase to the second floor, is located on the north wall. The stairway is enclosed with paneling made of the same beaded boards. The staircase woodwork reveals succeeding layers of paint. The lower layer is red, the next bright blue, the next yellow, and the top layer is beige. The walls have waist high, narrow wainscoting, indicating that this was added around the turn of the century.

The stube has an exposed summer beam and is replete with ornate chair rail and large Federal style corner cupboard. The corner cupboard is built into the southwest corner of the stube, and features scalloped shelves and reeding on the two-panel doors. The chair rail runs in a continuous line across the corner cupboard. The doors have six panels and fancy hinges. The window and door trim is plain.

The kammer, which is on the southwest side of the house can be entered either from the stube or the kuche. The window molding is plain like that of the stube. The peg board and chair rail are intact.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Stupp-Oxenrider Farm

Section number 7 Page 3

The second floor has four rooms. A closet which appears to be quite old, was built between the two rooms on the south side of the house. The window trim is plain in all of the bedrooms. There is chair rail in the south east bedroom. The other bedrooms have no chair rail and plain window trim.

The foundation of the house is stone, which comprises the basement level of the house. On the exterior this stone wall is approximately five feet in height. The basement which has nine foot ceilings and a ground floor, served as both a ground cellar and a meat cellar. The basement is divided into three rooms. The partitions are built of twelve to sixteen inch variable width vertical boards. These partitions have doors with wooden hinges. One of these hinges has an unusual small iron hinge on top of it which is shaped like a fish. The summer beam, which runs north to south, measures eleven inches by twelve inches, is chamfered, and rests on a stone shelf which projects from both end walls. There are three small casement-size windows that are at ground level. An exterior door is found on the south side of the basement. The fireplace support faces north and measures nine feet five inches in width, and five feet nine inches in depth and is used for storage. An old pie safe hangs from the ceiling. A plethora of mushroom and rosehead nails protrude from the ceiling beams.

The frame bank barn is situated north of the house along Dundore Road. The barn has an asymmetrical roofline profile. The roof is channel tin with snow catchers. The roof truss system is of standard design (Ensminger), and has canted queen posts. Two wooden hay tracts are suspended from the peak, one in the north gable, the other in the south gable. The hay tracts retain carriages and three prong hay hooks.

The upper level of the barn is four bays wide. There are two central threshing floors and two hay mows, one on the north end of the barn, the other on the south. The secondary hay and grain lofts are intact above the threshing floors. The granary was removed when the east eave side addition was built.

The ground level of the barn has an open forebay and a cut stone facade. Although this level of the barn was modernized to accommodate a modern dairy operation, the forebay was never enclosed. Windows were added to the barn front to provide the required light. The south and mid section of the ground level have modern stanchions which replace the former wooden stalls and the walkways have been covered with concrete to meet modern sanitation standards. The north end of the barn retains its original stable, wooden troughs, hay racks, and feed bins. There is

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Stupp-Oxenrider Farm

Section number 7 Page 4

also a built in wagon shed at the end of the barn on the north side. The silo room is located on the west side of the barn. It is one-story, frame, with an asphalt shingle roof. It was built ca. 1940, by George C. Oxenrider.

A perpendicular, frame, eave-end addition was added to the front, or southeast side of the north end of the barn. This addition is connected at the roof level, while on the ground level there is a breezeway. The ground level has two stalls on the south side, with doors that open on to the barn yard. The rear, or north side of the addition, on both levels is a straw mow. This can be entered on the ground level by a door which faces the barn front. It can also be entered from the north end of the second floor of the barn, via the hay mow. Straw was blown into this section when grain was thrashed, and packed down with two horses. This practice was continued through 1953, when threshing was discontinued in favor of combining.

The remains of a post and rail barnyard fence are extant in front of the barn. This was largely replaced by a wire fence.

The log, two-story, tenant or "grandfathers" house sits north of the main house and faces south. It has three bays and retains its three room plan. The exterior was covered with asphalt siding ca. 1950. The roof is of channel tin. The cornice is plain, as is the window and door trim. The front door has a Victorian bentwood hood. The style and construction of the house are consistent with the time period 1770-1790.

The kuche has a gable end corner fireplace on the west wall. This fireplace is cantilevered. In the flue are two bars across the width which slide in and out, on which boards could be placed for baking. The stube and kammer have plain window and door trim.

The stairway to the second floor is built against the wall opposite the fireplace. Both the stairway paneling and the floor are built of twelve to fourteen inch wide beaded boards.

The second floor garret is divided into two rooms. The northwest room contains the chimney and a smoke chamber, which is built into the north wall. The floor is made of the same beaded boards found on the first floor.

The basement level is stone. The foundation is similar to that of the main house, but not as high. On the exterior, it measures three feet in height. The basement is divided into two rooms. A spring runs from corner to corner from the northwest corner to the southeast corner.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Stupp-Oxenrider Farm

Section number 7 Page 5

The butcher house/summer kitchen is one-story, and built of stone. The west gable end is banked. This building has a tin roof. The window sashes are nine over six, and the window frames are pegged. A small window exists in the east gable.

The fireplace and chimney are in the banked west gable end wall. The chimney is banked as well as the fireplace, to retain heat. The fireplace is approximately four feet deep, and is cantilevered. Above the lintel, in the flue are two bars across the width, which slide in and out. Boards could be placed on these bars after the chimney was heated for baking. A raised butcher hearth was built into the fireplace at a later date.

The smokehouse is located on the hill west of the house. It is quite large. The smokehouse is constructed of brick, has a metal roof, and vertical slit air vents.

The privy sits just west of the house on the hill. It is a frame building, constructed of vertical tongue-and-groove boards, with a metal roof and is still in use.

The blacksmith shop sits north of the house, half way to the barn. It is a two-story frame building, with an asphalt shingle roof. It is known to have been built by Adam Oxenrider ca. 1915. The main floor of the smithy still contains the original blacksmith forge/hearth and chimney. The smithy retains a plethora of blacksmith and old farm hand tools. An interior stairway leads to a second floor granary. It has two windows on the south side and one on the east side to give light to the forge. It is currently used as a shop and garage.

The wagon shed/chicken house is one-and-one-half stories, banked, and built of tongue-and-groove boards. This building was rebuilt ca. 1916, from some of the original lumber, by Adam Oxenrider. It has a corrugated tin roof. The west banked upper level, is the wagon shed. The chicken house is on the lower east side. Both retain their original uses. It is located halfway between house and barn.

The milk house is a one-story building, built of tongue-and-groove boards, in the 1930's, by the Oxenriders. It is located at the front of the barnyard, at the edge of the road. It originally had an interior trough for cooling milk.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Stupp-Oxenrider Farm

Section number 7 Page 6

Four contributing structures

A one-story chicken house is located on the hill west of the house toward the barn. It is frame, built of vertical boards. The roof is tin.

A brooder house is located beside the chicken house on the hill west of the house. It is frame, built of vertical boards, and one-story in height. The roof is tin.

A pole shed is located on the hill west of the house, behind the brooder and chicken houses. It contains a frame corn crib. The shed type roof is metal, and it is one-story in height.

A stone walled, enclosed, roofed spring, is adjacent to the northwest corner of the log tenant house. This is the spring that flows through the basement of the house. This spring is still used as the source of domestic water and is pumped to the main house.

Site

A limestone quarry is located southwest of the house, in the field, on the hill. The quarry is overgrown with trees.

There are two non-contributing buildings. They are listed as follows:

A milk house which is one-story, built of cement block, and frame. It was first constructed in 1947, and later enlarged in 1977. The roof is metal. It is located on the east edge of the barn yard, beside the older milk house.

A pig sty / corn crib is located just north of the black smith shop. It is one-and-one-half stories high, built of tongue-and-groove boards, and has a tin roof. It was built in 1957, by George Oxenrider.

This farm has undergone changes over time, as have most farms. The integrity of this farm is excellent. While buildings were added and rebuilt to meet the agricultural needs of the period 1840-1940, these existing buildings remain intact and totally unmarred by modern intrusions. The 1957 pig sty is constructed of the same building material as the 1916 blacksmith shop and the ca. 1850 barn.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Stupp-Oxenrider Farm

Section number 7 Page 7

The house remains largely unaltered. Electricity was added to the house in 1945. Water, which was previously pumped by hand at the sink in the kitchen, is now pumped by electric pump. The house is heated by two first floor coal stoves. Holes in the ceiling allow heat to circulate to the second floor. Asphalt siding was added to the house for insulation and for protection of the logs ca. 1950.

The tenant or "grandfathers" house has electricity which was added in 1945. It also was heated by coal stove. It has no indoor plumbing. Asphalt siding was added to the house for insulation and for protection of the logs ca. 1950. It is called a "grandfathers" house because it is known that in the Oxenrider family, the father retired to this house when a son took over farming the land.

The barn was altered slightly to accommodate a modern dairy herd. Stanchions replaced the old wooden stalls. A cement floor and troughs replace the former ground floor and wooden troughs. Windows were added to the forebay walls, but the forebay was never enclosed.

The remainder of the buildings are intact, with no apparent changes. What alterations there are do not interfere with the essential physical features of the historic resources found on this property. The identity and character portray the significant time period 1784-1940, the cut off for National Register eligibility.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered 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)

Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance

1784-1940

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The Oxenrider farm is eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C. It is representative of late 18th and 19th century diversified family farms that changed to dairying in the early 20th century. The property is an architecturally significant example of a farm complex. The house is an excellent example of an intact center chimney log house and the outbuildings retain their integrity and many of their original features. The farm landscape with its fields, meadows, fence rows stream and spring reflects the property's significance and integrity.

This property was granted to Lazarus Wengert, a Swiss Mennonite minister, by the Proprietors in May of 1784. The land warrant consisted of two hundred sixty acres. Six months later in November of 1784, Lazarus Wengert and his wife Catharina sold the property to Adam and Susanna Albert. This couple probably built the Swiss bank house. They sold the property to Peter Spang, Sr. in May of 1790. Peter Spang, Sr., died in 1824, and his estate was sold at a sheriff's sale to a "straw party" by the names of Daniel Fichthorn and Joseph Hiester. They sold the property to Peter Spang, Jr. in 1825. At his death in 1845, the property was sold to Jonathan Dundore and Jacob Stupp. Stupp gained clear title to one half of the property (90 acres). This he passed on to his son Jacob in 1880. The property then passed through the hands of

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Stupp-Oxenrider Farm

Section number 8 Page 2

Rebecca Stupp, Jacob and Clara Stupp to Francis Knabb, and back to Jacob and Clara Stupp, who sold it a last time to Adam Oxenrider in March of 1900. He in turn sold it to his son George C. Oxenrider. George Oxenrider, the son of George C., bought the property in the 1970's, and is the current owner.

The barn was built ca. 1850. Although there is no date stone, the style of construction is consistent with an early frame barn of that period.

Adam Oxenrider, who obtained the property in 1909, was a blacksmith, as well as a farmer. Circa 1915 he built the frame blacksmith shop. He rebuilt the banked wagon shed/chicken house in 1916.

The Oxenrider farm has similar characteristics and land use to the other farms surveyed. The house and barn are oriented both to the road and the stream. Its springs provide an adequate water supply for the farm.

Most of the farms surveyed have the expected circulation networks of lanes radiating to surrounding fields. The Oxenrider farm is different in this respect. It has no farm lanes. All of its fields can be reached from Dundore Road. The farm also has no plots of woodland.

The Oxenriders have maintained the Pennsylvania German culture and lifestyle. The Oxenriders speak the Pennsylvania Dutch language. Mrs. Oxenrider cooks a large noon meal. Until recent times she kept a large garden, and canned and froze the produce. They did family butchering up through 1986, and smoked their own meat.

The types and layout of the buildings on the Oxenreider farm are similar to other farms surveyed. With the exception of the Swiss bank house the other buildings are the simple form follows function style typical of Berks County. However, few central chimney log houses with high style Federal detailing were found. In our survey it was also unusual to find the lay-out of the tenant/grandfathers house to be similar to that of the main house as is the case on this farm.

The architecture of the Oxenrider farm resembles that of the Oscar Leiby farm in Maxatawny township. Similarities in period of construction, 1780-1940, architectural style and building materials exist, as well as contrasts.

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

Stupp-Oxenrider Farm .

Section number 8 Page 3

Both the Oxenrider and Leiby houses are Swiss bank houses that incorporate Germanic and high style Federal features. Both of these houses exhibit striking Federal wood work.

The Oxenrider house has a Germanic central chimney, and off center front doorway, in contrast to the Leiby house which has a central Federal style doorway. The Oxenrider house exhibits the typical vernacular German three room plan. The Leiby house has an open central hall and stair, with two rooms off either side of the hall. However the Oxenrider house has a striking Federal style corner cupboard, lacking in the Leiby house.

The barns on both of these farms are frame bank barns, with stone foundations and cut stone facades. While the Oxenrider barn has a front end perpendicular addition, in the form of a straw barn/stable, the Leiby barn has a rear end horsepower addition. The Oxenrider farm has a small barnyard enclosed with a wire fence, while the Leiby barn-yard is enclosed by a high stone wall.

Both farms have banked wagon sheds, and chicken houses, as well as a full complement of barn outbuildings and house dependencies. Historically, both of these farms used springs as their main source of water. On both farms these springs are pure and still used as the main source of water. As water tables have dropped in recent times, it is unusual to find them still in use. Both of these farms are bisected by a paved road which gives access to farm fields and do not have the expected circulation networks of lanes.

These two farms are working farms that retain a full complement of outbuildings. Both of these farms have made the transition from small dairy farm to modern crop farm, with few alterations to existing structures. Both families retain traditional Pennsylvania German life styles, language, and cultural traditions.

The Oxenrider farm in its architecture, setting, and in its agricultural tradition is a fine example of a farm in continuous operation for two hundred years. The buildings are well maintained, and this farm appears today as it would have looked in 1916.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Acreeage of property 93 acres

UTM References

A	1 1 8	4 0 1 1 4 4 1 0	4 4 7 1 1 1 5 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 1 8	4 0 2 1 1 5 1 0	4 4 7 0 2 7 0

B	1 1 8	4 0 2 2 9 1 0	4 6 7 1 0 4 3 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 1 8	4 0 1 3 7 1 0	4 4 7 1 0 3 6 1 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Mary Ellen Lash, Consultant</u>	date	<u>June 1991</u>
organization	<u>Berks County Conservancy</u>	telephone	<u>(215) 372-4992</u>
street & number	<u>960 Old Mill Road</u>	state	<u>PA</u>
city or town	<u>Wyomissing</u>	zip code	<u>19160</u>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Stupp-Oxenrider Farm

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography:

Berks County Agricultural Survey 1990-1991. Records at Berks County Conservancy, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania.

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Mongomery, Morton L., History of Berks County Pennsylvania, Philadelphia: Evert, Peck and Richards, 1886

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Stupp-Oxenrider Farm

Section number 10 Page 1

Boundary Description

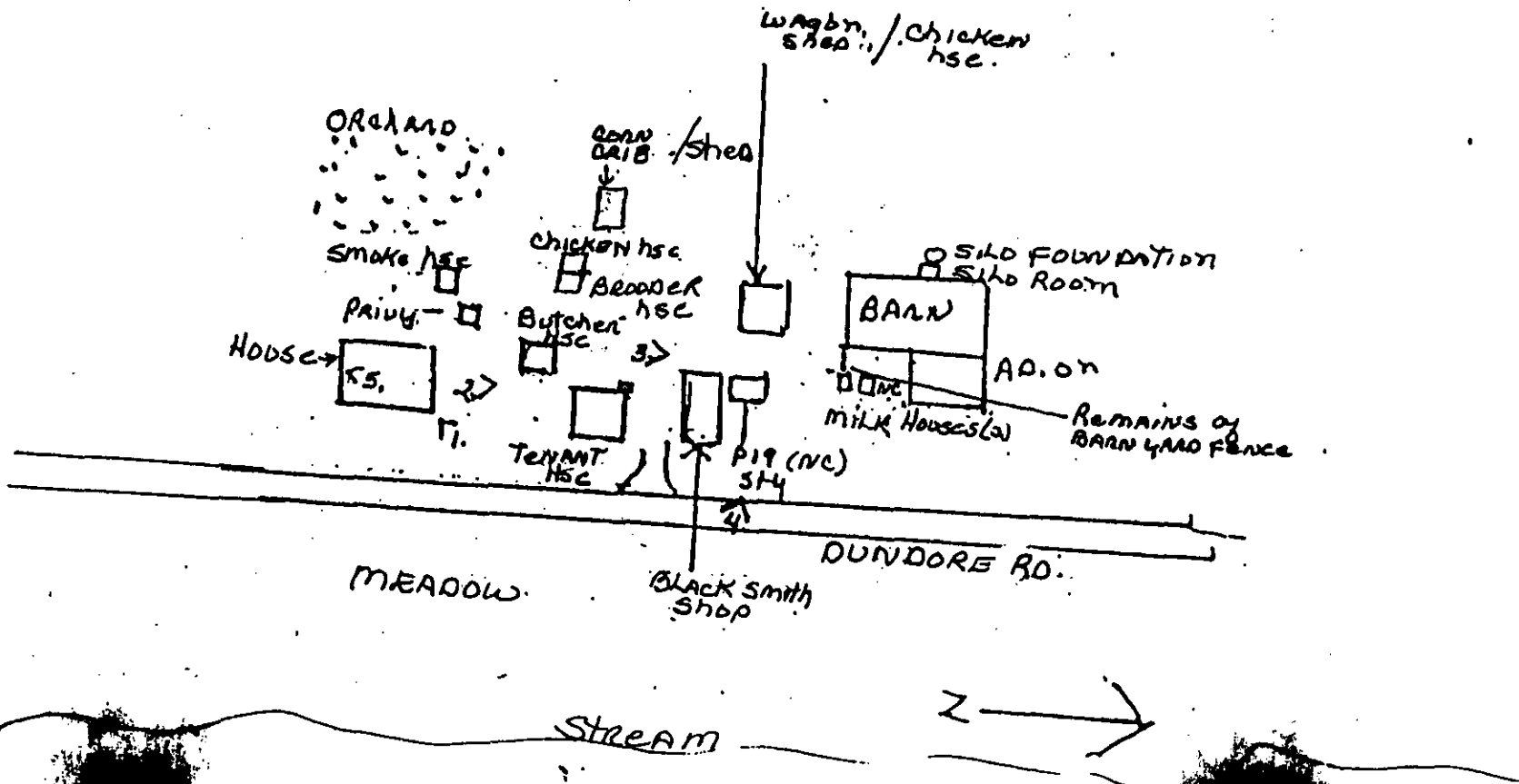
Beginning at a point on the north side of Snyder Road at the junction of the east side of Reider Road; thence east 100 feet to Dundore Road; thence across Dundore Road fifty feet; thence southeast along Snyder Road 700 feet to a point; thence easterly along Snyder Road 1600 feet; thence southeast along road 600 feet to a point; thence northeast 1700 feet to a point; thence westerly 600 feet to a point; thence north 700 feet to a point; thence westerly 300 feet to a point on the east side of Dundore Road; thence southwest 300 feet to a point; thence northwest 1800 feet to a point; thence southwest 700 feet to a point; thence southeast 600 feet to a point on the contour line; thence southwesterly 1500 feet to a point; thence west 700 feet to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The present boundary of the farm is the historical boundary for the period of the ownership of the Oxenrider's. The boundary itself is a significant feature of the farm as it has not changed in the past eighty-two years. Because the nomination is based primarily upon the historical and agricultural values of the entire property, the farm boundary is proposed as the boundary of the historic district.

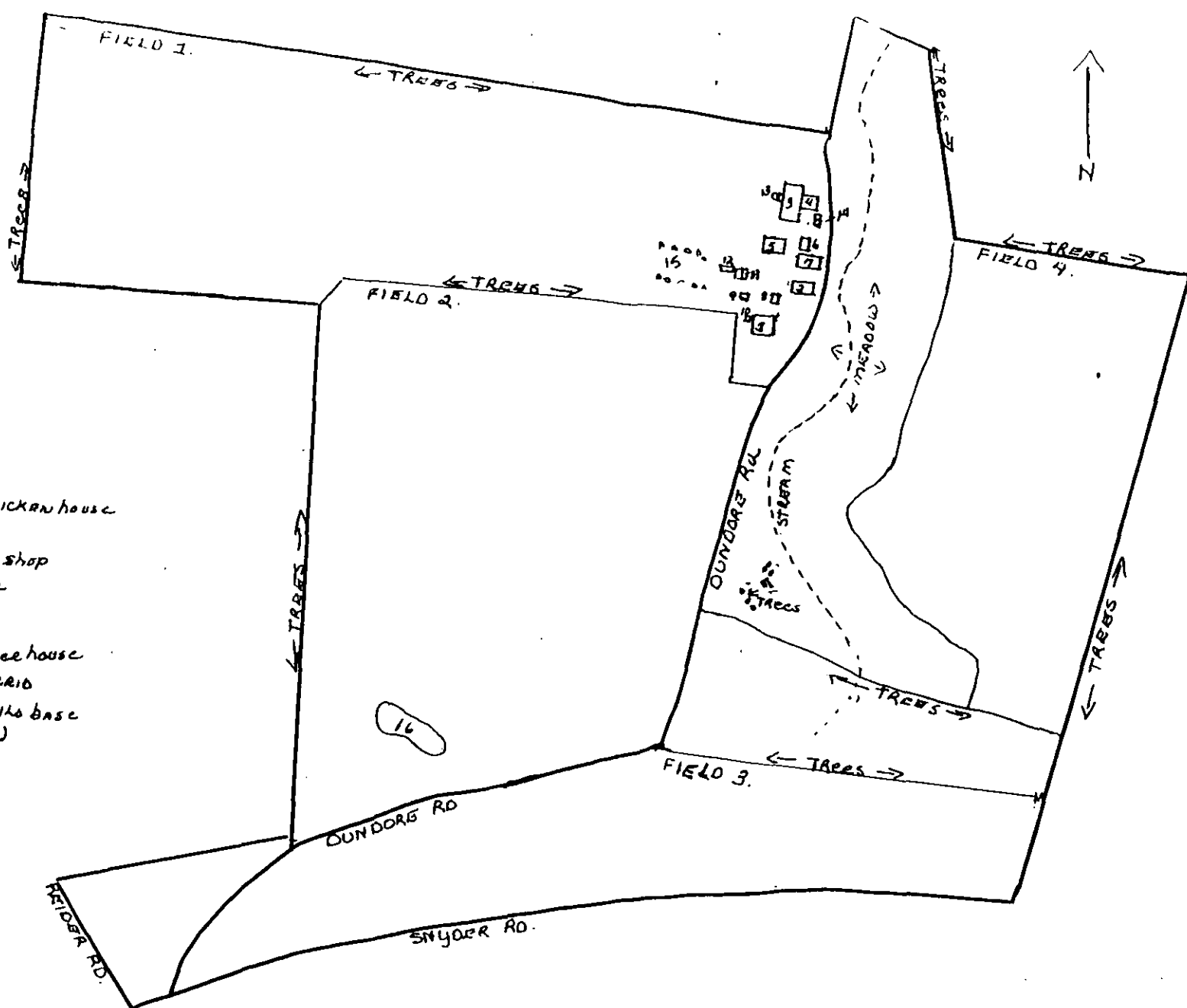
OXENRIDER FARM - BERKS COUNTY, PA

A
FARMSTEAD PLAN
PHOTO VIEWS



NOT CONTRIBUTING - NC
NOT DONE TO SCALE
PHOTO DIRECTION - >

1. House
2. TENANT house
3. BARN
4. BARN ADDITION
5. Wagon shed/chicken house
6. Pig sty
7. Blacksmith shop
8. Butcher house
9. Smoker house
10.
11. & Brascoe house
12. SHED & CORRUGATED
13. SILO ROOM & SILO BASE
14. MILK HOUSE (2)
15. ORCHARD
16. QUARRY



NOT DONE TO SCALE

OXENRIDER FARM,
BERKS COUNTY, PA.

