

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 Seyfert Mill
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Old Route 22 and Campsite Road not for publication N/A
city, town Upper Tulpehocken Township vicinity N/A
state Pa code Pa county Berks code 011 zip code 19506

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<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/processing

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: gristmill

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stonewalls stoneroof steel

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Seyfert Mill is located in rural Upper Tulpehocken Township along Old Route 22. The mill is situated on the west side of the Northkill Creek which supplied water power through a race and mill pond a short distance west of the mill. The mill, built into the bank, is surrounded on two sides by woods. The two historic resources on the property include the remnants of the watercourses, and one contributing building, a 2 1/2 stories plus basement stone vernacular mill measuring 48' by 50'. The present building, probably the second mill on the site, has an 1840 date stone. The resources have few changes that interfere with their ability to portray the significant time period.

The main entrance of the mill is on the west wall, and as the mill is banked leads directly onto the first floor level. This entrance wall has a modern shed roof over a loading platform. The south gable end has three solid doors, one on the first, second and attic levels. There was a hood roof for the bag hoist but it has been removed. The notable feature on the west side is the large arch for the wooden penstock which runs to the head race. The mill has a modern red steel roof with a chimney in the southwest corner. The exterior of the mill is in fairly good condition with the exception of the 6/6 windows which have glass missing.

The interior of the mill is massively constructed. The basement wooden flooring still in place is random width tongue-and-groove. The original hurst frame elements are in the mill showing that the present stone floor is approximately thirty inches higher than it was originally. The first floor is raised in the north end of the building to accommodate the height of the original overshot water wheels. In the water wheel pit area are the forebay and Fitz cast iron gate for what was probably a Fitz steel wheel.

The first floor is divided into three bays north and south. The flooring, as in the basement, is random width. There is an internal bag hoist opening framed in with hinged trap doors. The lowered floor for the one existing pair of millstones has been covered over. This floor has the three levels typical of the early type gearing arrangement with the wheels and the millstones lined up in a row from one side of the mill to the other. A stone crane is against the wall in its proper location. In the southwest corner is the mill office with a chimney which has an opening for a stovepipe. This room has a ceiling of wide boards and was wallpapered.

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Continuation Sheet

Seyfert Mill

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The two wooden partition walls are random width vertical panels, beaded on one side. The stairs to the second floor, are located in the southeast corner of the mill.

The second floor is a much lower floor level-- ceiling height perhaps 7'. The stairway to the attic is an open ladder type. Bins of various sizes are located on this floor. The internal bag holst opening is framed into the floor joist of the attic floor.

The attic is basically unsafe. Apparently the floor was damaged due to a leaking roof that has since been replaced. The structure supporting the rafters is of the barn type with purlins half way up supported by angled braces with lighter braces going out to the walls. The location of the bag holst mechanism is visible but the mechanism is no longer in place.

There is a large cast iron spur gear, perhaps 8 or 10 feet in diameter in the gear pit. The rest of the power transmission is almost entirely flat belt drive to various fairly modern steel horizontal shafts with steel pulleys for the flat belts to the various machines. The hurst frame is basically intact and it is clear that there were four pair of millstones. The existing millstones are encased by their hoop and appear to be at least 4 1/2' in diameter. The bedstone is a local stone. The mill had three double stands of rolls, there are presently two in place. The rolls are 7" inches in diameter and 24" long. The roller mill bases have the name of the Wolf Company, Chambersburg, Pa. on the cast iron doors. The boxes on the top of the rolls where the grain entered, have a plate with the name Hartz Machinery Company Mill Builders, 46th Street and Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Charles Kline son of the last miller states there was a large generator in the basement and that power was supplied to Blue Mountain Electric. The generator was run during the times when the mill was not in operation.

Northkill Creek supplied water power through a pond and race west of the mill. The race entered the mill through a large arch on the west side. The head and tailrace are barely visible although the mill pond does exist.

The only change to the exterior of the building is the shed type roof and loading platform at the main entrance. The 6/6 windows have glass missing. The interior changes to the building were those made to accommodate the changeover from millstones to a roller plant. Considering this change there were few alterations to the basic building. With the exception of the mill pond, the watercourses no longer contain water, although it is possible from the remains to ascertain how water power was delivered to the mill. The historic resources retain the essential physical features that enable them to convey their past identity and character and portray the significant time period 1840 to 1940 the cut-off date for National Register eligibility.

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
Industry
Engineering

Period of Significance
1840 to c. 1939

Significant Dates
1840

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 Seyfert Mill is significant under National Register Criteria A, C and D. This mill is important for its association with the county gristmill industry as it is representative of merchant mills erected during the "great rebuilding" of Berks County mills 1818-1862. In the form of gearing and millstone location and the remnants of the hurst frame there is evidence of the technological changes that took place in the county milling industry during the years of the mill's operation. Architecturally, this mill is representative of Berks County merchant mills of the period.

The years 1818-1862 was an era of "great rebuilding"; of 63 mill buildings in the Berks County Mill Survey for which firm dates have been determined, 31 date from this period. This was the era when the majority of the classic Berks County merchant mills were built. The Seyfert Mill with its 2 1/2 stories plus basement, rectangular configuration, banked stone construction, three gable end doors, relatively large size (compared to earlier mills), is a good, solid typical building representative of Berks County merchant mills of the period. The mill built in 1840 is also an indication that the early form of gearing and millstone location, that is a row of millstones across the mill and two wooden water wheels, was still being built as state of the art machinery. The existing remnants of the hurst frame indicate the early three different level first floor arrangement. The current configuration represents the typical adaptation of a stone milling mill to the more modern roller mill process, leaving one pair of millstones in place for cornmeal and putting in place of the other stones a Wolf Company system for roller milling. This changeover required a large capital investment, necessary, if the mill was to remain competitive in the wheat flour trade. The technology and history of this mill reflect the history and changes in the milling industry for the over 100 years this mill operated.

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Seyfert Mill

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The water power at this site operated a gristmill at an early date. The 1816 map shows the Seyfert family as owning the mill. The present mill built, according to a date stone, by John and Hannah Seyfert in 1840, replaced the earlier mill. The maps of 1854 and 1862 show the Seyfert family as the owners. However, not only was the water power at this site used to operate a gristmill but county historian Morton Montgomery wrote in 1886. "In the eastern part of the township on a branch of the North-Kill are the sites where were the forges and mills of Joseph Seyfert. The first improvement was a small gristmill. It was replaced by a mill of better capacity which was built by Benjamin and Joseph Seyfert (here Montgomery contradicts the date stone). This mill is still in operation, as the property of Wm. Shomo. Below this power an improvement was made to operate a forge by the Seyferts, about 1830, and the business was so successfully carried on, that some ten years later an old mill, a mile up the stream, was converted into another forge which Seyfert also operated. These, in connection with the mills and several farms, which he had under cultivation, formed an industry which gave employment to a large number of men. After the death of Joseph Seyfert, about the close of the late Civil War, the iron interests declined. The forges were practically abandoned about 1870. The Seyfert homestead is now the property of one of the sons of Joseph Seyfert, but the greater part of the once large estate has passed into other hands."

The Seyfert mill and family history show the development of a family enterprise from a small custom gristmill to a thriving industrial complex providing employment for many people. The Seyfert family passed the trade of milling down through several generations, and by industry and thrift were able to expand into other enterprises that became important to the economic life of their community. For over 100 years this mill has been associated with the Berks County gristmill industry supplying flour to the workers in these industries and to the residents of the area. The Seyfert mill is the last known surviving remnant of this once thriving industrial complex. The mill ceased operating c 1954, the last operating miller being John Kline.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Morton L. Montgomery, History of Berks County in Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Evert, Peck & Richards, 1886).

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 3 acres

UTM References

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	Zone Easting	Northing	
C	1 8	4 0 4 7 1 0	4 4 8 4 7 0 0

B	1 8	4 0 4 6 6 0	4 4 8 4 8 0 0
	Zone Easting	Northing	
D	1 8	4 0 4 5 2 0	4 4 8 4 6 6 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Louise Emery, Consultant date June 1990
 organization Berks County Conservancy telephone 215 - 372-4992
 street & number 960 Old Mill Road state PA zip code 19610
 city or town Wyomissing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Seyfert Mill

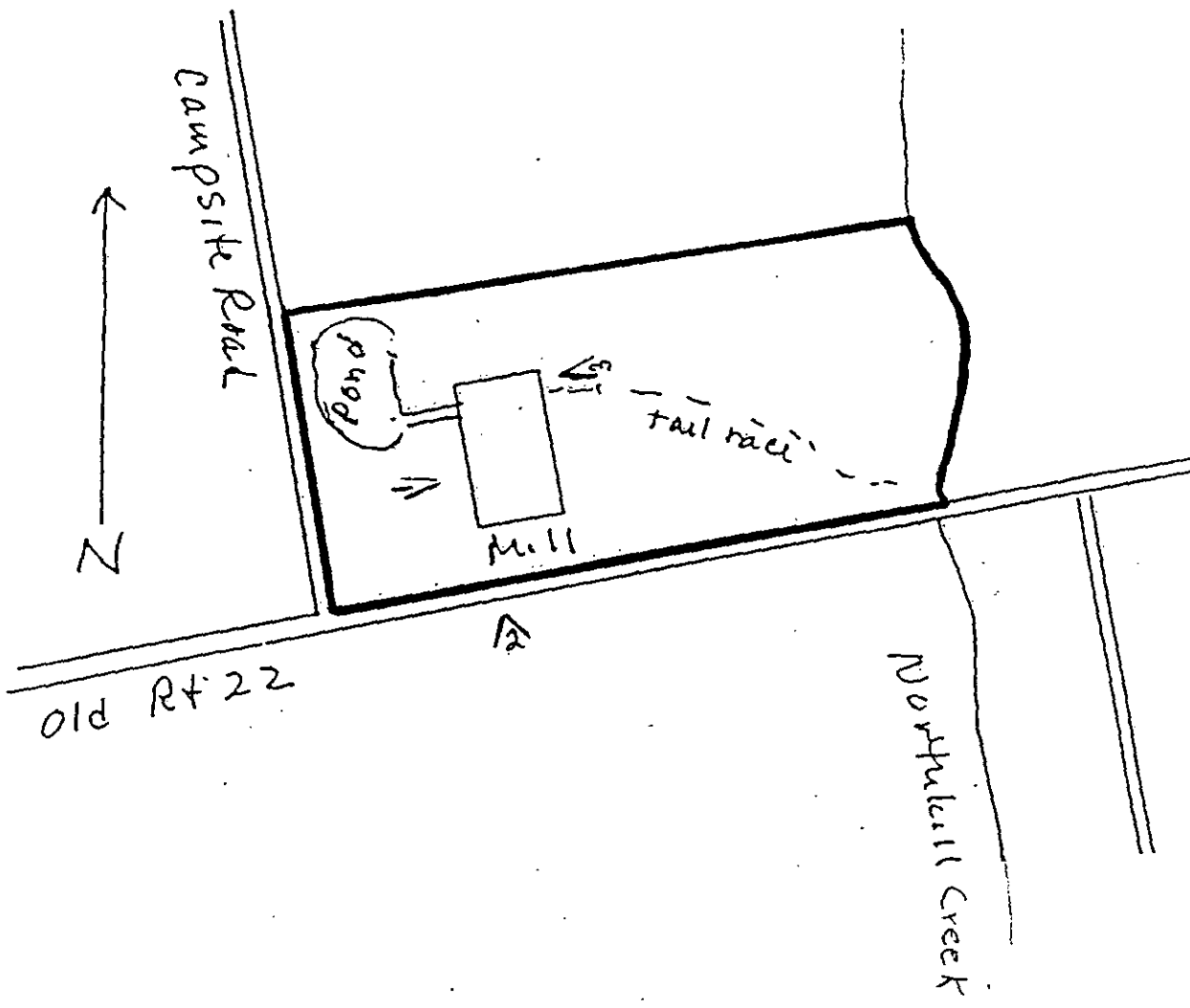
Verbal Boundry Description

Starting at the northeast corner of the intersection of Campsite Road and old Route 22 continue northerly approximately 250' to a point near the head of the mill pond, thence continue easterly approximately 500', to the west bank of the Northkill Creek, thence continue southerly along the creek to the north side of Old Route 22, approximately 250', thence continue westerly 500' to the place of beginning.



Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to include the contributing building and structure. Although the mill pond is dry, it is clearly visible along Campsite Road. The area directly north of the site consists of undeveloped woodland extending to Route 78. Two farm properties to the west and south of the mill, across Campsite Road and Old Route 22 were excluded because a clear association with the mill was not established in the survey.

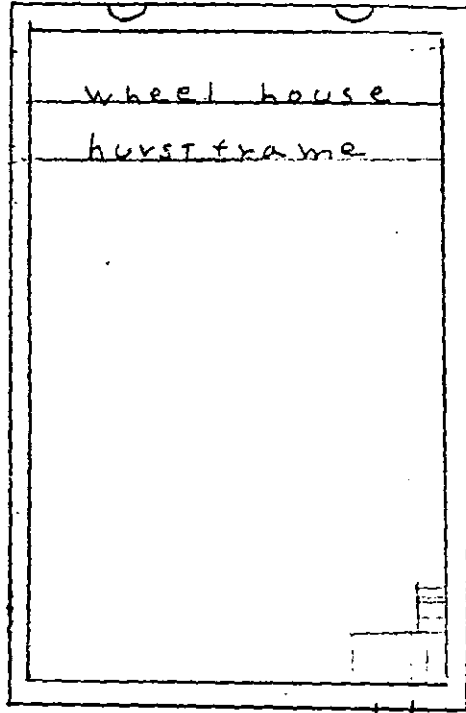
SEYFERT MILL
BERKS COUNTY, PA



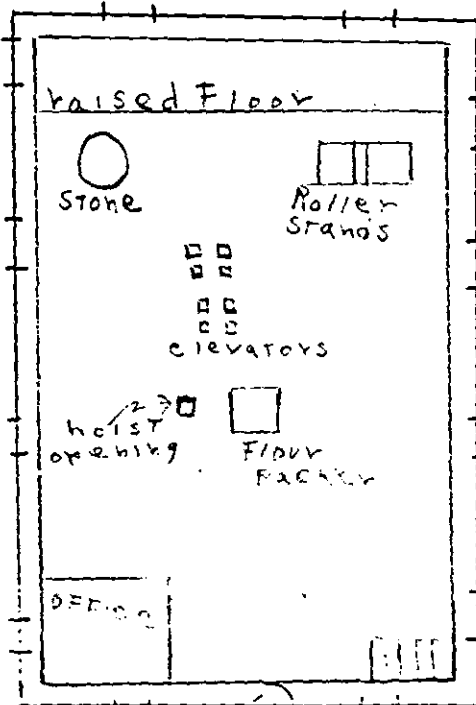
Key

-  Boundry
-  Photo Direction
- Not to Scale

SEYFERT MILL
BERKS COUNTY, PA



Basement



First Floor

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SEYFERT MILL
BERKS COUNTY, PA

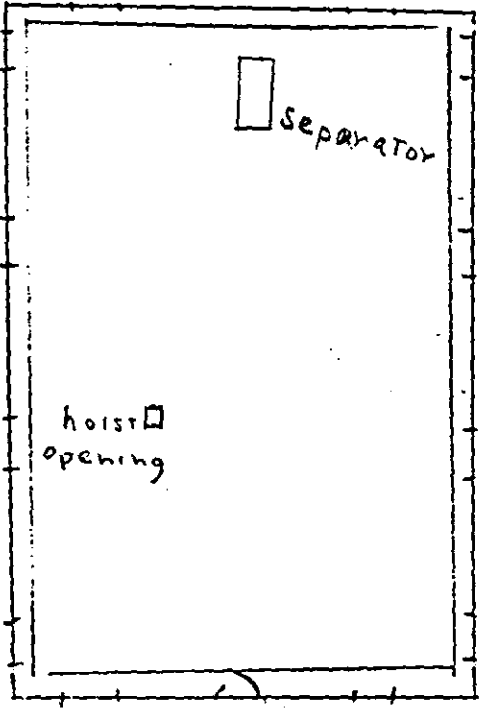
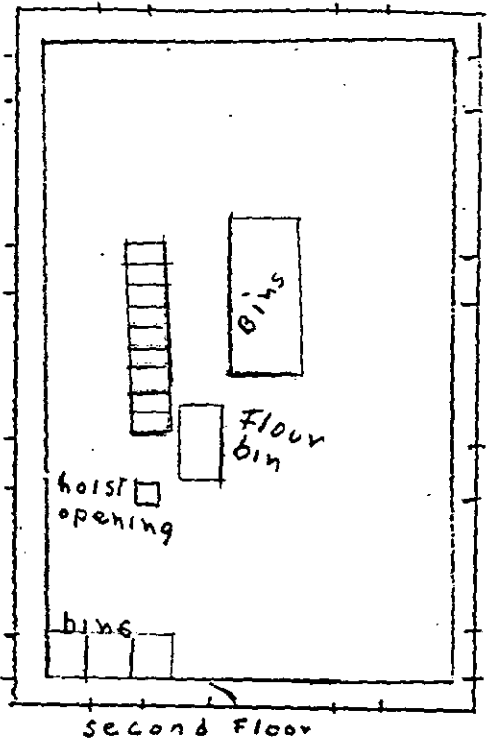
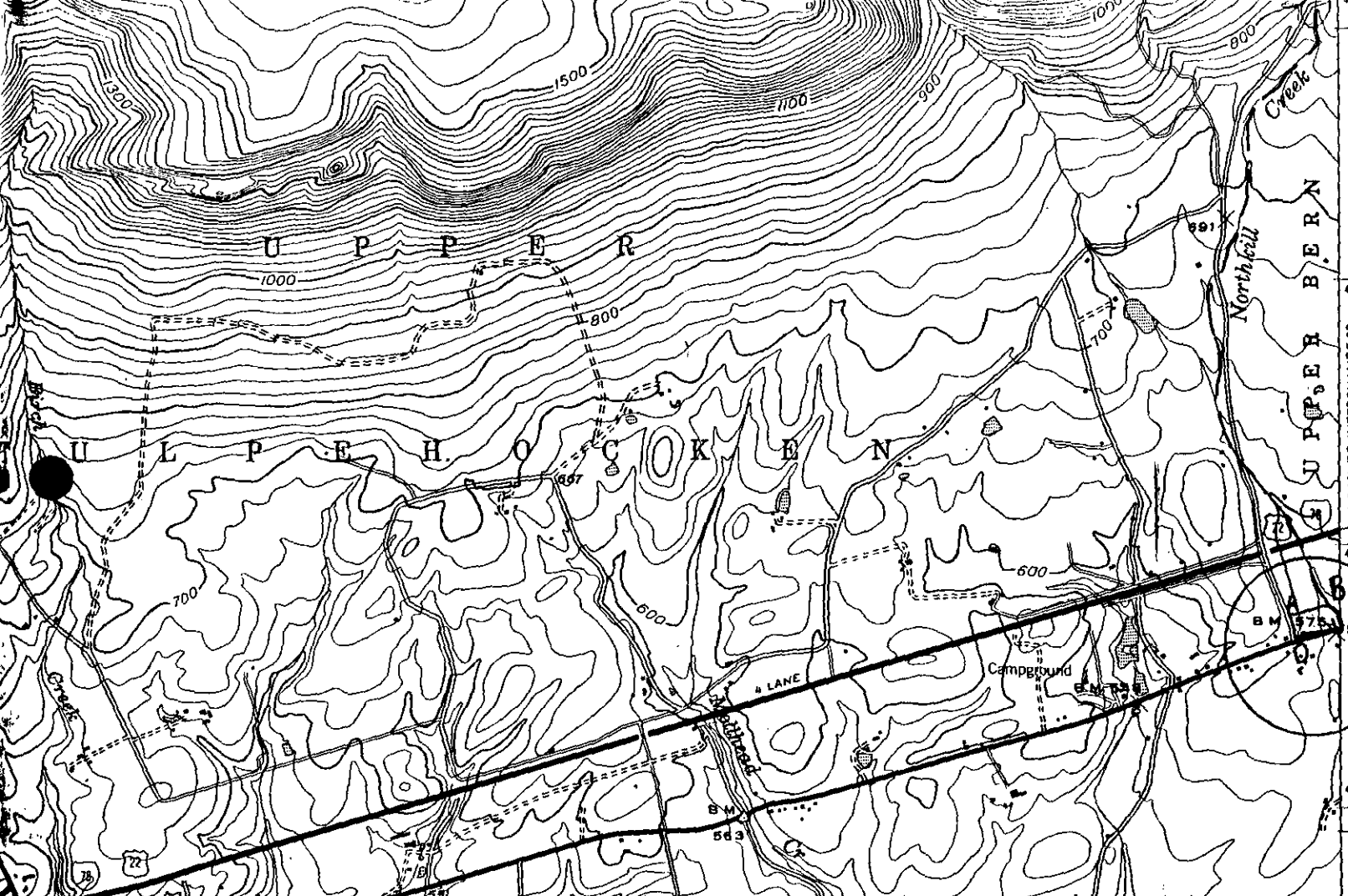


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Not to Scale

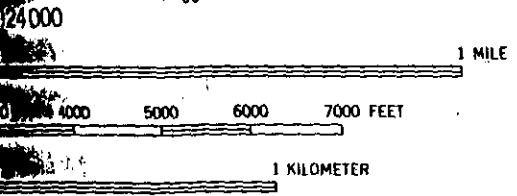
THIRD FLOOR



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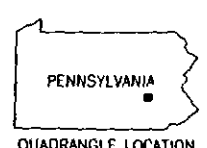
Seyfert Mill
Berks County
Friedensburg Lead
Zone 18
A 404510 4484700
B 404660 4484800
C 404710 4484900
D 404520 4484660

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HARRISBURG 40 MI.
400



VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

FRIEDENSBURG, PA.

N4030 — W7607.5/7.5

1945
PHOTOREVISED 1968 AND 1976
AMS 5765 II SW—SERIES V831

(BERNVILLE)
5766 / NE