

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 Kutz Mill
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Kutz Mill Road not for publication N/A
city, town Greenwich Township vicinity N/A
state Pa code Pa county Berks code 001 zip code 19530

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>7</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>7</u>	_____ objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Cristmills 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 dwellingAgriculture/outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in useDomestic/single dwellingAgriculture/outbuilding**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other; gristmillOther: vernacular farmhouse and outbuildings

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stonewalls stonebrickroof fiberglass shinglesother woodtin

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Kutz Mill is located in rural Greenwich Township on the Sacony Creek. Beside it is the Kutz Mill Covered Bridge, one of Berks County's five covered bridges listed on the National Register. The nominated property contains seven contributing buildings: the stone ~~mill~~ mill, a brick farmhouse, a stone summer kitchen, stone and frame bank barn, and three frame outbuildings. The main buildings date from the 1850 to 1875 period and are rather modest in scale portraying a relatively small Berks County farm-mill complex of the mid-nineteenth century.

The one and one-half story stone mill measures 36' by 42'2". It has a hoist hood at the front gable. The roof is covered with fiberglass shake shingles. Exterior features include Dutch doors, six over six double hung windows, and arched openings into the wheel pit. The mill is three bays wide and four bays deep. The front or north facade has two central vertically aligned mill doors under the hoist hood, each door flanked by a window on each side. The west facade is at the lower slope of the bank, providing entrance to the ground floor. Doors at this level are located at the north corner, leading to the mill basement, and at the south corner, providing an opening into the wheel pit. Two windows between these doors light the basement and gear pit sections of the ground floor. One door and three windows are located directly above the lower floor openings. The door at the north corner has been converted to a window, although its frame remains intact. It was formerly reached by an outside stairway. The south facade features two bearing arches at ground level, three windows on the first floor, and two attic windows. The east elevation, at the upper slope of the bank, is one story high and has three windows opposite the windows on the west wall. The exterior integrity is good, the condition fair.

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This mill originally had an overshot wooden water wheel, replaced by a turbine. Although the milling equipment has been removed, wooden gearing including a large wooden spur gear, eight feet in diameter, and a large wooden vertical shaft can be seen in the gear pit. Other power transmission equipment, pulleys and shafts remain in the floors above. On the upper floors are several bins and chutes. The mill retains its interior open spaces with substantial post and beam construction. The first floor has an office and a crane for raising the runner stone for sharpening. The attic floor has a knee wall. An open stairway is located near the center of the mill. Most floors are original.

The miller's house faces south and is located directly across the lane from the mill, looking down on the front of the mill from its somewhat higher elevation. A datestone indicates the house was built by Jacob Kutz in 1855. It is a typical Pennsylvania German four bay two and one-half story brick building featuring two central front doors and a full length front porch. The twin doors have matching transoms. The windows have six over six sash and paneled shutters. The gable roof is covered with tin and has brick chimneys at each end. The house is two bays deep and is nearly square in plan, having four rooms on each floor and no central hall. Overall the house exhibits a symmetrical design. It has good integrity and is in fair condition.

Close to the east end of the house is a stone summer kitchen, one and one-half stories in height. The entrance is located at the south gable end which has a door and window on the first floor and a small attic window above. A shed roofed entry porch protects the front door. The interior of the kitchen features a large walk-in fireplace along the rear wall. This building has good integrity, but is in poor condition.

The barn is located about 200 feet east of the house. It is a small Pennsylvania German bank barn with stone ends, a ramp to the threshing floor on the north side and a decorated forebay overhanging the ground floor stable doors on the south facade. The painted decorations include arches and trim around the four upper door openings and two hex signs. A frame shed is attached at the west end extending the full depth of the barn. This building has good integrity and is in fair condition.

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The three frame outbuildings date from the twentieth century and are over 55 years old. These include a roofed and partially walled shelter for the hand pump west of the house, a small wooden privy east of the mill, and a frame garage. The former have stone foundations and the garage, a concrete foundation. The privy has a heart cut-out design in its door. The garage has sliding doors on a metal track.

The Kutz Mill has been used as a rental property during recent decades. The only changes that have taken place during this period have dealt with essential maintenance, such as replacement of the mill roofing with fiberglass shingles. All buildings contribute to the district and all exhibit good exterior integrity. Most milling equipment has been removed from the gristmill, although some power transmission machinery remains in place. Of special interest are the wooden gears and shafts located in the basement gear pit. There have been no major changes that interfere with the ability of this property to portray its significant period of 1850 to 1935.

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)-

Industry
Architecture

Period of Significance
c 1850 - c 1935

Significant Dates
c. 1850

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 Kutz Mill is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. It is directly associated with the grain milling industry in Berks County between 1850 and c. 1935 and is an example of a custom mill that met local needs. Its exterior appearance is evidence of its milling function. Its location next to Kutz Mill Covered Bridge, a National Register structure, is of special scenic quality. Its principal associated buildings, a farm house, summer kitchen and barn, date from a similar period and are appropriate adjuncts to this small custom mill that was a part of the farm enterprise. The three twentieth century frame outbuildings, a pump house, garage, and privy are typical rural adjuncts of their period.

This stone gristmill was built by Jacob Kutz family and owned by several generations of the Kutz family. The mill was listed on the 1854 map as the Kutz Mill, on the 1862 map as the James Kutz Grist and Saw Mill, and on the 1876 map as the Charles Kutz Grist and Saw Mill. Historic stencil inscriptions on the interior plaster wall include the names: "J. Kutz - S. Fine No 1 - 1861"; "George Moehler"; and "Charles E. Dietrich, Miller 189-". The mill was used until the 1930s, when it was converted to an antiques shop.

The Kutz Mill was probably constructed shortly before 1854. The adjacent Kutz Mill Covered Bridge was built by Bittner and Ahrens in 1854. The Jacob Kutz house is dated 1855. The summer kitchen and barn appear of similar period. As a group these buildings and their setting portray a mid 19th century Berks County custom mill property, of local importance to area farmers in the processing of their grain. As it now stands, the mill does not exhibit unusual technological features, but it

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does illustrate one of the better examples in the county gristmill survey of a water power system used for grain and saw milling on a relatively small scale.

The mill and its associated buildings meet Criterion C under Architecture. The mill is an excellent example of an 1850s custom mill exhibiting the quality of workmanship and the soundness of structure that was necessary for a working industrial building. Its exterior attributes; the vertically aligned loading doors, the hoist hood, the arched openings for the head and tail races and the bearing arches for the water wheels are the common features in most mills, each specifically designed to its particular site. The mill is well supplied with light on all levels through relatively large window openings. The interior structure and open spaces are retained despite the use of the mill in recent years as an antiques shop and for storage.

The miller's house represents a common vernacular style in Berks County and the larger Pennsylvania Dutch region of Southeast Pennsylvania, the "twin front door" type. Found in stone, brick and frame construction, on farms and in villages, it was a popular house form in the mid 19th century. The exterior dimensions and interior room layout in these houses is fairly uniform in the buildings surveyed, with a nearly square shape, and four rooms of similar size inside. One explanation for the twin door design is the custom of having one front room reserved for "formal" occasions that could be entered directly from the outside, while the other side of the house was the family living section for everyday activities, next to the kitchen which was usually located at the rear corner. Often a narrow central enclosed stairway led to the center of the upstairs where doors from the stair landing went into each corner bedroom. A study of this type of house by the Berks County Conservancy in 1984 showed that this was the most numerous local style during the 1850 to 1875 period. The use of brick, as in the Kutz Miller's House, is also common during this period.

Summer kitchens were traditionally associated with farmhouses of the nineteenth century, when the heat produced by cooking in large fireplaces or woodstoves could be confined to an outbuilding rather than raising the discomfort level of the dwelling during hot summer days. Most summer kitchens were one and one-half masonry buildings, such as the Kutz kitchen. A typical feature is the large walk-in fireplace and bake-oven.

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The Kutz Mill barn is also a typically Pennsylvania German in form, material and decoration. Stone bank barns such as this are the most common Berks County barn type. The ground level provided housing for cows and horses with the stable areas separated by aisles for feeding hay and grain. The upper level contained a central threshing floor with hay mows at each side and a granary for grain storage in the front corner. In addition to the large double doors at the ramp, used for access by farm wagons, several smaller doors opened from the front of the forebay providing overhead access to the barnyard. A noteworthy feature of this barn is the presence of painted barn signs, known as hex signs, on the large wood surface over the forebay. The relatively small size of the barn indicates the crop storage needs of this farm were not as great as would be expected in a more fertile farming area. Because this was principally a mill property, the farm operation was not as large in scale as those of the nearby limestone valleys.

A hand dug well furnished the water supply for the property. Located near the front porch of the house, the well had an iron hand pump to draw water for household use. In the early twentieth century the pump was sheltered with a shed roof and a small tool house was attached. The frame privy is another essential structure, this one located near the mill. The frame garage is another utilitarian building of the sort found on farm and village properties in the early motor car era.

When compared to other mill properties in Berks County, the Kutz Mill represents a rather small-scale milling operation associated with a small-scale farm. The complex, unlike most, has all principal buildings dating from the same period. There is no record of an earlier mill at the site as was common on most streams in the county, and there is no evidence of enlargement of the mill or conversion to more modern types of milling equipment such as roller mills. The Kutz Mill is one of five that still stands in Greenwich Township, of which three are eligible for the National Register. These three, the Stein, Merkle and Kutz Mills, were all built between 1850 and 1875, the "period of great rebuilding" of Berks gristmills. The Kutz mill differs from the others in its modest scale and apparent local use as a custom mill rather than as a large commercial merchant mill.

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

Acreege of property Approximately 2 acres

UTM References

A	1, 8	4, 3, 1, 7, 5, 0	4, 4, 8, 7, 0, 9, 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1, 8	4, 3, 1, 8, 2, 0	4, 4, 8, 7, 2, 0, 0

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Phoebe Hopkins, Project Director

organization Berks County Conservancy

street & number 960 Old Mill Road

city or town Wyomissing

date June 1990

telephone 215 - 372-4992

state Pa

zip code 19610

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Verbal Boundary Description

Starting at the northeast corner of the Kutz Mill Covered Bridge, proceed northerly along Kutz Mill Road approximately 250 feet to a tree line; thence easterly approximately 350 feet to a point northeast of the barn; thence southerly 250 feet crossing the mill race; thence westerly 350 feet to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to include all contributing buildings and structures. Kutz Mill Road forms its western boundary and the southern boundary runs along a portion of the Sacony Creek. Excluded are open farmland to the north and the woods and wetland area to the west.

KUTZ MILL
BERKS COUNTY, PA

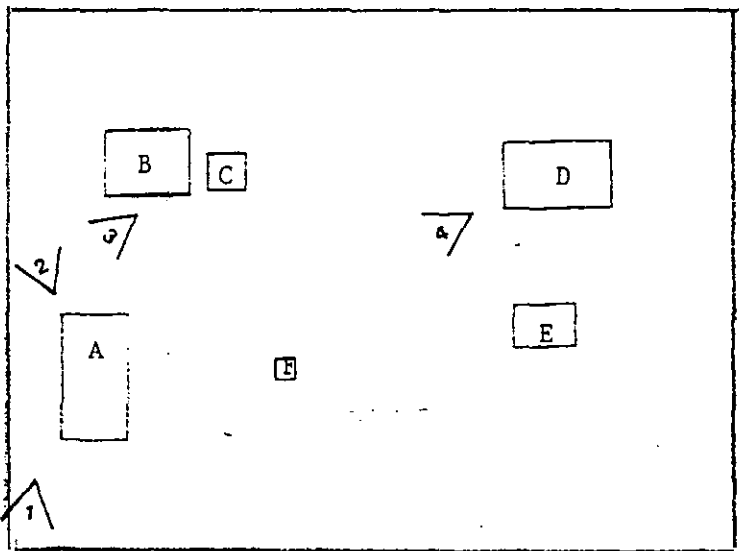


- A MILL
- B HOUSE
- C BAKE HOUSE
- D BARN
- E SHED
- F PRIVY
- G COVERED BRIDGE

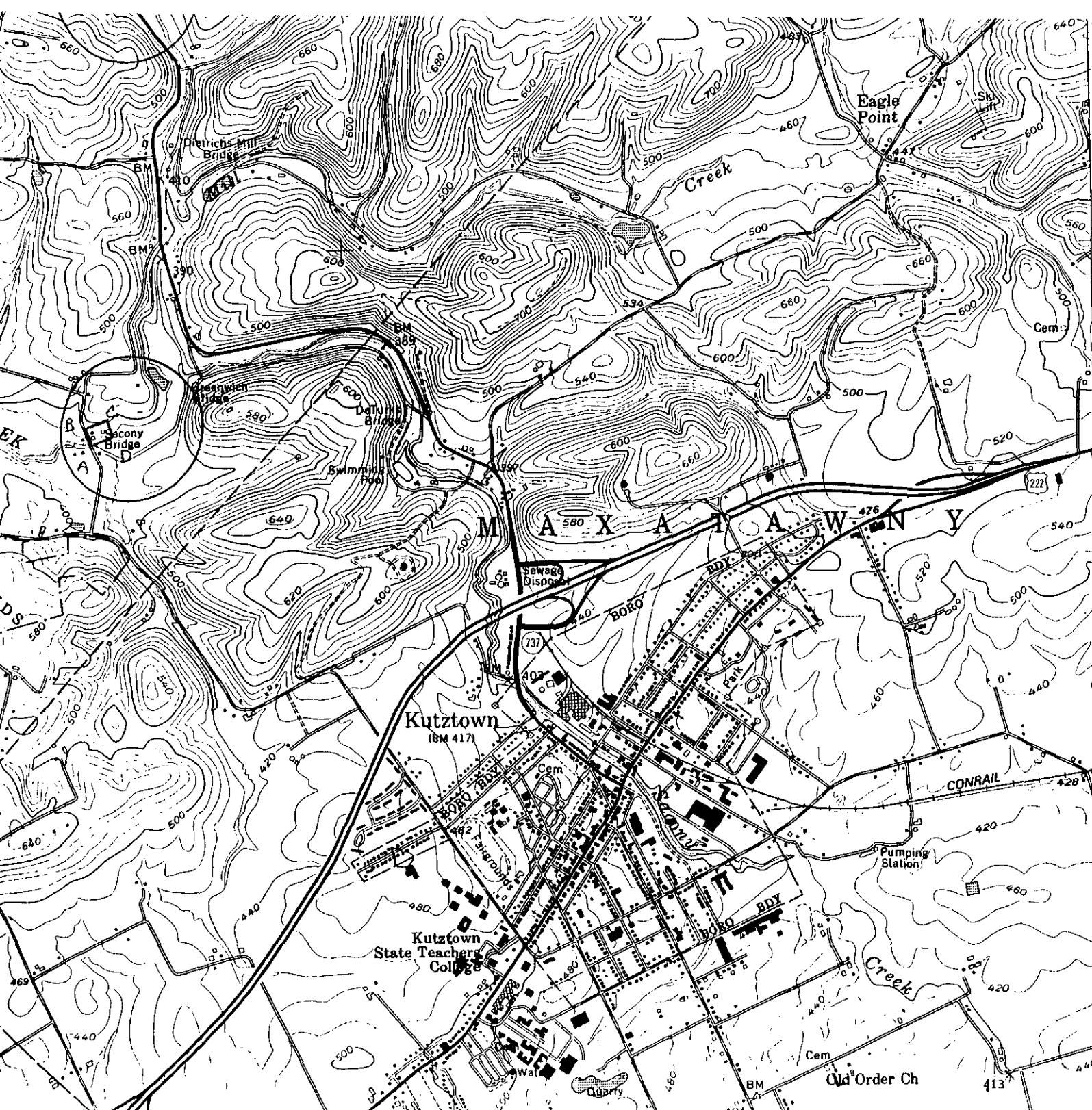
BOUNDARY —————

PHOTO VIEW <

Kutz Mill Road



G
Sacony Creek



4489
4488
32'30"
4487
4486
4485
4484000m. N.

MONTEREY 1.4 MI.
ALLENTOWN (UNCL. PA. 309) 16 MI.

Kutz Mill
Berks County
Kutztown Quad
Zone 18

- A 431750 4487090
- B 431720 4487170
- C 431820 4487200
- D 431850 4487130