

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 Moselem Farms Mill  
other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number Route 662 and Forge Road  not for publication N/A  
city, town Richmond Township  vicinity N/A  
state PA code PA county Berks code 011 zip code 19526

### 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>0</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>  </u>	<u>  </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>  </u>	<u>  </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 dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in useDomestic/ single dwelling**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: gristmill

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stonewalls brickceramicroof tile

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Moselem Farms Mill is located in the village of Moselem near the former furnace site. It is situated at the corner of Route 662 and Forge Road just north of Moselem Creek. This is a hilly wooded area near the headwaters of Ontelaunee Lake. The contributing building on the property is a banked 2 1/2 stories plus basement brick with stone foundation gristmill built c 1860. The mill measures 45' 4" by 50' and has a tile roof. The building has few changes that interfere with its ability to depict the significant time period.

The front or south facade of this mill has two 6/6 windows on either side of a door on each of the three floors. MOSELEM FARMS MILL is painted in white in bold letters between the first and second floor. The hoist hood is an extension of the roof ridge. The east elevation has four 6/6 windows on the first and second floor and a segmented stone headrace arch and small window on the basement level. The west elevation has four 6/6 windows on the first and second floor and three 6/6 windows and a door on the basement level. The rear or north elevation has two 6/6 windows on each of the three levels and three arched wooden doors with strap hinges and segmented arches on the basement level.

The basement has an occupied apartment and the hurst frame with no gear, although in the wheel pit there are two turbines and a water pump with equalizer dome. The survey form indicates there is probably other equipment or machinery buried in the wheel pit. In 1961 a turbine governor from this mill was purchased by the Prime Mover Control Museum Association in Loves Park, Illinois for display in their museum. The turbine was set in a vertical wooden flume, with the governor mounted on top.

The first floor has been partitioned to be used for living space although at present it is vacant. There is a 2000 pound scale on this floor. Cut-outs for three millstones on this floor are visible from the basement.

The second floor has the open mill spaces. The posts throughout the mill have cast iron moulded aligning brackets to secure them to summer beams. The moulding cornice sets off the large chamfer ends at the bottom of the posts. Ladder type stairways lead to the various floors.

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Continuation Sheet**

Moselem Farms Mill

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The third floor contains an intact bag hoist, and one small pair of millstones. These stones are similar to those in the attic of the Merkel Mill in the same township, and their function is unknown.

The watercourses are filled in and not visible, the water obviously entered the mill through the arch on the east elevation facing Forge Road via a headrace from Moselem Creek, and returned through a tailrace to the Creek.

The exterior of this mill has few alterations. The interior has been altered and most of the equipment removed. The first floor has been partitioned but in the remainder of the mill the open spaces remain. Although the basement is now living quarters it still has large open areas and the hurst frame. The mill has evidence of its function in the millstone cut-outs, hurst frame and some equipment and machinery. The building retains the essential physical features that enables it to convey its past identity and character and portray the significant time period c 1860 to 1939 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)

Industry  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

c 1860 to 1939  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

c 1860  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 Moselem Farms Mill is eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C. This mill is significant for its association with the county gristmill industry being erected during a period of growth and revitalization of the mill business in Berks between 1818-1870. Architecturally, this mill is significant as a representative of the large merchant mills erected in the county during this period.

In the period from 1818-1870 wheat cultivation decreased markedly in southeastern Pennsylvania as a whole but grain production persisted as the primary agricultural enterprise in Berks and a handful of other counties. Rapid industrialization and improved transportation transformed the agricultural sector. The county's income derived from grain rose to 150%. Consequently, milling in Berks underwent its own expansion and many mills including the Moselem Farms Mill were built to respond to this growth.

Architecturally, the merchant mills and the Moselem Mill in particular had features the earlier, smaller custom mills did not possess. By the nature of the business (having to buy wheat in quantity to sustain increases in production) the merchant mill had a requirement for storage capacity that the early custom mills had never faced. An additional floor or in the case of the Moselem mill two additional floors was the solution to the need for space for storage and additional machinery. This mill also has more and larger windows which give it a general feeling of light and space unknown in earlier mills. The Moselem Mill with its 2 1/2 stories plus basement, large size, (compared to earlier mills), rectangular configuration, banked brick and stone construction, three gable end vertically aligned doors with hoist hood above, is a good, solid building representative of Berks County merchant mills of the period. This mill is similar to other merchant mills built during this time particularly The Weldner Mill.

See continuation sheet

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Moselem Farms Mill

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The map of 1816 shows that Eckert owned the property. The owner of the mill on the 1850 census was Frederick Hunter, the mill having three pair of stones with a capital of \$6,000, processing 12,000 bushels of grain with a product value of \$6,000. One man operated the mill and earned \$20. a month. The 1854 map shows a mill and store at Hunter's Furnace and Forge. The 1862 and 1876 maps show a mill on the furnace property. Morton Montgomery in his history of 1886 wrote, " On the same stream (Moselem Creek) and about half a mile from where it empties into the Malden Creek, Valentine Eckert had grist and saw-mills, and at an early day built a small charcoal furnace. It had a very small stack and the operations were carried on in a limited way. Eckert owned thousands of acres of land in Richmond and surrounding townships which embarrassed him so that it was put up at a forced sale. When Nicholas Hunter became the owner, he began work on a much larger scale and for his time operated extensively. He improved the water-power, and converted the timber on the surrounding hills into charcoal. In this enterprise his sons became associated with him, and afterward owned and operated the furnace. The water power was applied by him to improve grist and saw-mills, except so much as was pumped into a large reservoir on an adjoining hill for a system of water-works to protect the furnace and its surroundings against fire. At different points hydrants have been erected, from which a stream can be thrown upon any of the buildings in the place. "

"In 1885 the plant embraced the furnace and its necessary buildings, grist and saw-mills, store and hotel buildings, a very fine mansion in spacious grounds and about forty tenement houses. In addition, there were seven hundred acres of land, forming three farms, one of which contains several ore-mines provided with the necessary machinery for working the same. The furnace has been out of blast since 1883. The other interests are carried on under the management of J. H. Druckemiller. A siding connects the furnace with Moselem station, on the railroad, distant one-fourth of a mile. The furnace property has had a number of changes of ownership. In 1871 Jacob and Henry Bushong, Jacob K. Spang and Wilson Kaufman, as Bushong & Co., became the proprietors, and they four years later sold it to the Moselem Iron Company which then carried on the furnace. This company laid out town lots in 1875 for village purposes. Upon the dissolution of the company, soon afterward, Leibrand & McDowell succeeded to the ownership, and were followed, December 18, 1884, by the present proprietors, D. H. Shebel & C. H. Stelwagon." The mill was later owned by Mr. Earl Sheble (Shebel) who sold it to a Mr. Spatz whose widow in 1961 sold the governor to the museum.

This mill like other mills in the Berks County Gristmill Survey including the Seyfert, Brobst and Merkel Mills (Greenwich Township) were part of large iron complexes, and illustrate an interesting finding of the Berks County Gristmill Survey; watercourses were expensive to construct and maintain and once developed were often used to power various type industrial enterprises on the property. This mill is the only known surviving industrial building of the once thriving iron works. The Moselem Mill in addition to serving the needs of the workers at the furnace and forge processed large quantities of grain for the market. Milling operations ceased in the 1950's after almost a hundred year association with the milling industry in Berks County.

**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**

Acreeage of property Approximately one acre

UTM References

A 

18	425410	4483690
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

18	425470	4483700
Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

18	425480	4483640
Zone	Easting	Northing

D 

18	425430	4483620
Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

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

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet**

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Moselem Farms Mill

Verbal Boundary Description

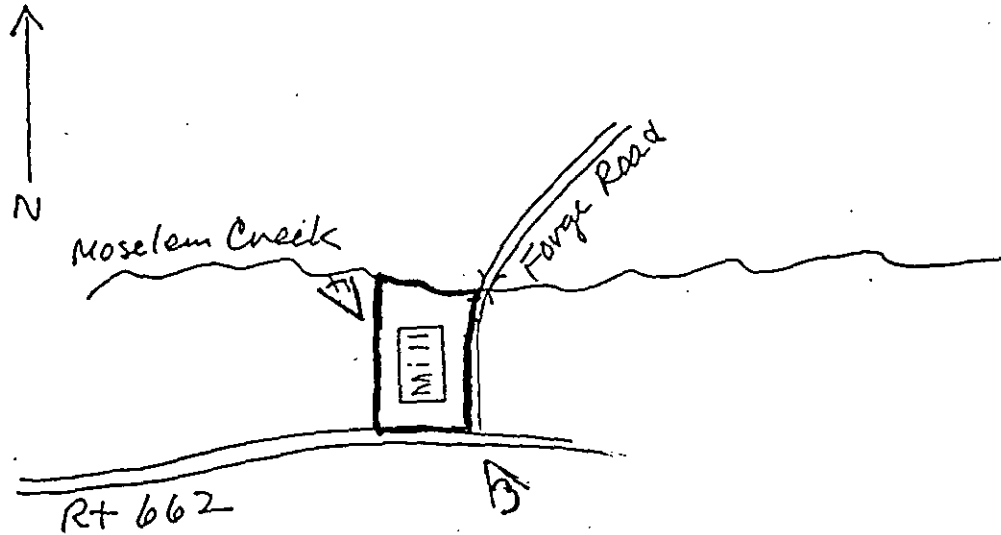
Starting at the northwest corner of the intersection of Forge Road and Route 662 proceed westerly along the north side of 662 for approximately 175', thence northerly approximately 220' to the south bank of Moselem Creek, thence easterly along the edge of the creek approximately 175' to Forge Road, thence southerly along the western edge of Forge Road approximately 200' to place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to include the one contributing building in this nomination. The area to the west which formerly included the dam and tail race is not of sufficient integrity for inclusion. Excluded also is the village of Moselem located primarily to the east of the mill. The village was once a center of iron making in Berks County that may be eligible under that context more appropriately than in association with the grist mill.

MOSELEM FARMS MILL

BERKS COUNTY, PA



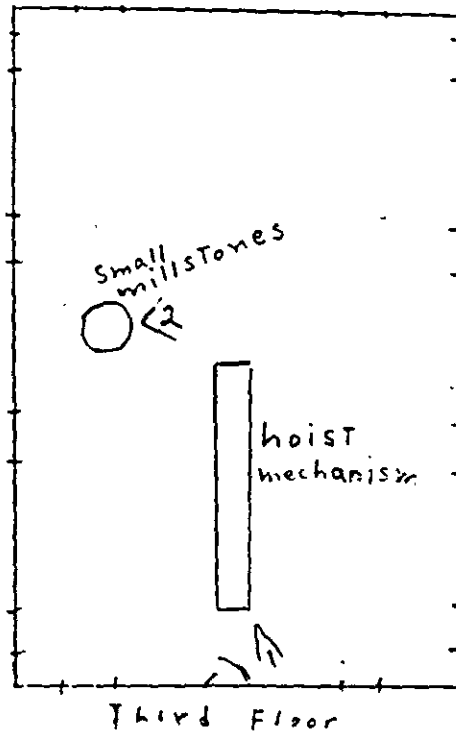
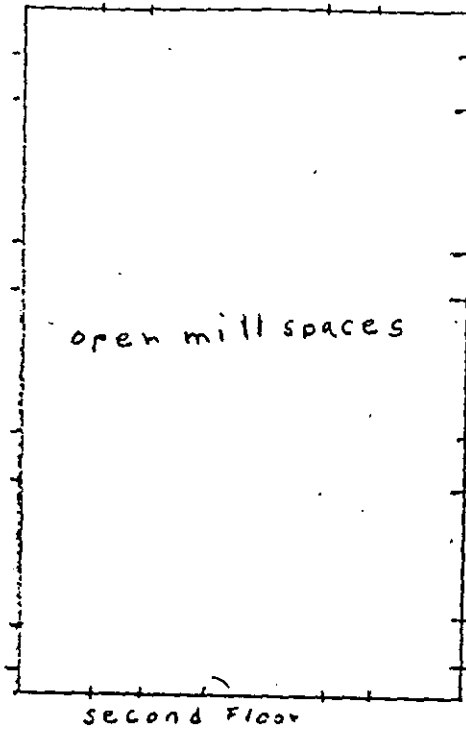
Key

- Boundry
- ◁ Photo Direction
- Not to Scale



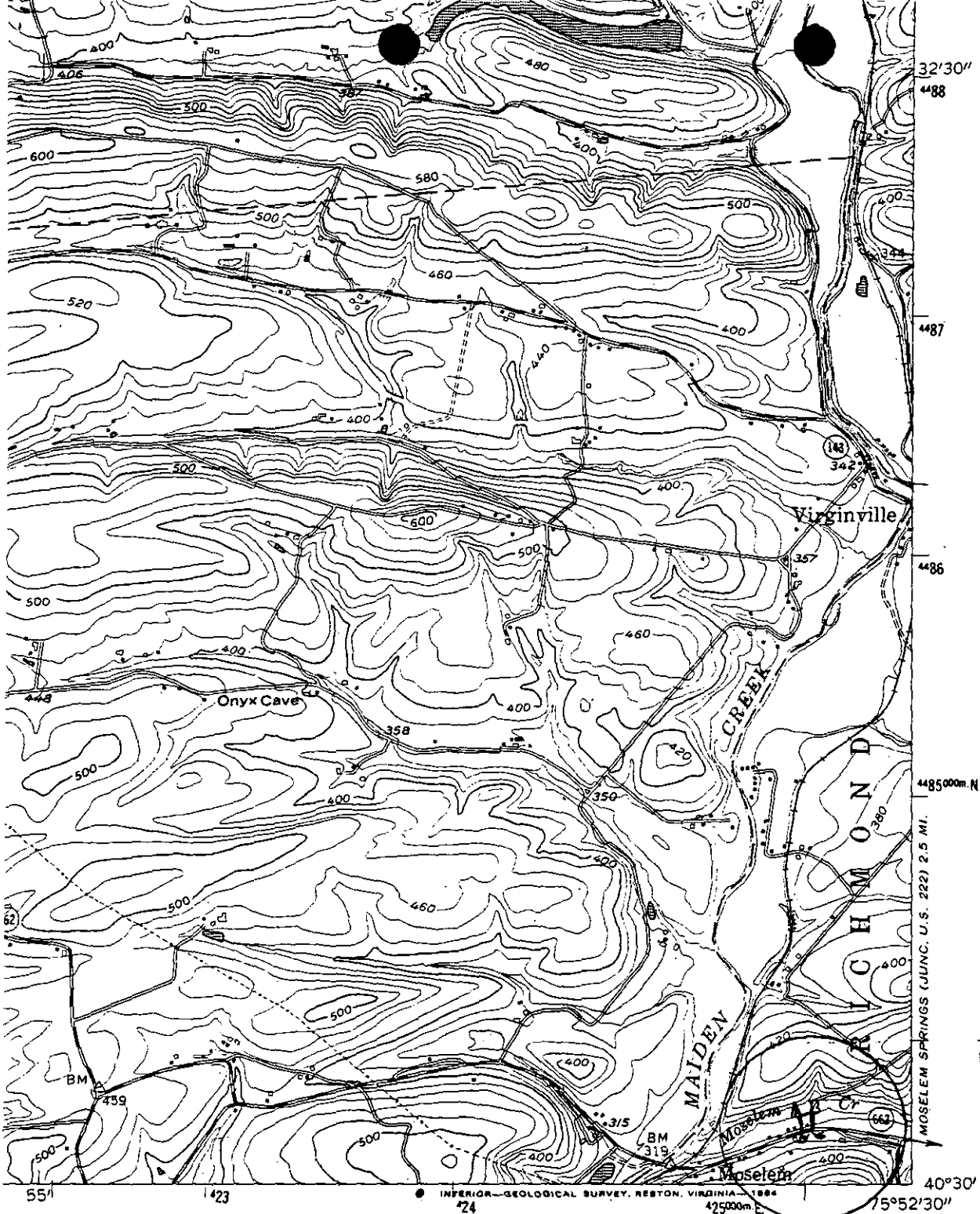
MOSELEM FARMS MILL

BERKS COUNTY, PA



< Photo Direction.

Not to Scale



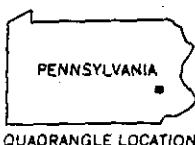
MOSELEM MILL  
 Berks County  
 Hamburg Twp  
 Zone 18  
 A 425410 - 448369  
 B 425470 - 448370  
 C 425480 - 448364  
 D 425430 - 448362

MILE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————  
 Medium-duty ————— Unimproved dirt - - - - -

U. S. Route      State Route  
 Interstate Route



HAMBURG, PA.  
 SW/4 HAMBURG 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N4030—W7552.5/7.5  
 PHOTOINSPECTED 1980  
 1956

Map photinspected 1980  
 No major culture or drainage changes observed

PHOTOREVISED 1969 AND 1977  
 AMS 5865 III SW—SERIES V831

(FLEETWOOD)  
 5864 IV NE