

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 Schlegel, Christian Farm
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Fleetwood - Lyons Road
city, town Fleetwood (Richmond Township) not for publication N/A
state PA code PA county Berks vicinity N/A
code 011 zip code 19522

3. Classification

Ownership of Property		Category of Property		Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private		<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district		<u>11</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State		<input type="checkbox"/> site		<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal		<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u>7</u>	<u> </u> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u>1</u>	<u> </u> objects
				<u>20</u>	<u>0</u> 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 outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular House
Other: Pennsylvania Bank Barn

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls stone, wood
roof asbestos
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This 136 acre farm is situated east of Fleetwood on gently rolling land in the fertile limestone section of Berks County known as the Great Valley. The farm is located on both sides of the Fleetwood-Lyons Road (hereafter known as the Lyons Road) but the farmstead buildings are clustered on the north side of the road with the exception of the school house which lies to the south of the road. The house and barn are oriented to the south and the Lyons Road. The auxiliary dependencies and outbuildings are sited between the barn on the west of the farmstead and the summer kitchen to the east. The twenty historic resources include eleven vernacular style buildings, seven structures, one site, and one object, dating from 1789-1940. The principal buildings include a 1789 stone farmhouse, an 1887 frame bank barn, and a ca. 1789 stone summer kitchen. The resources have few changes that interfere with their ability to portray the significant time period, 1789-1940.

The farmstead buildings are clustered among trees at the end of the lane leading from the Lyons Road. A stream flows through meadows south of the buildings, and crosses beneath the Lyons Road surfacing south of the road and forming the eastern boundary of the farm to the south. There is an earthen dam built by the owners to contain the pond in the stream to the west side of the lane leading from the road. One of the grape arbors is located to the front or north of the summer kitchen. The remaining arbor is to the rear or north of the house in front of the large family garden. To the north and east of the garden the family

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Christian Schlegel Farm

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planted a line of Norway Spruce trees as a windbreak. The old family orchard was located to the north of the coursed stone wagonshed/corn crib but only remnants of trees remain. The crops are rotated on the eleven fields of the farm between, corn, wheat, oats and barley. Two of the fields are located to the south of the Lyons Road, and two are east of School Road. A small wooded area is adjacent to the creek south of the road. The cemetery on Vine Street is sited on a field north of the buildings. The boundary of the farm is tree lined.

The oldest section of the house built 1789 is stone, two bay, one-and-one-half story; the stone rear ell is believed to have been constructed shortly after the original section and has a slate roof; both sections have 6/6 window sash and paneled shutters. The main stone wing constructed at a later date ca.1850 has 9/6 window sash on the first floor, and 6/6 window sash on the second and paneled shutters. There is a chimney on the rear or north of the kitchen ell, and one on the east side of the original house.

The kitchen has a large walk-in fireplace with a molded mantel, brick hearth, board ceiling and Victorian board wainscoting. The rooms on the first floor have sixty-year-old wallpaper, peg boards, and chair rail. The woodwork and doors have remained unchanged for the past one hundred years, but most of the chair rail is thought to be original. There is a fireplace in the front southwest bedroom. The basement floor is paved with large square bricks, and has a fireplace, now closed, that was at one time used for butchering.

The present barn was built in 1887, with roof-and roof trusses rebuilt in 1947 on original stone gable walls and foundation. The gable roof has asbestos shingles. This Standard bank barn has an enclosed extended forebay to accommodate dairy cows. This is one of many barns surveyed that enclosed the forebay to allow more space and light for dairy cows. A one story, frame horsepower room was added to the north or bank end. The granaries are above the west end of the forebay and along half of the west gable wall of the threshing floor. The Hollenbach Construction Company, Rehersburg, Pa. with Charles Speicher as foreman, rebuilt the roof. "Charlie" one of the last of the old-time barn builders and now nearing 90 returns, as he does every year on July 4th, to the Schlegel barn. On the east side of the barn is a one story, frame milk house covered with asbestos shingles and a shed type tin roof.

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School house - one-and-one-half story, brick with tin gable roof. Located across the Lyons Road from the farmstead. It was known as the Schlegel School House after the donors of the land. When the one-room school houses were retired, the Schlegel family repurchased the property. The building was constructed ca. 1870.

Summer kitchen - One-and-one-half story stone, gable shingle roof cantilevered over the ground floor. The building is banked to the north and there are two arched storage cellars side by side at ground level, ventilation is provided by air slits in the walls. The one room first floor has a paneled fireplace wall which contains a large walk-in-fireplace, a storage closet and a winder staircase to the second level. Entrances to this level are on the north side. This building was probably built about the same period as the original section of the house.

The date of the outbuildings and auxillary dependencies is difficult to determine but they were mainly constructed between 1880-1940. The outbuildings are sited for convenience to the barn on the west end of the farmstead and the auxillary dependencies are sited to the east nearest the house.

Wagonshed/corn crib - one-and-one-half story frame with gable asbestos roof.

Wagonshed - one story, frame, with tin gable roof.

Wagonshed/ corn crib - one-and-one-half story, drive through, coursed stone with tin gable roof.

Privy - brick with gable tin roof.

Tool shed - one story, frame with shed type tin roof

Milk House - one story, cement block, with flat cement roof located on the west side of the barn.

Smoke house - brick with flat cement roof.

Seven contributing structures

Two chicken houses including - a one story frame chicken house with shed type tin roof, a one story frame chicken house covered with asbestos shingles and gable tin roof.

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Two grape arbors - unusual gabled roofed to resemble a house. Unlike most grape arbors, they are sturdily built; the rafters are heavy frame and the posts are cement made on the farm by the owners. The two arbors were built ca. 1930 by LLOYD Schlegel the father of the present owner John.

Ground cellar - 30' deep stone storage arch or ground cellar located east of the house built ca. 1800.

Earthen dam - was built by the Schlegels to contain water in the pond that was, at one time according to the owner, an iron mine. The pond was also used to harvest ice which was stored in an ice house that no longer exists.

Small frame brooder house - a gable tin roof and is located in the old family orchard and was built ca. 1935.

Family cemetery site - no longer in use, is located in a field to the north of the farmstead along Vine Street. The original stone wall collapsed and it is now enclosed with an iron pipe fence.

Granite marker - located in a field on the Lyons Road across from the school house was donated by LLOYD and Lizzie Schlegel in 1932. It commemorates the acquisition of the farm by Christian Schlegel August 15, 1738.

The buildings on the farmstead have been little altered. The original house as noted has had several additions. Basically from the time of the last addition it has remained unchanged with the exception of the addition of a bath, central heat and running water. of the barn burned in 1947 but the original stone walls and foundation

9. 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)
Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance
1789-1940

Significant Dates
1789

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 Christian Schlegel farm is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A, and C. The Schlegel farm is representative of late 18th and 19th century diversified family farms that changed to dairying in the early 20th century. The farm is also unusual as one that has been passed down through the same family since the settlement period. It also contains a well preserved complement of late 18th to early 20th century farm buildings and structures and large fields, meadows, woodland, stream and pond.

John Christian Schlegel, the original owner of the farm was a native of Germany, and undoubtedly was the Johanis Schlegel who immigrated on the ship "Bilander Townshead" which landed at Philadelphia October, 5 1737. On August 16, 1738 and also November 7, 1754, he obtained proprietary land warrants in Richmond Township. In 1759 he paid six pounds tax in the township, where he had lived since he immigrated. He farmed and owned 300 acres of land and built a stone house.

The original land grants over the years have been divided among various members of the family or have been sold. The present owner who is now 84 does not remember any land being sold in his lifetime, nor does he remember who acquired the land or when. No deeds exist to this property as it was passed down through the family without any legal

See continuation sheet

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record. The Recorder of Deeds Office, and the Agriculture Extension Service were checked but there are no records of this farm in either location. The map was drawn on the site from information given by the present owner.

The property is known as the Christian Schlegel farm, rather than the John Christian Schlegel farm. The date stone on the older section of the house reads I.S 1789, but may be worn and perhaps originally read J.S. 1789, so it is uncertain who constructed the house now standing. Family tradition is that Christian is buried in the cemetery on the farm.

The present owner of the farm, John Schlegel 84, has preserved not only the physical integrity of the buildings and the farm landscape features, but has carried on the agricultural traditions of the family. Corn, wheat, oats and barley are raised and approximately 30 dairy cows are kept. Chickens are raised and eggs are marketed; when the chickens reach the age of about thirteen months they are sold locally.

The buildings on this farm are representative of those found on many Berks family farms, and include the 18th century farmhouse with dependencies- summer kitchen, ground cellar, smoke house, and the barn with outbuildings including, milk houses, chicken houses, wagonsheds, wagonshed/corn cribs. One of the most unusual and lovely buildings on the farmstead is the stone wagonshed. On the vast majority of farms surveyed wagonsheds were of plain frame construction. However, on this building the stone is beautifully shaped and coursed. One wonders why this amount of labor was put into what in Berks County is usually a very ordinary utilitarian type building.

This is an excellent example of a working farm with well maintained buildings run by a descendent of the original owner. The buildings represent the changes one would expect to find on a farm which has been in constant agricultural use for over 200 years. Although buildings have been torn down and added to accommodate modern farming practices, the integrity of the farm is unmarred by modern intrusions.

The buildings on the Schlegel farm are clustered roughly in the center of the property facing south toward the Lyons Road. Although all of the farms have circulation networks, the patterns are suited to the needs of the individual farm. On the Schlegel farm in addition to its lanes the roads provide access to the fields. One lane leads north from the Lyons Road to the buildings; it branches west to a field, continuing north to Vine Street. A lane from the barn travels north to the cemetery field along Vine Street. School Road provides access to

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the fields east of the road. The fields south of the Lyons Road are accessed from the road and a lane on the woodlot boundary. The stream runs through the meadows south of the buildings and at one time provided water for the entire farm, but now is mainly used by the cattle.

This farm is reminiscent of the Joel Dreibelbis farm also located in Richmond Township (National Register 1988) Both farms have remained in the same family since the settlement period and have carried on the family agricultural tradition. Both farms carry on general farming, raising crops and poultry, although the Dreibelbises no longer dairy farm. The farms have the same Berks vernacular building types: farmhouse, standard forebay bank barn, summer kitchen, storage arch, privy, wagon or equipment sheds, chicken houses, combination wagonsheds/corn cribs, smoke rooms or houses. While the outbuildings on both farms are similar, the houses and summer kitchens are quite different, the Schlegel being constructed of stone in the 18th century, and the Dreibelbis constructed of brick in 1868. The Pennsylvania German dialect is spoken by the families. Both have not only preserved the integrity of buildings, but also the landscape features. The farms are operated by two men in their eighties, with no direct heirs so the continuation of the family tradition is uncertain.

This farm is an important part of the long tradition of agriculture in Berks County, being a working farm before the middle of the 18th century and continuing to the present, a period of approximately 250 years. The Schlegel farm has the longest period of active agricultural use by the same family found in the survey.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet attached

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 136 acres

UTM References

A	<u>1, 8</u>	<u>4, 3, 0</u> <u>3, 2, 0</u>	<u>4, 4, 7, 9</u> <u>3, 7, 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1, 8</u>	<u>4, 3, 0</u> <u>4, 2, 0</u>	<u>4, 4, 7, 8</u> <u>4, 4, 0</u>

B	<u>1, 8</u>	<u>4, 3, 0</u> <u>4, 0, 0</u>	<u>4, 4, 7, 9</u> <u>1, 6, 0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<u>1, 8</u>	<u>4, 3, 0</u> <u>1, 1, 0</u>	<u>4, 4, 7, 8</u> <u>5, 3, 0</u>

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 1991
street & number 960 Old Mill Road telephone (215) 372-4992
city or town Wyomissing state PA zip code 19610

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

Berks County Township Map, M.S. Henry and M.K. Boyer, 1854.

Berks County Township Map, H.F. Bridgens, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1862.

Deeds, Recorder of Deeds Office, Berks County Court House, Reading, Pennsylvania.

Ensminger, Robert S., PENNSYLVANIA BARNs, An Examination of the Origin, Evolution, Form and Distribution of Forebay Bank Barns in North America, Kutztown University, Kutztown, Pennsylvania, an unpublished manuscript.

Illustrated Historical Atlas Of Berks County , Pennsylvania, Reading Publishing House, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1876.

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

Van Dolsen, Nancy, CUMBERLAND COUNTY, An Architectural Survey, Cumberland County Historical Society, Science Press , Ephrata, Pennsylvania, 1990.

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Boundary Description

Beginning at a point at the junction of the Fleetwood-Lyons Road and Arch Street on the north side of Arch go west 300 feet to a point; continue northwest 1,000 feet to a point on east Vine Street; thence northeast along the south side of Vine Street to a point on School Road; thence across School Road approximately 150 feet; thence southeast 1,000 feet to a point on the Fleetwood-Lyons Road; thence southwest along the north side of said road to a point; thence across road 1,000 feet along the creek; thence south 800 feet to a point; thence southwest 1200 feet to a point; thence northwest 900 feet to a point; thence 400 feet to a point on the Fleetwood-Lyons Road; thence southwest along said road 600 feet to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

Christian Schlegel received a grant from the proprietaries in 1738 and again in 1754 and established a farm on the land. The present boundary of the nominated property lies within those grants. The grants from the Penns contained 300 acres. In the ensuing years the land has been divided among various members of the Schlegel family, and portions have been sold out of the family. This part of the original land grant has been passed down through the Schlegel family unrecorded. The 136 acres has comprised the farm boundary for the past two generations. It is not known when the changes to the land acreage occurred as no deeds or records were kept. Because the nomination is based primarily upon the historical and agricultural values of this portion of the property, and since it has remained in the Schlegel family since 1738-1754 the farm boundary is proposed as the boundary of the historic district.

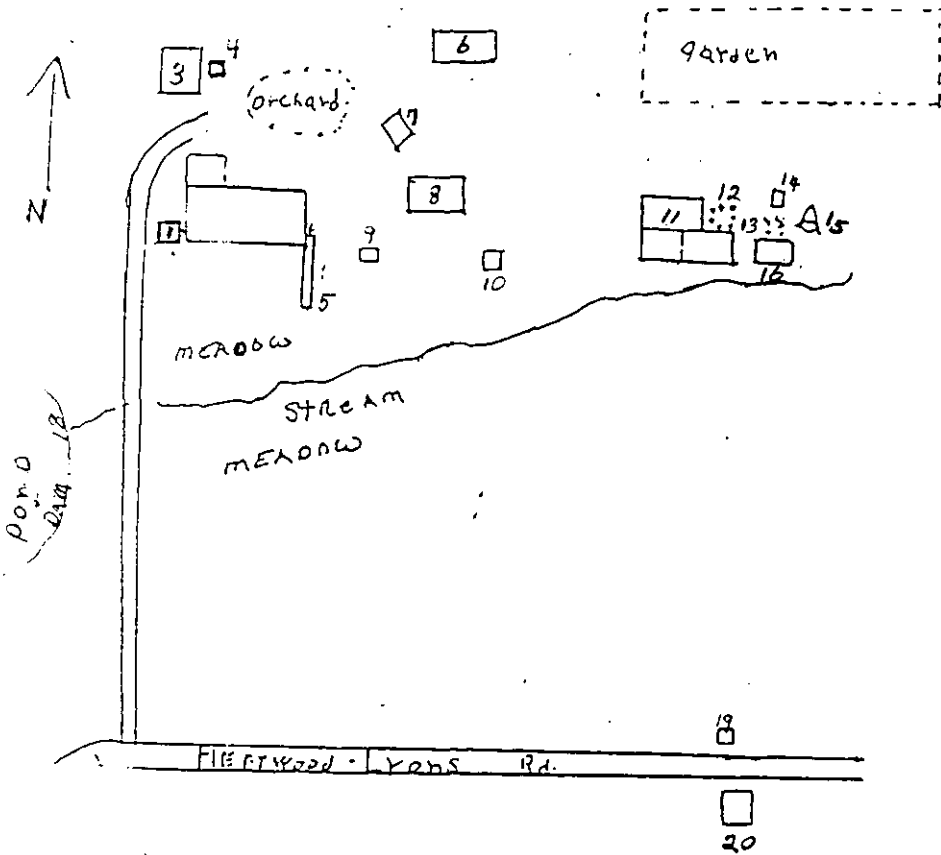
CHRISTIAN SCHLEGEL FARM

FARMSTEAD PLAN

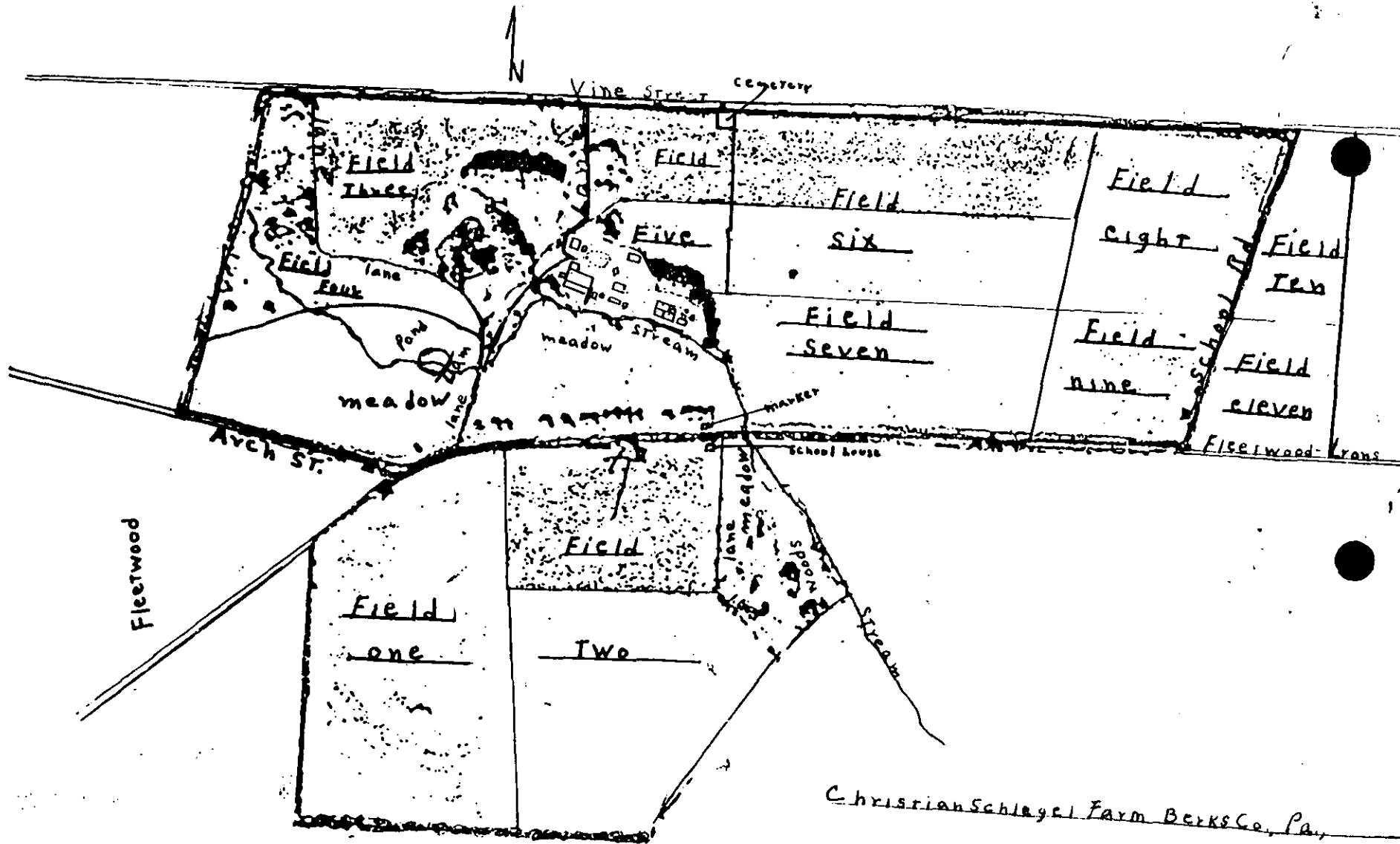
BERKS COUNTY, PA.

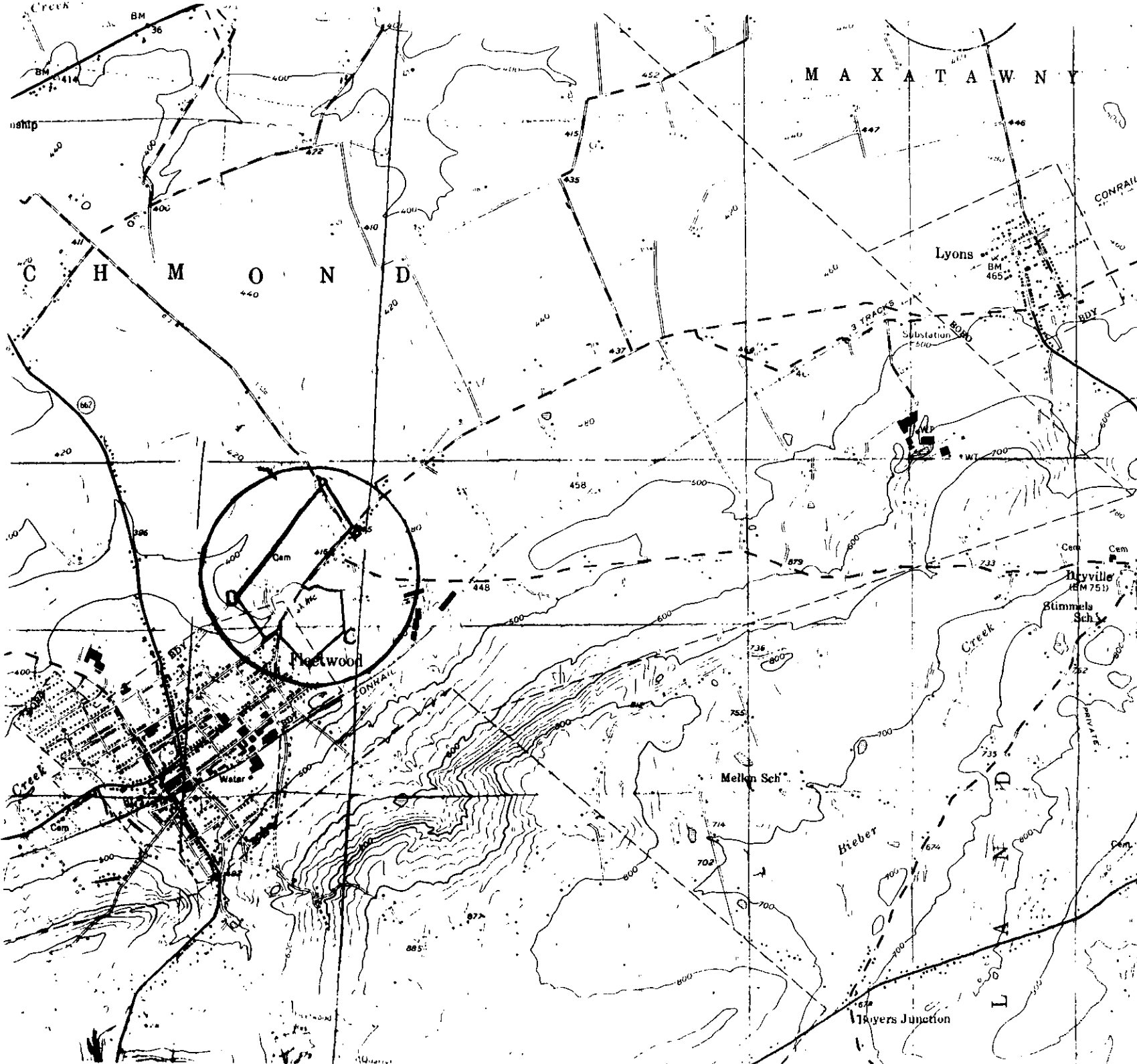
Vine Street

NOT TO SCALE



1. Milk House
2. Barn with horse power room and milk house attached
3. wagonshed
4. brooder house
5. Chicken house
6. wagonshed
7. Chicken house
8. wagonshed/corncrib
9. Privy
10. Tool Shed
11. farmhouse
12. Grape Arbor
13. Grape Arbor
14. Smoke House
15. Arch or Ground Cellar
16. Summer Kitchen with two arches
17. Cemetery
18. Dam with Pond
19. Granite Marker
20. School House





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 E 435600
 C N 4483320
 E 435260
 D N 4482700
 E 435660
 482 N 4482800

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