

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 Hunter's Mill Complex
other names/site number Rush's Mill

2. Location

street & number Forgedale Road N/A not for publication
city, town Hereford Township N/A vicinity
state PA code PA county Berks code 011 zip code 19504

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>5</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

Dr. Brent Glass, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

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
PROCESSING/manufacturing facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Federal
Georgian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls stone

roof slate

other brick,
weatherboard**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Situated on a rise overlooking the west branch of the Perkiomen Creek in rural Hereford Township, Berks County, the Hunter's Mill Complex is bounded by Forgedale Road, a line of plowed fields, the aforementioned Creek, and a line of coniferous trees. The buildings are clustered one-tenth of a mile south of Forgedale Road, access gained via a driveway, once part of an unimproved public road. The Complex contains five contributing buildings : a late eighteenth century, two and one-half story, stone house with Federal style detailing; a late eighteenth century, three story, rubble stone grist mill, and a two and one-half story, mid-nineteenth century, stone and frame barn. Adjacent to the house are two vernacular, one and one-half story, stone summer-kitchens. The Complex possesses one site, a late eighteenth century, stone walled garden. It contains one noncontributing resource, a remodeled carriage house. These five buildings and site exhibit good integrity without any major exterior alterations. From the mid-1700's through the 1800's, the Perkiomen Creek provided power for a vital, local iron industry, which included two forges associated with Hunter's Mill and located one and one-half and two miles downstream from the property. The closest forge was converted into a foundry c.1840, and the other had two forge fires and one hammer in 1850. None of the forge or foundry machinery or buildings exist today.

Mansion

The major contributing resource is a 45 by 45 foot, native cut stone mansion with a three inch high water table (Photo 1). While the house conforms to a Georgian floor plan, it exhibits Federal style detailing. Its symmetrical, five bay, front facade has nine, single, double hung, wood-framed, twelve over twelve light sash windows. The windows have molded sills, ribbed and molded surrounds and three panel shutters, and are topped by flat, stone arches with keystones. All the first and second floor windows on all facades are identical to these. The front entrance features elaborately chip-carved woodwork with geometric and vernacular designs in the pedimented frontispiece and fluted pilasters. It has carved garlands above the arched, keystoned doorway, which is outlined in rope-twist molding (Photo 2). Above the six panel door is a half-moon transom. The front and southern entrances have wide, iron sills. Modillions, wall of Troy molding and finely executed dentils create a design that is repeated on all roof and pent eave cornices (Photo 1 and 3). The gable roof is covered with slate.

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The northern four bay gable has a massive brick chimney and pronounced pent eave (Photo 3). The octagonal attic windows feature rounded molding accented with four keystones (Photo 3 and 4, inside view). Just under the gable ridge is a plastered, circular area also adorned by four keystones and bearing the incised date, 1794.

The eastern five bay facade contains two doorways and eight windows (Photo 5). The centrally-located, original entrance features a plain, wood-framed, six panel door, topped by a flat, keystone arch and four light transom. The fourth window was converted into a door with plain, wood-framing and no transom. The southern gable has a four bay facade with seven, double hung, twelve over twelve sash windows, two octagonal attic windows, a pent eave, and roof cornice which match their counterparts on the northern gable (Photo 6). This facade contains a plastered, circular area without a date and an entrance with a plain, wood-framed, six panel door topped by a flat, keystone arch.

The house has unadorned, clay and hair plaster walls and ceilings, which bear vestiges of whitewash. The floors are composed of random width, hardwood boards. Unless otherwise noted, all rooms retain their original chair rails (Photo 8). The first floor contains a large central hall and four rooms, two emanating from the hall's northern side and two from its southern side. (For description purposes, the rooms on the northern side will be numbered one and two and those on the southern side, three and four.) The stairway extending along the southern hallway wall has a carved newel post and square, uncarved stiles. Unless otherwise noted, doorways have matching, molded surrounds and six panel doors (for door, see Photo 9).

The first floor windows have plain sashes and surrounds. There are fireplaces on the interior walls in all the rooms, and they retain their original, chip-carved woodwork. Room one has a fireplace with square, plastered face and cheeks, dog ear molding, and mantel (Photo 7). The doorway leading from room one to room two has a plain surround.

Now used as a kitchen, room two has three windows and two interior doorways, each with original doors and molding. The modern, rear doorway has a plain surround. Room three's chair rail, windows and doors and their surrounds are original and typical. Room four was the mansion's original kitchen and retains its large, walk-in, raised panel fireplace (Photo 8). The window and doorway surrounds and doors are original, and its large, exterior door has an iron sill and somewhat narrower surround (Photo 9).

On the second floor are four rooms, emanating from a wide central hall and labeled as those on the first floor, five and six, and seven and eight. Each room's original fireplace surround and mantel has a

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slightly varied woodwork design (Photo 10, room 7). The second floor windows and door surrounds and chair rails duplicate their first floor counterparts with the exception of the woodwork in room five. Room five's woodwork is more elaborate (Photo 11). Its wooden surround and mantel are akin to those in room one, and the arched closet and hallway doors have three, narrow keystones in their wide moldings. The room's chair rail is more ornate and features a geometric border (Photo 12).

The attic has massive, mortised and pegged bracing with huge rafters which continue to the gable and large supporting timbers that extend from the floor (Photo 13). Since southeastern Pennsylvania was well deforested by 1794, logs timbered in other areas were often joined together by binding pins (Photo 14) to form a raft which was floated down river toward its eventual destination. The house's chimneys were constructed to maintain the building's exterior symmetry. Since room one's fireplace stands six feet from the gable wall, and its chimney thrusts through the attic floor, five feet from the wall, the masons built a plank support and then arched the chimney across the attic floor to join the gable wall (Photo 15).

Behind the mansion stands a mid-nineteenth century, rectangular, bank style, stone summer-kitchen (Photo 3). The building has a tin-covered, gable roof. The building's western and northern two bay facades have two double hung, six over six light sash windows. A four panel door with a three light transom completes the western facade. The eastern facade is solid stone, and the southern facade's first floor has two, double hung, six over six light sash windows, identical to those on the opposite facade (Photo 16). Its far right entrance leads to the smoking chamber and has a batten door. The far left entrance leads to the lowest level, and its door and surround match those on the smoking chamber. The building's brick chimney services the smoking chamber and the interior fireplace. An interior door exhibits an early, brass-knobbed lock, possibly original to the mansion (Photo 17).

To the south of the house stands the earlier square, stone summer-kitchen which has a slate-covered, gable roof (Photo 18). The building's northern and western entrances have batten doors, and its western facade has one, double hung, six over six light sash window. Located adjacent to the summer-kitchen is an arched entrance, root cellar (Photo 18 and 19). Twelve feet north of the mansion house is a 77½ by 93½ foot, stone walled, late eighteenth century garden, entered by a stone, corner step (Photo 20). A five foot wide bed of ornamental plants edges the interior of the garden wall, and the remainder of the area is maintained in lawn.

mill Southwest of the house stands a three story, 45 by 36 foot, late 1700's rubble stone grist mill (Photo 21). The front facade contains

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three batten doors and a rectangular opening under the ridge of the steep, tin gable roof. The eastern facade has a rectangular, ground floor opening, and the second floor contains four windows, three of which have double hung, six over six light sashes, the fourth retaining only its window frame. The first floor has an entrance with a plain, wooden surround and two, matching windows, the left one retaining only its framing. The window to the north of the door (Photo 22) is the only one on the mill that has a molded surround on one side and a molded window sill, both of which match respective members on the house. Only the windows on this facade are topped with flat, stone arches. The southern facade has two, original stone, segmented arches and three windows (Photo 23, showing only one window). There are two, small, square upper story windows. The western facade has three unevenly spaced, first floor windows and two unevenly spaced, second floor windows.

Originally powered by a water wheel, the mill's interior was altered in the 1800's to accommodate nineteenth century milling machinery. The mill's ground floor contains a turbine, massive supports for the first floor grinding apparatus, nineteenth century wooden gears, and a cast iron shaft and wheel which powered top floor grinding wheels. The building has notched, first floor joists which rest over the summer beam (Photo 24).

The mill's first, second, and third floors are made of random width hardwood planks. The first floor contains four runs of grinding machinery, three with stones and one without, all topped by wooden shutes, a wooden conveyor, and some mill tools. In the northeastern corner is the wooden, partitioned, mill office which contains a crude, plank desk and a chimney that accommodated a stove. The walls retain much of their original plaster, and in the northwest corner are red, lead drawings and names including that of John Richard, one of the mill's owners from 1792 to 1799 (Photo 25). The mill originally had a paneled half door (Photo 26).

The second floor was used for storage and contains grain bins. The words "rye" and "corn" are written in red, German script on the walls. The top floor has two, small grinding wheels and associated, wooden apparatus, several flour reels, which retain bolting cloth, iron gearing used to hoist grain sacks, and unassembled gears and leather belts.

Barn
A 80 by 35 foot, mid-nineteenth century, Pennsylvania bank barn is located west of the house (Photo 27). It fits the "H" type classification in Charles Dornbusch's Pennsylvania German Barns, a variation of the Sweitzer barn, in which the masonry gable end walls are extended to include the frame forebay. The barn has a tin, gable roof and a first floor of random width planks. Its framing utilizes massive hardwood timbers and pegged construction. Built of native stone, its pointed

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walls include a cantilevered, vertical siding forebay. Four single batten doors, two sets of double doors, one sliding and one hinged, and three small, square windows complete the ground floor facade. The forebay contains four doors, two of which are half doors, and one window. The northern facade has one, second floor and one, third floor, six over six light sash window. The rear or western facade has two wooden, single doors set in the four, large, frame, first floor doors. Extending toward the west, there is a square, frame, nineteenth century addition, which has one first floor window and a third floor, batten half door. The southern exposure has one single door, two, two over two light sash windows, and one six over six light sash window under the gable ridge.

The Hunter's Mill Complex exhibits excellent integrity. The contributing resources have had no major exterior changes of configuration or any twentieth century additions. Between 1946 and 1952, some renovations occurred. The mansion's keystone, wood, window headers were removed and placed in the mill. Several sections of the front door's right pilaster and molding suffered damage after 1952 and were removed. One of the eastern facade windows was removed and a doorway installed in its place.

Concurrently, a few interior changes were also undertaken. The original balustrade was removed and stored in the mill. The fireplace in the present day kitchen was covered. In the same room, chair rails were removed. In room one, the original doorway framing around the door leading to room two was removed and replaced with plain framing. The remainder of the first floor woodwork is intact. Room one's original floor boards were relaid, and the hallway's floor was created from old boards relaid over the original ones. Room three has a new floor placed over the original.

On the second floor, a bathroom was placed in the front hall area, and several doors have been switched. A closet with twentieth century door framing was placed in room six. The remainder of the second floor woodwork is intact.

The exteriors of the two summer-kitchens and the site remain intact.

Between 1946 and 1952, the mill was braced with two steel beams, running north to south along joists supporting the first floor. Numerous window sashes and the eastern side door are absent. Some of the mill's machinery, especially elevators and pulleys, have been removed or disassembled. While much of its apparatus has been altered, the mill's importance lies in its basic configuration and construction, which remain largely unaltered. Features such as its window framing, cornices, and its office and construction techniques such as segmented arches and floor joists that are notched into the summer beam remain intact (Photo 24).

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In its interior, much of the building's original plaster remains. The preservation of the first and second floor red lead names and drawings due to the survival of this original plaster helps to illustrate the building's basic integrity.

The barn maintains its basic exterior configuration. Since the present owners purchased the property in 1985, the barn's tin roof was replaced with a new one, and its walls were repointed and its forebay and woodwork painted.

Located west of the house, the noncontributing resource is severely renovated, nineteenth century corn crib/carriage house combination. In the early 1950's, the corn crib was removed, and the building braced with a steel beam. In the 1980's the carriage house doors were removed and a new tin roof placed on the building, creating a four bay garage. While severely distorted from its original use, its vertical, board siding and native stone walls maintain a visually harmonious building.

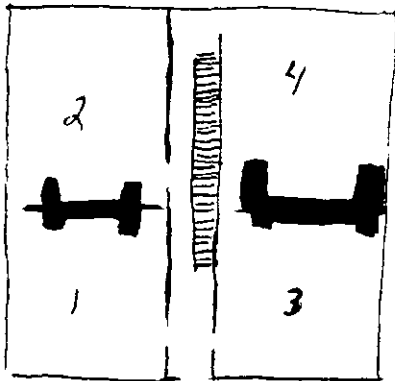
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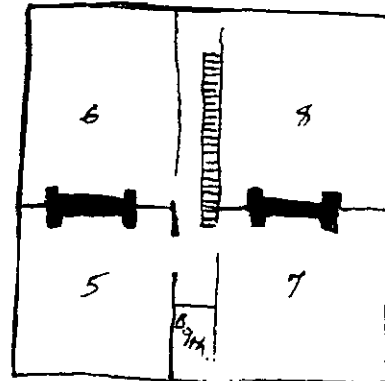
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HUNTER'S MILL COMPLEX FLOOR PLAN

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



FRONT FACADE

RECEIVED
OCT 6 1988
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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 N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Industry
Commerce

Period of Significance

1792-1910

Significant Dates

1792, 1794

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Richard, Peter

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

The Hunter's Mill Complex is an eighteenth and nineteenth century milling seat significant in architecture and for its association with Peter Richard, a prominent local ironmaster. The property's mansion is an important representative of a group of large, Georgian plan houses erected by local ironmasters in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Its associated gristmill and outbuildings are excellent examples of local eighteenth century style and construction. Richard's association with the property dates from 1792 to 1808 and corresponds to the zenith of his career. The Hunter's Mill Complex best represents his local significance as an ironmaster. Although the local ironworks had declined by the mid-1800's, the mill continued as an important center of local commerce until the early 20th century.

The complex also illustrates a process of acculturation in the convergence of medieval and Germanic building practices and increasing dominant influences of Georgian architecture.

Brothers John and Peter Richard owned the two downstream forges when they bought this property in 1792. After purchasing the tract, Peter Richard undertook the building of a gristmill, listed for the first time in the 1793 tax records. His mansion was completed in the following year, and the first summer-kitchen and walled garden also date from this era. The property functioned as an ironmaster's residence and a milling center, grinding grain for Richard, workers on his and neighboring iron plantations, and local farmers. In 1808, Richard sold the property to his cousin, ironmaster Nicholas Hunter, who later bought the two forges. Hunter and his ironmaster son, John, continued the milling seat's commercial role, serving the ironworkers and area farmers.

mill
Peter Richards - ironmaster
example of style of home
architecture

See continuation sheet

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In 1837, John Rush, Jr. bought the property, continuing its association with the lower forge. Rush erected the later summer-kitchen, large barn, and corn crib/carriage house in the mid-1800's. By this time, the local ironworks were severely declining, and the mill's business centered on its direct service to area residents. In an effort to continue its economic importance, Rush and subsequent owners, John Knetz and David Hertzog, updated the early machinery, replacing the water wheel with a turbine and the eighteenth century apparatus with current nineteenth century equipment. The mill continued to operate, ceasing shortly after 1910. The property then served as a residence and working farm. In 1946, it was purchased by Clark Morian. He and later owners continued its residential role.

The Hunter's Mill Complex mansion typifies the costly, sophisticated architectural form favored by many upper class Pennsylvanians, especially ironmasters. Since Berks County had a well developed iron industry, the mansion is one of eight similarly styled houses erected as part of furnace or forge plantations. These buildings were constructed of native stone, had symmetrical facades with gable wall or occasionally interior wall fireplaces, and ornamental, carved woodwork.

Like the Hunter's Mill Complex mansion, other area contemporary ironmasters' houses follow a Georgian floor plan with Federally-styled detailing. Ironmaster Jacob Lesher's home, erected in 1797 in Longswamp Township, the Sally Ann Furnace mansion built by Jacob Hunter in 1814 in Rockland Township, and the Fisher house erected in 1801 in Oley Township are comparable in design and ornamentation to the older Hunter's Mill Complex mansion. All four, stone houses utilize Georgian floor plans, have five bay, Federally-detailed, front facades with arched doorways, and carved exterior woodwork with varying motifs.

The Hunter's Mill Complex mansion exhibits an imposing facade, created by its ample dimensions and design. It is the largest of the four residences and is one of only two homes having four, gable wall windows. Like the Lesher residence, the Hunter's Mill Complex mansion is constructed of cut stone and this construction technique along with its size, alludes to the owner's wealth. While the Lesher and Hunter's Mill Complex houses have very similar floor plans with the interior wall fireplaces, the Hunter's Mill Complex house has more well-carved, intricately detailed exterior and interior woodwork.

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The Hunter's Mill Complex mansion stands out among contemporary ironmasters' mansions for its degree of Federal detailing. Of the four houses, it is the only one with a cornice that includes modillions, delicately carved dentils and wall-of-Troy molding. It has an especially well-developed, front facade entrance and is the only house with carved decoration inside the pedimented frontispiece plus carved garlands over the keystone-accented doorway. Its massive gable walls with large, twelve over twelve light sash windows, broad ornate pent eaves, unusual round rather than square, attic windows exhibit a striking facade, created by these numerous, well-articulated features. The Hunter's Mill Complex house's detailed exterior woodwork compares to that of the Fisher mansion. Both houses have interior wall fireplaces and woodwork with similar, decorative motifs including dentils, keystones, dog ear and wall-of-Troy molding. These many well-developed features reveal the house's craftsmanship and extent of ornamentation.

The Hunter's Mill Complex residence retains several very unusual interior features. Its first floor doorways have unique, iron door sills. Its ornate chair rail is another example of its fine craftsmanship. Only one other Berks County house, a 1700's Georgian, stone farmhouse, has a chair rail with any form of carved, geometric design, and its motif is very crudely executed. (Site 011-CN-15, Berks County Survey)

While the Hunter's Mill Complex house has locally, typical constructional techniques, it has extremely massive, pegged roof framing due to the building's size. The Hunter's Mill Complex mansion's chimneys are arched to the wall while their counterparts in the Lesher and Fisher house stand solid to the wall, brought up in "steps." While all three houses maintain their symmetrical, exterior appearance, only the Hunter's Mill Complex house has this unusual masonry technique.

The Hunter's Mill Complex house exhibits excellent integrity. It has not experienced any major exterior renovations, additions, or configurational changes and possesses a unified architectural style. Its exterior and much of its interior woodwork is intact. The Hunter's Mill Complex house retains its original, rounded attic windows. All of the Lesher mansion's windows have been replaced including its rounded attic windows, whose only vestige is a circular outline in the stonework.

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Hunter's Mill is a fine example of local, eighteenth century mills. These enterprises were generally rubble stone, square or rectangular, gable roof buildings with ground floor, round arches, and a wooden water wheel. They had six over six or nine over six, light sash windows and several half or full doors, often in a vertical line, one directly above another. Other Perkiomen Creek mills include: Anthony's Mill, which has a door lintel dated 1772; eighteenth century Beidler Mill, and the stone Mensch Mill, all within three miles of the Hunter's Mill. Hunter's Mill is a typical rectangular, rubble stone building with a gable roof and ground floor, segmented arches. It has double hung, six over six windows and three, northern gable wall doors. Hunter's Mill is somewhat larger than other contemporary mills, including Anthony's Mill and Mensch's Mill. The use of rubble stone, notched or mortised and pegged, large timber framing, and clay and animal hair plaster represent locally typical material and construction techniques.

Hunter's Mill's significance lies in the preservation of its original configuration, its vernacular architectural style, and its constructional methods. Hunter's Mill is the only eighteenth century mill in Hereford Township or along the Berks County branch of the Perkiomen Creek that retains its original configuration and construction. While the Perkiomen Creek and Hereford Township once contained eleven mills, only six other mills remain, three were converted into residences, and three were renovated. The Beidler Mill was doubled in width and height, and its original configuration was obliterated. Anthony's Mill was decreased in size and renovated into a dwelling. Completely stripped of machinery, Mensch's Mill became an activities center with several doorways sealed by cinder blocks. Hunter's Mill's integrity has preserved features that illustrate the original appearance and building methods of other, local contemporary mills.

The Complex also contains several locally representative farmstead buildings. Its typical nineteenth century, Pennsylvania barn is of a style identified with areas along the Perkiomen Creek. Its nineteenth century, rear addition is common, particularly in this type of barn. In size, construction and configuration, the barn portrays a once very prevalent farmstead edifice that is rapidly disappearing. The two summer-kitchens are typical, vernacular buildings. The walled garden is exceptionally large, representing a once common eighteenth century farmstead feature that has become very unusual. While none of these outbuildings or sites is extraordinary in itself, their preservation together with the mansion, mill, and barn reveal how the milling center functioned as a residence and farm in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

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Responsible for the Complex's eighteenth century buildings, Peter Richard (1755-1821) was a successful ironmaster and local leader, who with other family members invested in one of the area's most significant industries.

According to Alfred Gemmel, the upper Perkiomen Creek's three furnaces and two forges were a microcosm of Pennsylvania's important iron industry. Iron products were one of America's vital necessities, used by everyone from the farmer to the soldier. Richard's forges provided iron bars for regional and local blacksmiths and gave local farmers winter employment, a larger farm produce market, and easy access to essential iron products. Since the iron plantations needed accomodating roadways, they spurred the development of the area's transportation system, aiding all the citizenry.

John and Peter Richard purchased the forges even though the Hereford Furnace was defunct, and the Mt. Pleasant Furnace was barely operating. Shortly after their investment, fellow ironmaster, Samuel Potts, erected the Dale Furnace, and Peter Richard became the ironmaster at this new enterprise. The furnace and the forges had a symbiotic relationship and became the keystone of this important, local iron industry.

Like Berks County ironmasters, John Leshar and Daniel Udree, Peter Richard served in several vital leadership roles, including that of Lt. Colonel of the Philadelphia County Militia during the Revolutionary War. Richard was a justice of the peace in Berks and Montgomery Counties and also an accomplished surveyor.

In 1799, at the zenith of his career, Richard presided over an almost self-sufficient community. In that year, his forges employed nineteen percent of the Township's skilled workers. The forges were the highest taxed Hereford Township property, followed by Peter Richard's house and mill and Dale Furnace, both taxed for the identical amount. Involved in manufacturing and government, Richard affected the lives of his workers and local residents from the cradle to the grave.

The Hunter's Mill Complex portrays Richard's career during its most diversified and vital years. After the brothers sold their forges, Richard, now past age fifty, sold his milling center. He moved to Pottstown, buying Samuel Potts' large, brick house (demolished years ago). While wealthy Richard spent his last years in this Pottstown residence, his Hereford Township milling center represented his life at its most productive.

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The Hunter's Mill Complex possesses a superb mansion, which exemplifies a locally important architectural style and is exceptional for the amount and intricacy of its fine craftsmanship and for its many representative architectural and constructional features. A type of important eighteenth century, local, commercial enterprise, the mill's significance lies in its basically unaltered configuration and construction. The creator of the eighteenth century buildings, successful Peter Richard was a wealthy ironmaster, who played an important role in the area's local history.

The period of significance indicated for this property relates to the period of Richard's ownership and the construction of initial buildings, the construction of agricultural buildings in mid-19th century, and continuation of commercial use of the mill into the early 20th century.

Although the mansion house at Hunter's Mill has predominant elements and embellishments of the Federal period, the Germanic influence of the family (John and Peter Richard were grandsons of the German immigrant Johann Frederick Reichert) can be seen in interior elements such as the roof truss system consisting of principal rafters connected with collars and alternating butt purlins supporting the common rafters. There is also sufficient space above the collars to house a second attic such as in noted Germanic houses as the Christian Herr House, Antes House, and Fort Zeller. Another apparent medieval or Germanic feature is the massive chimney stacks, not coming up through the house along the gable end walls as in the Georgian manner, but instead several feet from the walls. These stacks are arched over in the attic to meet the end walls in order to appear symmetrical from the exterior.

The mill with its floor joists resting on top of the summerbeam and the positioning of the banked summer kitchens with two levels of entrances are examples of Germanic traits in these buildings as well.

This complex of buildings while showing high style elements in its centerpiece (the mansion house) but retaining elements of the cultural background of the owner, is consistent with other rising social and affluent families being acculturated into the mainstream of America. While emulating such rival families as the Potts family, the Richards family nevertheless left their cultural mark in the layout of the out buildings and certain design features of all the buildings.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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- Berks County (PA) Register of Deeds, Deed Book, V. 103, p. 85-87.
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See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 11

UTM References

A 18 447245 4475310

B 18 447200 4475080

Zone Easting Northing

C 18 447540 4475280

Zone Easting Northing

D 18 447420 4475380

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Beginning at a point on south edge of Forgedale Road 520 feet west of the intersection of Forgedale Road and Dairy Lane and 20 feet north of a line of coniferous trees; from said point, proceeding west along Forgedale Road 295 feet to a point at the corner of a white fence, which stands 15 feet west of the western edge of the property's access road; then proceeding from the point southerly 528 feet along the line of said fence See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification The boundaries were created to include the contributing resources and exclude noncontributing terrain. Forgedale Road represents the Complex's and the property's northern boundary. Its western boundary follows a fence that borders the western edge of the access road, turns west 26 feet north of the carriage house, and separates the carriage house and barn from a large field. The fence forms a physical and visual division. This boundary then continues See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Holly K. Green / Jerry Clouse

organization N/A

date September 3, 1988

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city or town Bovertown

state PA zip code 19510

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
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10.1 Verbal Boundary Description

to a point at the corner post; then proceeding from that point westerly 165 feet along the said fence to the end of said fence; thence proceeding from that point in a straight line 35 feet to a point at the beginning of a large field; thence proceeding from that point southerly 614 feet along the eastern edge of a large, overgrown field to a point on the northern bank of the Perkiomen Creek; thence proceeding from this point southeasterly 594 feet along the said Creek to a point in line with the first line of coniferous trees; thence proceeding northerly along said trees 870 feet to the point of beginning, containing 13 acres.

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National Park Service

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Boundary Justification

35 feet in the same direction to a large, overgrown field. This continuation permits inclusion of the barn's earthen, rear ramp.

The remainder of this western border is marked by the eastern edge of a very large, overgrown field which lies just behind the barn and has no historical pertinence. The northern bank of the Perkiomen Creek serves as the Complex's southern boundary. Beyond the Creek extends nonsignificant, vacant land. Beginning at Forgedale Road, the Complex's eastern boundary follows a line of tightly growing, coniferous trees that also form a physical and visual boundary.

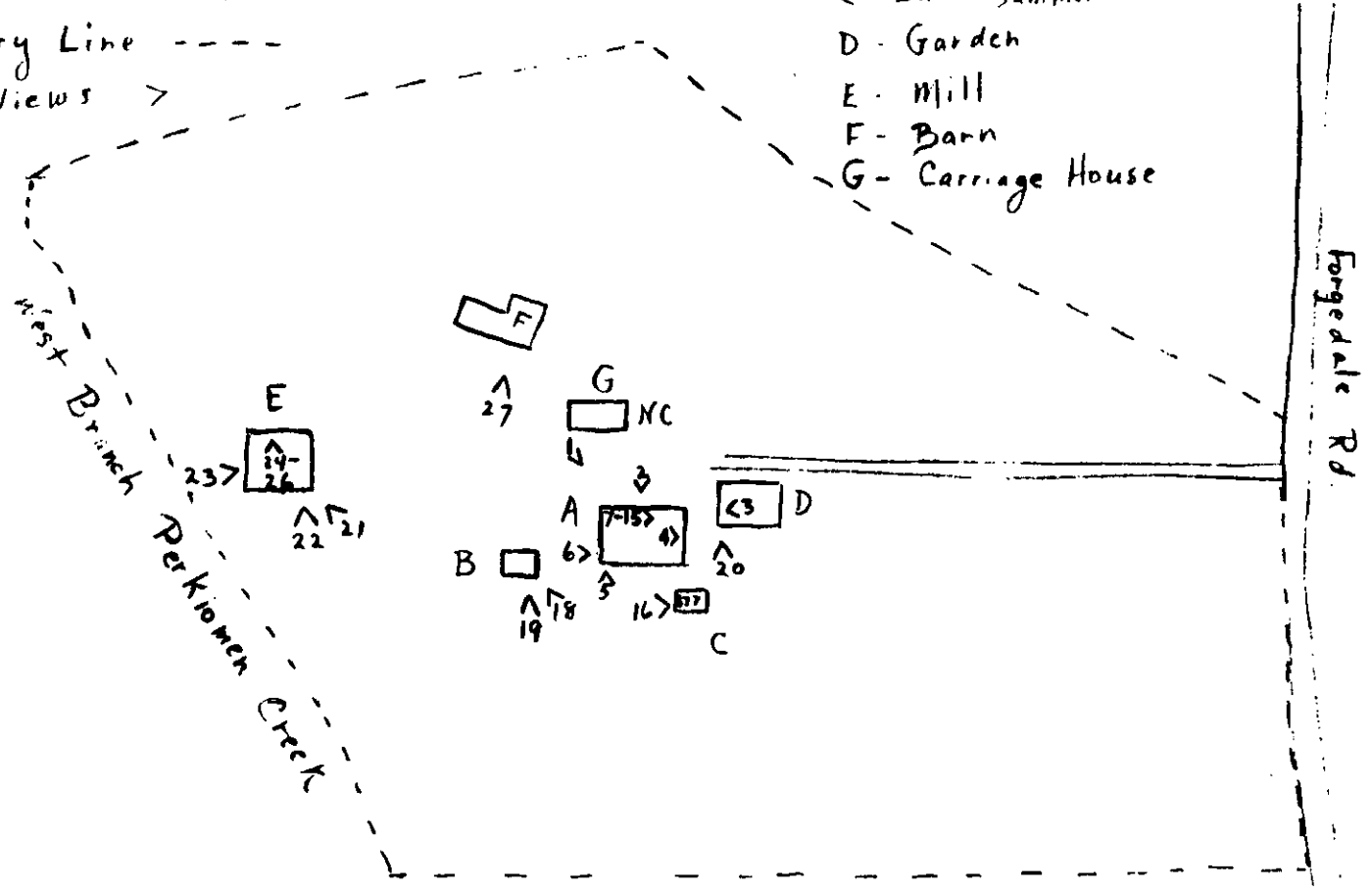
Hunter's Mill Complex

Berks County

Boundary Line

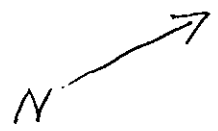
Photo Views

- A - House
- B - Early Summer Kitchen
- C - Late Summer Kitchen
- D - Garden
- E - Mill
- F - Barn
- G - Carriage House



Non contributing Resources NC

Not Drawn to Scale



Hunter's Mill Complex
Berks Co.

East Greenville Quad

Zone 18

Reference A	E-447245	N-4475310
B	E-447200	N-4475080
C	E-447540	N-4475280
D	E-447420	N-4475380

