

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 Snyder Mill
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Oley Line Road not for publication NA
city, town Exeter Township vicinity N/A
state PA code PA county Berks code 011 zip code 19535

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>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Gristmills in Berks County
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/processing

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Gristmill

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls stone

wood

roof metal

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Snyder Mill is located near the village of Limekiln in rural Exeter Township. The mill is in a secluded setting beside the Monocacy Creek. This is a scenic farming section of the Oley Valley although housing subdivisions have occurred on adjacent properties. The historic resource consists of one contributing building: a c 1780 banked 1 1/2 story stone, vernacular style mill measuring 26' by 50' with a 20' 3" by 25' 10", 18' eave height frame addition. The mill is in unsafe condition, however, the building retains the essential physical features that enable it to convey the significant time period.

The upstream gable or the north end has two doors, one on the first floor and one in the attic, as well as a large fairly modern opening in the basement with a sliding door on track. An early frame double hung window is to the right of the first floor door. On the east side there is a door flanked by two double hung windows and what appears to be an early casement window with heavy framing. The door on this side is inset although for the period of the building it originally would have been on the outface as are the window frames. There has been a later frame building with a stone foundation added to the south wall. The gable end has vertical boards. There are two water wheel arches that can be seen inside this addition. The west wall toward the stream is in poor condition. There are two windows each at the basement and first floor levels with early frames. There is an opening at a lower level into the gear pit where the frame is gone but it appears to be an original opening. A lowered window on the first floor to accommodate light into the stone floor level has a nicely made frame, rabbetted out on its face in keeping with the others except that it is square. There is a brick chimney against the south wall on the ridge line. There is no evidence of a hood roof or outside bag hoist. The roof is trussed having two trusses in the northern two-thirds of the building. There is no indication of trussing over the water wheel.

The power transmission, on the first floor, consists of a steel vertical shaft taking power to the second floor. In the northeast corner there was a corner fireplace. The summer beam is chamfered on the lower corners. The second floor joists are hand hewn with chamfers on the lower corners and lambs tongue stops at

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Snyder Mill
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the ends. There are two pair of millstones in place. The pair to the east are of local monolithic stone. The pair to the west are French buhrs. The stones were meant to be controlled from this floor level, the tentering device being a handwheel on the east pair. There is one hopper, one damsel, a stone crane with iron screw and cast iron handle and nut, and a pair of bales. There is one wooden hoop.

The basement area houses the wheelwright built wooden water wheel. The wheel is 11'6" overall diameter by 5'4" wide. The water wheel shaft is twenty-two inches in diameter, sixteen sided white oak, with double iron bands retaining the wing arm gudgeon in each end. This is a properly millwright-built water wheel, one of only two in the county, although in poor condition. The remains of the wooden forebay, with a diagonal leather hinged control gate, are in place.

The hurst frame is quite early and in fairly good condition. It is interesting in that unlike most hurst frames it is not a complete solid unit made up of interlocking timbers. There are three bridge posts, indicating that there were three pair of millstones prior to the present two.

Considering the length of time this mill was in operation there have been few alterations to the basic building. Morton Montgomery in his history of 1886 states, "the original old stone building has been enlarged and improved.". At some undetermined time a frame addition was added to the south wall of the building (perhaps Montgomery is referring to this addition). The alterations to the interior of the mill are those that were necessary to accommodate the changes in machinery. The west stone wall of the mill has a crack, and the portion of the wall housing the water wheel has collapsed. However, the basic integrity of the building remains unaffected and the owner has plans to repair and stabilize the building. These changes do not interfere with the essential physical features that enable the historic resource to convey its past identity and character and portray the significant time period, c 1780 to the 1930's when the mill ceased operating.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____
Engineering _____
Industry _____

Period of Significance

c 1780 to 1930

Significant Dates

c 1780

Cultural Affiliation

NA

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 Snyder Mill is eligible for the National Register under criteria A, C and D. This mill is significant for its association with the county gristmilling industry as it is representative of eighteenth century custom mills. The mill with its wooden water wheel, early hurst frame, millstones and other equipment in place is an important example of 18th century milling technology, one of the most complete in the county. Architecturally, this mill is the only remaining mill in the county possessing unique features found in 18th century Germanic architecture.

The wooden water wheel is one of two millwright built wooden wheels found in the Berks County Mill Survey. While of 20th century vintage the technology is that of the 18th century. It is believed by the mill consultant, Stephen Kindig, that this wheel was possibly built by the Hake Millwrighting Company who also built the wheel at the Bahr Mill in Gablesville. The hurst frame is an unusual configuration, believed to be an early type and the only example found in our survey. With its millstones and gearing arrangement this mill is one of the best examples in the county portraying 18th century milling technology.

The Berks County Gristmill Survey indicates the Snyder Mill is architecturally one of the best remaining examples of an 18th century custom mill in the county. The mill has certain architectural features associated with 18th century mills and Germanic architecture: the original part of the mill is relatively small in size, the roof is steep and is kicked at the eaves, the gable ends are narrow, some of the windows have heavy early framing and small openings, one appears to be an early casement window, the roof is trussed having two trusses in the northern two-thirds of the building.

See continuation sheet

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This mill remained in the Snyder family for over one hundred years. According to Fegley, "Hans Schneider was the first American miller of this family. He was born in Switzerland and came to America in 1716 when nine years old. He purchased the mill tract in 1734. His two sons, John Jacob and Peter, became the owners of the father's estate." The tax list of 1780 shows Peter Snyder as owning a gristmill. A deed from Peter Snyder to his son Daniel Snyder 1786, (Berks 10-34) lists a gristmill. Daniel became the miller later in life and he was the father of William H. Snyder, last family owner of the mill who was born on February 8, 1827. County historian Morton Montgomery in his history of 1886 states, "the mill has been continuously owned by the Snyder family. The original old stone building has been enlarged and improved and it is still a good mill, operated by William H. Snyder". The mill was sold by William Snyder to S.H. Senseing, who owned the mill in 1930 when it ceased operations.

This mill has been operated for 150 years giving it a long association to milling in Berks County. It was built as a custom mill serving the farmers of the area by producing flour for their families and grinding feed for their livestock.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Berks County Conservancy

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 1.5 acres

UTM References

A 1 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 0
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

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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Continuation Sheet**

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Snyder Mill

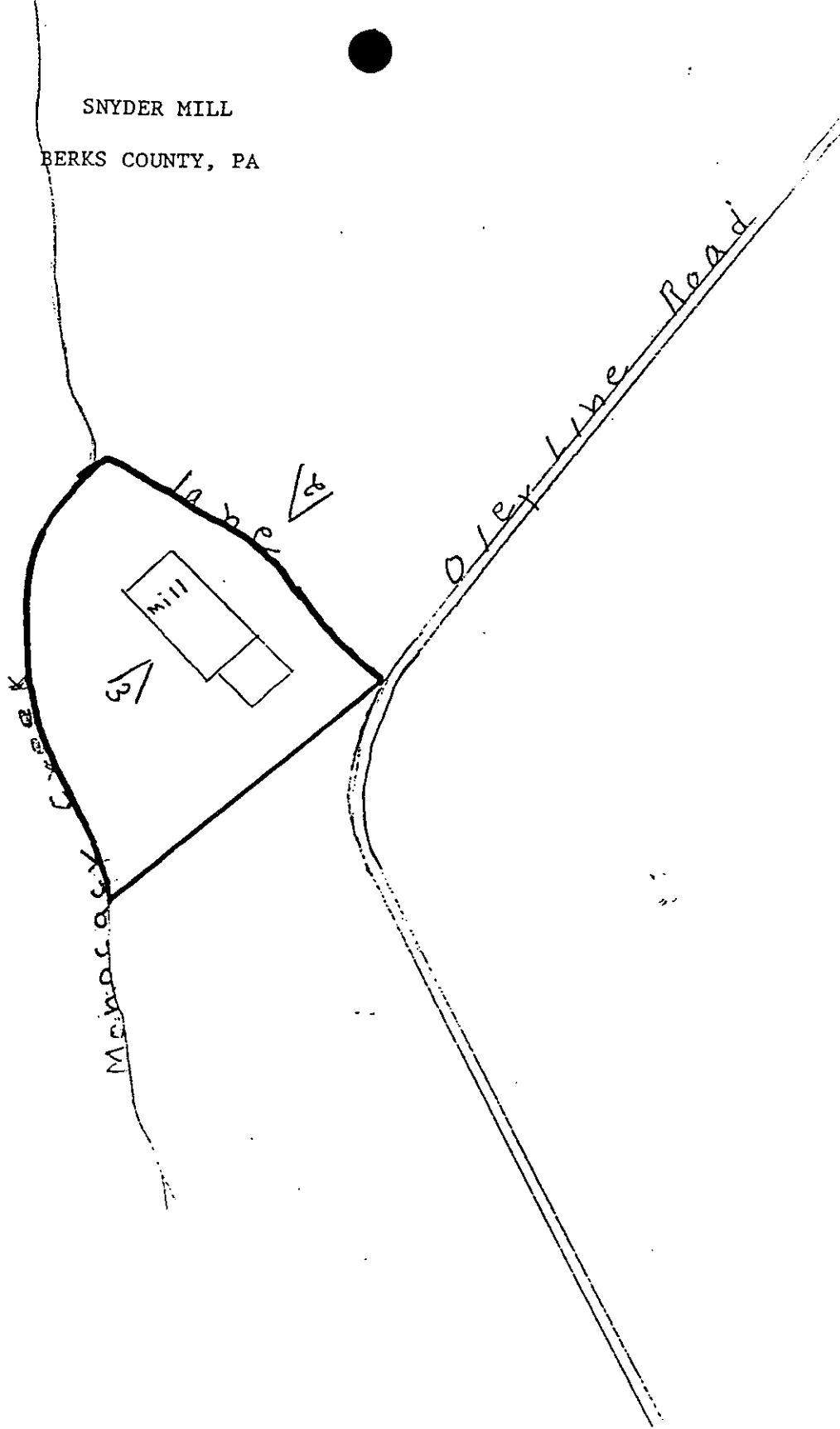
Verbal Boundry Description

Starting at the point where the farm lane meets Oley Line Road proceed northwesterly approximately 200' along the southwest side of the lane to Monocacy Creek, thence southerly along west side of the creek approximately 300', thence northeasterly 200' to place of beginning.

Boundary Justification


The boundary has been drawn to include the one contributing building in this nomination. Excluded are the other buildings on this farm property. The excluded buildings are of a later period and do not fit the context in which this mill is being nominated: its importance as an example of an eighteenth century custom mill. Its water courses are not included because they lack integrity.

SNYDER MILL
BERKS COUNTY, PA



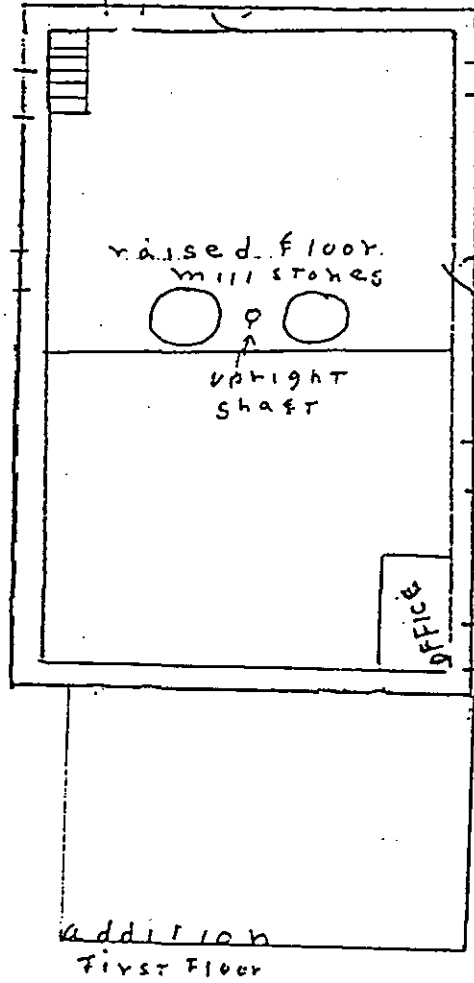
Key

 Boundry

 Photo Direction

Not to Scale

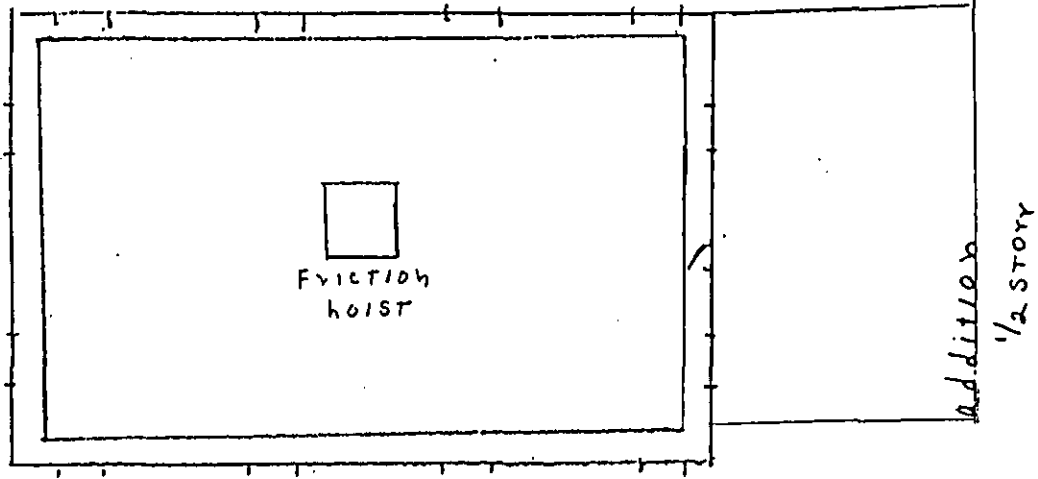
SNYDER MILL
BERKS COUNTY, PA



SNYDER MILL

BERKS COUNTY, PA

1



Not to Scale



Snyder Mill
 Beers County
 Birdsboro
 Zone 18

434 620 4465 20

EARLVILLE 1.3 MI.
 BOYERTOWN 6.3 MI.
 (BOYERTOWN)
 5864 1 SW