

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 Boyer-Mertz Farm  
other names/site number Angstadt Farm

### 2. Location

street & number Northeast corner of Noble Street and Bastian Road  not for publication N/A  
city, town Kutztown (Maxatawny Township)  vicinity N/A  
state PA code PA county Berks code 011 zip code 19530

### 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>9</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>20</u>	<u>7</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u>7</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 outbuildings

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular house  
Other: Pennsylvania bank barn

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone  
walls brick, wood  
roof slate, tin  
other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This 102 acre working farm is situated in gently rolling to flat farm land in rural Maxatawny Township. A portion of the northern boundary of the farm is adjacent to a housing development outside the borough of Kutztown. The farm buildings are clustered in the southern quarter of the farm and face south oriented to Bastian Road. The auxiliary dependencies and outbuildings are situated between the barn on the west of the farmstead and the 1905 house on the east. The twenty historic resources include, nine vernacular style buildings and eleven structures dating from ca. 1871-1940. The principal buildings include an 1871 brick tenant house, an 1871 brick and frame bank barn, a 1905 brick farmhouse. There are seven non-contributing resources. The resources have few changes that interfere with their ability to portray the significant time period ca. 1871-1940.

The farmstead buildings are situated among trees at the end of the lane from Bastian Road. The farmland is divided into six fields; one of the fields is located across Noble Street. Diversified crops are raised, including corn, wheat, barley and hay. In any given year each field may be divided into areas for several different crops. This year for the first time Mr. Angstadt is raising soybeans. Tractor lanes radiate from the farmstead to the various fields. As farming methods changed and the farm became more mechanized fields were enlarged. As a result the landscape patterns reflect the changing farming methods which occurred in the earlier part of the century. Ninety-nine of the one hundred and two acres are tillable with the remainder taken up by the farmstead area. Mrs. Angstadt's vegetable garden and the dinner bell are located adjacent to the west of the ca. 1871 house. The orchard, for the 1905 house is located to the rear or north of the three clustered chicken houses; as old trees die they are replaced with young trees by the Angstadts.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Boyer/Mertz Farm

Section number 7 Page 2

The 1905 brick farmhouse has a cross gabled roof and incorporates high style features of the Late Victorian period. The two-and-one-half story house features a Colonial Revival front porch supported by four Doric columns in front and a fluted pilaster on each rear corner. The double door with transom above is in a center projection and there are two double windows on either side of the door.

There is bracketed trim on the molded cornice and cornice returns. The frame arched lintels above the windows and doors have gougework trim. The second floor front has five windows, four with paneled shutters, and there is a small arched window in the peaked gable. Jigsaw trim is featured on the west side two tiered porch. The windows on the east side porch have paneled shutters as do the two windows on the one story wash room extension to the rear (built as an original part of the house). All windows have 1/1 window sash and like the doors have brick arches above the lintels. The east side has two basement window openings covered with very decorative wrought iron grilles with pineapple finials while the two steel window grilles on the west side are quite plain. There is an exterior chimney on the main rear block of the house for the kitchen stove and one on the west cross gable.

The interior of the house, like the outside, is little altered. The trim is unpainted cherry wood throughout. The open stair in the living room has square newel posts with acorn motifs and turned balusters. The built-in-cabinets in the kitchen are also cherry. The molded surrounds on windows and doors feature rosettes within squares on each side of the lintels. The small room to the rear of the kitchen has a raised brick hearth with an inset iron kettle, which the present owner states was used to heat wash water.

The brick two-and-one-half story vernacular house, is believed to have been built the same time as the barn ca.1871. It had been the original farmhouse but since the building of the 1905 farmhouse it now serves as the tenant house. It has four bays with a slate gable roof. The porches on the front and rear have been enclosed. The windows have 6/6 window sash although some have large pane replacements. There are interior chimneys on each gable end. The asbestos siding on the east side of the house was added later. The trim on the outside is plain frame.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Boyer/Mertz Farm

Section number 7 Page 3

The interior of the ca.1871 house has four fireplaces one in each front room downstairs and one in the front room upstairs, none are now in use. The kitchen fireplace has the original paneled folding doors and is now used for storage. Interior doors are paneled.

The gabled brick end barn with a tin roof has a datestone which reads - 1871 Benneville and Mary Boyer. The stone foundation has a peiler eck. The forebay of the barn has been enclosed in order to add more light and room in the stable area for dairy cattle. The barn has five bents and the roof has a wooden hay track with metal carriage and standard truss system (Ensminger). Entrance to the threshing floor is on the bank end, and the granaries located in the forebay area are intact. A hay barn addition was added to the front and west side of the building. The rear addition at the northwest end of the barn was the former horsepower room. Shaft, pulleys, and wheels for the horsepower are intact but not in place. The west side of the power room is built into the bank which contains a large cistern for barn use. The barn has two cupolas on the roof for ventilation and light. Hex signs are painted on the south end of the barn, there is a wood silo on the west side no longer in use.

The one-and-one-half story stone summer kitchen ca. 1850 retains some of the original 6/6 windows and has a side entrance on the front or south of the building, and a later German sided addition. It is not known when the stone portion was moved from the west side of the tenant house, although a photograph taken earlier in the century records the building at its present location.

The interior of the summer kitchen has one room, a large walk-in fireplace with a brick raised hearth for butchering and an inset iron butchering kettle no longer in use. The fireplace wall has a storage closet and stairs to the loft above, which had been used as a smoke room.

The German sided one-and-one-half story one room addition has a butchering fireplace still in use. The present owner stated that when the family purchased the farm, the room had a dirt floor, now cemented, and was used to store wood. The addition and the summer kitchen have a continuous slate gable roof. There are two chimneys where the buildings meet, one brick and the other cement block for the addition.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Boyer/Mertz Farm

Section number 7 Page 4

The frame buildings on the farm are painted white with green trim and were built between 1871-1940. The buildings are located between the barn at the west side of the farmstead and the 1905 farmhouse on the east.

Wagonshed/hay barn - frame, one-and-one-half story located in the field has two corn cribs one on each eave end. The inside roof contains a portion of the wooden hay tract. Presently the building is used to house the farm machinery. It has a tin gable roof.

Wagonshed/corn crib - frame, two story has a gable tin roof with a frame addition to the east side. The large hex sign on the exterior duplicates those on the barn.

Buggy shed - one story, frame vertical sided, tin shed roof had been used to store buggies and is now used as a tractor shed.

Carriage shop - two story was enlarged and garage doors added to house the family's cars. It is frame German sided with 6/6 window sash and a tin gable roof. The interior contains the weights and pulleys that are used to raise and lower the stairway to the second floor. The building was originally used to manufacture buggies. Later the Angstadts used the second floor to house chickens and at present it is a garage.

Privy - frame, tin gabled roof.

## Contributing structures:

Pump house - frame, German sided with tin gable roof. This building has had several incarnations: it was the original milk house and it has the gearbox and belt wheels for a gas engine to pump water from the well beneath the building into a water trough where the milk was stored. The engine is no longer in place and the pump is located in the well; the building is now used for storage.

Four chicken houses - a one-and-one-half story frame vertical sided chicken house with a shed type tin roof which was converted from a pig sty; a one story chicken house with a loft, tin gable roof and frame

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Boyer/Mertz Farm -

Section number 7 Page 5

vertical siding on a cement block foundation which was also used as a pig sty; a one story frame vertical sided chicken house with a potato cellar and a shed type tin roof; a one story frame vertical sided chicken house with a tin shed roof.

Five stone cisterns - three still in use. The cisterns are located at the barn, near the wagonshed/corn crib, two at the 1905 house, and one at the tenant house. Well water has largely replaced the water supply of the cisterns, although they are still used to water livestock and for emergency storage.

Corn crib - with a small addition to the west side, a shed type tin roof located to the rear or north of the wagonshed/corn crib.

There are three non-contributing buildings which consist of: 1) a cement block milk house built 1946 with a slate gable roof located to the east of the barn. 2) a frame, one story tool shed with shed type tin roof which had been moved from Beilers Station, where it was used as a trolley stop. When the building started deteriorating it was rebuilt to the exact dimensions of the original. 3) a 2 1/2 story house with vinyl siding, asphalt shingle roof and cinder block foundation built by the Angstadt's son on one acre of the farm built two years ago.

The four non-contributing structures are: three wire corn cribs with tin roofs each holding 950 bushels of corn built ca.1950; a German sided chicken house with two metal ventilators in the shed type tin roof built 1947.

The buildings although altered through time maintain their integrity. The 1905 house has been little altered inside or out, the chimney on the back of the wash room has been removed. The ca.1871 tenant house has had front and rear porches enclosed, bathrooms added, and fireplaces closed. The barn had a gable roofed hay barn added to the front and west side and a rear addition to house the horsepower. The stone summer kitchen was moved to its present site and converted into a butcher house, it is presently used for storage. The frame addition was converted from a wood shed into a butcher house with butcher stove. Pig stys have been converted into chicken houses. Several modern corn storage facilities have been added but do not

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Boyer/Mertz Farm

Section number 7 Page 6

intrude on the historic resources. The original carriage shop has had a pent addition to the front which contains modern garage doors and is used for the family's cars and trucks. These changes do not interfere with the essential physical features that enable the historic resources to convey their past identity and character and portray the significant time period 1871 to 1940, 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)

Agriculture  
Architecture

Period of Significance

1871-1940

Significant Dates

1871 1905

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 Boyer/ Mertz farm is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A, and C. This farm is important for its over-100 year association with Berks County agriculture and is an example of a transitional 19th century non-mechanized diversified farm which, in the earlier part of the 20th century, converted to mechanization and dairy specialization. The property is an architecturally significant example of this type of farm with a full complement of Berks vernacular outbuildings intact and in use adapted to modern farming procedures. The 1905 house is essentially unchanged, and is a fine example of a vernacular farmhouse using high style features. Architecturally, its buildings portray in scope and detail a well organized and aesthetically pleasing farmstead group of the 1871 to 1940 period.

A patent was granted by John and Richard Penn to John Coates November 27, 1800. It came into the possession of Phillip Mertz June 30, 1802. The property remained in the Mertz family until 1845, at which time it was sold to Solomon and Benneville Boyer later Benneville became the sole owner. On April 26, 1901 the property again returned to the ownership of the Mertz family. It remained in the Mertz family until 1941, at which time Morris Shafer became the owner. In 1945 it was sold to Kuney and Arlene Angstadt, the parents of the present owner. The property was transferred to Ernest Angstadt August 17, 1972.

According to the barn datestone it was built by Benneville and Mary Boyer in 1871. It is also probable the Boyers built the present brick tenant house and the stone summer kitchen. Either the Boyer or Mertz

See continuation sheet



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Boyer/Mertz Farm

Section number 8 Page 2

family were carriage makers, who manufactured and sold carriages on the premises, the Mertz's built the 1905 house. Ernest Angstadt has lived on the farm from the time of his father's purchase in 1945, and ran the farm for his mother Arlene upon his father's death.

Architecturally, the buildings reflect their intended uses and are well-preserved examples of each particular form of Berks vernacular architecture. These include, the original house (used until her death by Arlene), the 1905 farmhouse, summer kitchen, butcher house, the bank barn, hay/wagonshed with corn cribs, wagonshed, corn cribs, pig stys now used as chicken houses, milk house, silo, privy. With the exception of the stone summer kitchen, the buildings complement one another in workmanship, style and the use of brick and frame as construction materials.

The buildings on the farm are clustered in the southern quarter of the property. One farm lane leads north from Bastian Road and another leads east from Noble Street to the farm buildings. A third lane leads north from the barn and continues north past the hay barn to the northern boundary of the property. The fourth lane leads east from Noble Street bisecting the property and continues to the western boundary of the farm. The field to the west of Noble Street is accessed by the road. The terrain on this farm is also very different from many of the other farms surveyed-- being very flat with few contours it easily lent itself to the larger fields needed to accommodate modern mechanized farming practices.

What makes the Boyer/ Mertz farm different from other farms surveyed is the absence of streams, springs, woodlands, meadows, and fencerows, only a few trees line the northwest section of the boundary. On most farms that had cisterns they were used in addition to the springs or streams. On this farm they were the prime source of water, and therefore they developed an elaborate system of water collection using spouts primarily off of the houses and barn.

The Angstadts have maintained much of the Pennsylvania German culture, and to a degree also the lifestyle. Mrs. Angstadt cultivates a garden and freezes and cans the produce. The Angstadts speak the Pennsylvania German dialect. With help from neighbors they butcher

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Boyer/Mertz Farm -

Section number 8 Page 3

several times a year. Sausage and scrapple are made and divided and the remainder is sold. When the neighbors come for butchering Mrs. Angstadt and the women cook meals for the working men. The Angstadts raise approximately 1,000 chickens and sell eggs, those over the age of thirteen months are sold locally for soup.

The Boyer/Mertz farm resembles the architecture of the Knorr/ Bare farm in Lower Heidelberg Township in the date of construction of the majority of its buildings (late 19th century to 1940), the construction materials, brick and frame, in its Victorian era bank barn with cupolas for ventilators. The Angstadt house like the Bare house incorporates high style features, although, the Angstadt house is perhaps more eclectic. The interior of the Angstadt and the Bare Houses both have cherry trim and an open stairway. Both have molded window and door surrounds and rosettes in squares on the door lintels.

The Knorr/ Bare and Boyer/ Mertz farms have a full complement of outbuildings. The farms are active dairy farms which have retained their older outbuildings adapting them for modern use while maintaining their integrity. To keep abreast of modern farming practices each have added new structures as needed while not intruding on the historic resources.

The Boyer/Mertz farm has been a part of agriculture in Berks County for over 100 years, adapting from a general family farm to a modern but diversified dairy farm, making changes as needed while retaining the basic integrity of the farmstead.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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 102 acres

UTM References

A	<u>18</u>	<u>434410</u>	<u>4483260</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>18</u>	<u>435260</u>	<u>4482720</u>

B	<u>18</u>	<u>434600</u>	<u>4483320</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<u>18</u>	<u>435660</u>	<u>4482900</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	<u>Louise Emery, Consultant</u>	date	<u>June 1991</u>
organization	<u>Berks County Conservancy</u>	telephone	<u>(215) 372-4992</u>
street & number	<u>960 Old Mill Road</u>	state	<u>PA</u>
city or town	<u>Wyomissing</u>	zip code	<u>19610</u>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Boyer-Mertz Farm

Section number 9 Page 1

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Bibliography:

Berks County Agricultural Survey, 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.

Montgomery, 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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Boyer/Mertz Farm

Section number 10 Page 1

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Boyer/Mertz Farm

## Boundary Description

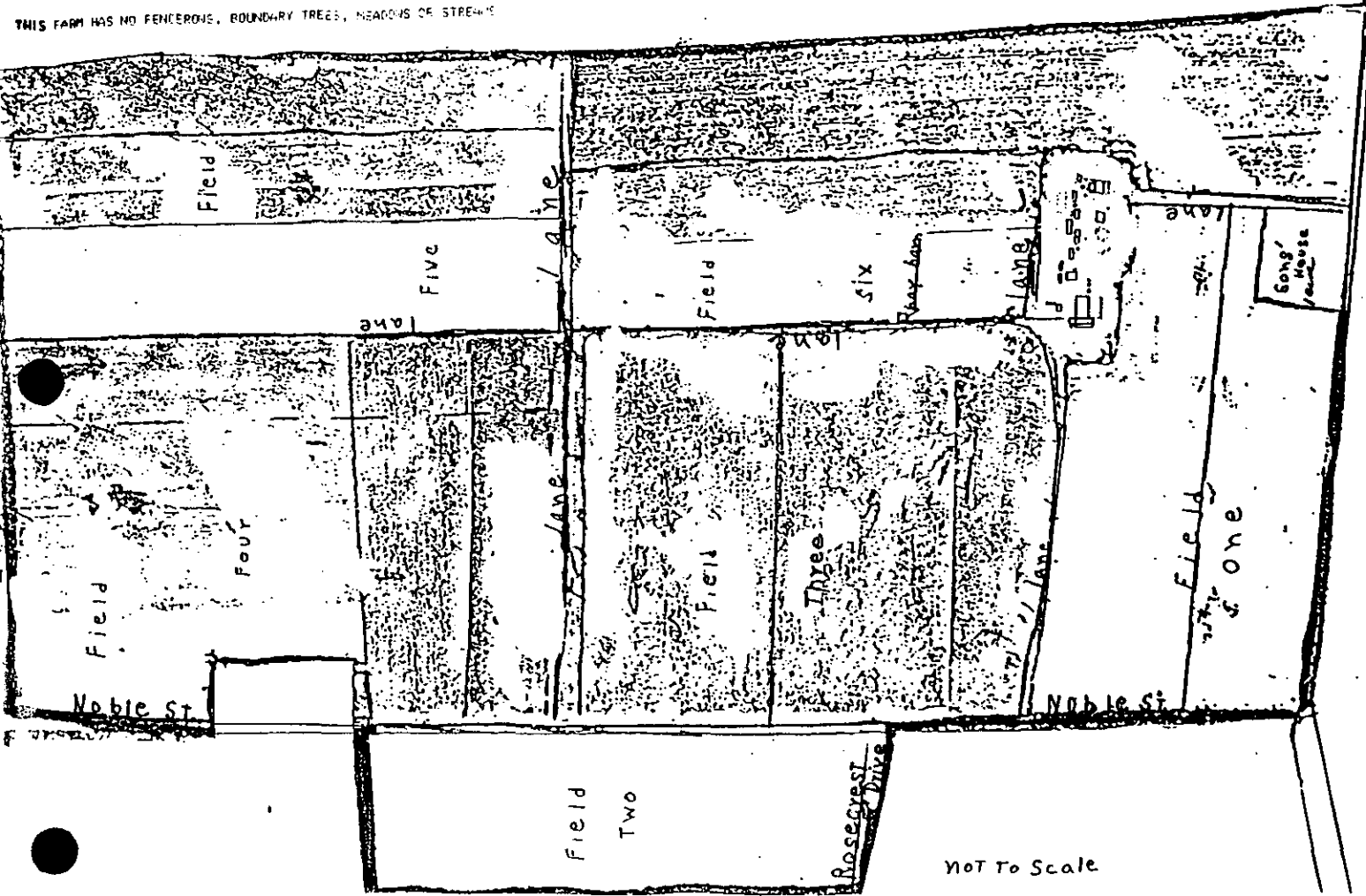
The boundary of the nominated property is the same as the farm boundary. The boundary description is found in Berks County Deed Book 1614, page 176, dated September 17, 1972.

## Boundary Justification

The present boundary of the farm is the historical boundary of the property for the past 50 years. Excluded from the property is the small parcel on the northwest corner of the property along Noble Street which had been sold over 50 years ago and now contains two one story houses, brick with asbestos shingle roofs built ca. 1960. The entire farm, excluding the acreage mentioned qualifies for the National Register under the criteria set forth in this nomination. The boundary includes the buildings and other features representative of a nineteenth century farm. Because the nomination is based primarily upon the historical and agricultural values of the entire property, the farm boundary is proposed as the boundary of the historic district.

Boyer - Angstadt Farm Berks Co. Pa

THIS FARM HAS NO FENCES, BOUNDARY TREES, MEADOWS OR STREAMS



NOT TO SCALE

Bastian Rd.

Noble St.

Noble St.

Rosequest Drive

Field Five

Field Four

Field Three

Field Two

Field One

Soy' house

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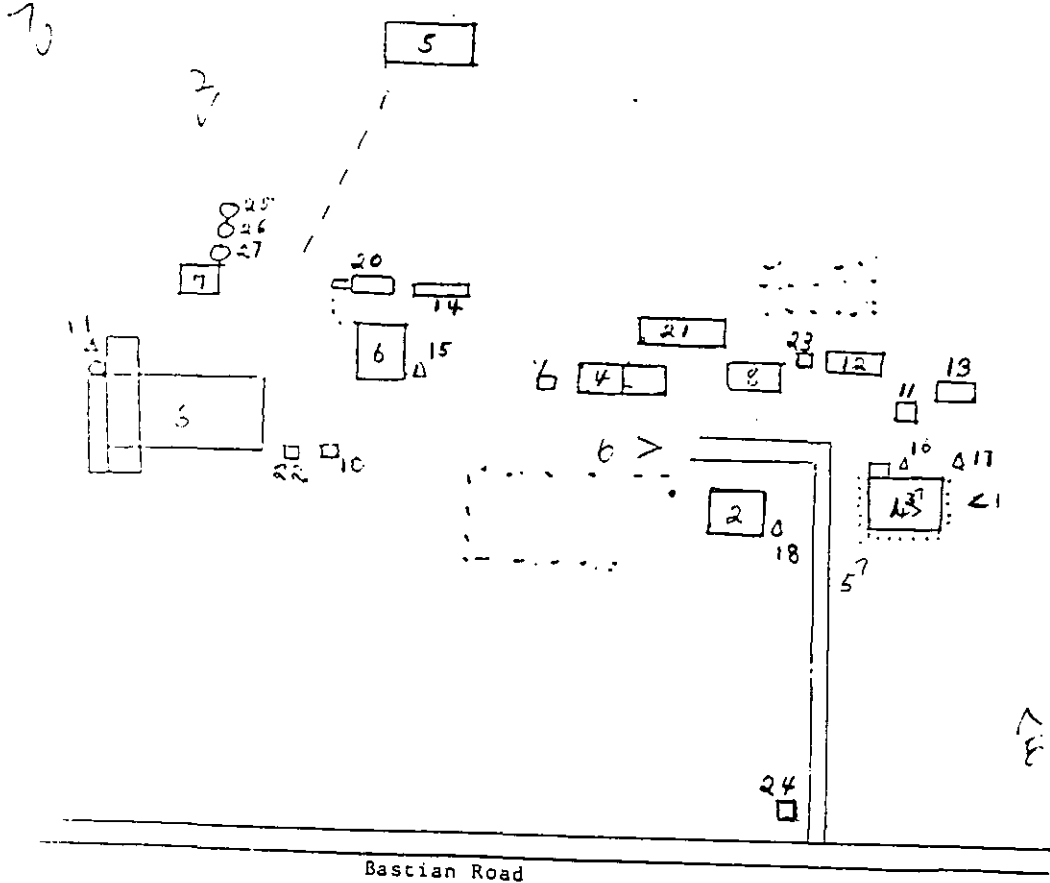
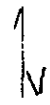
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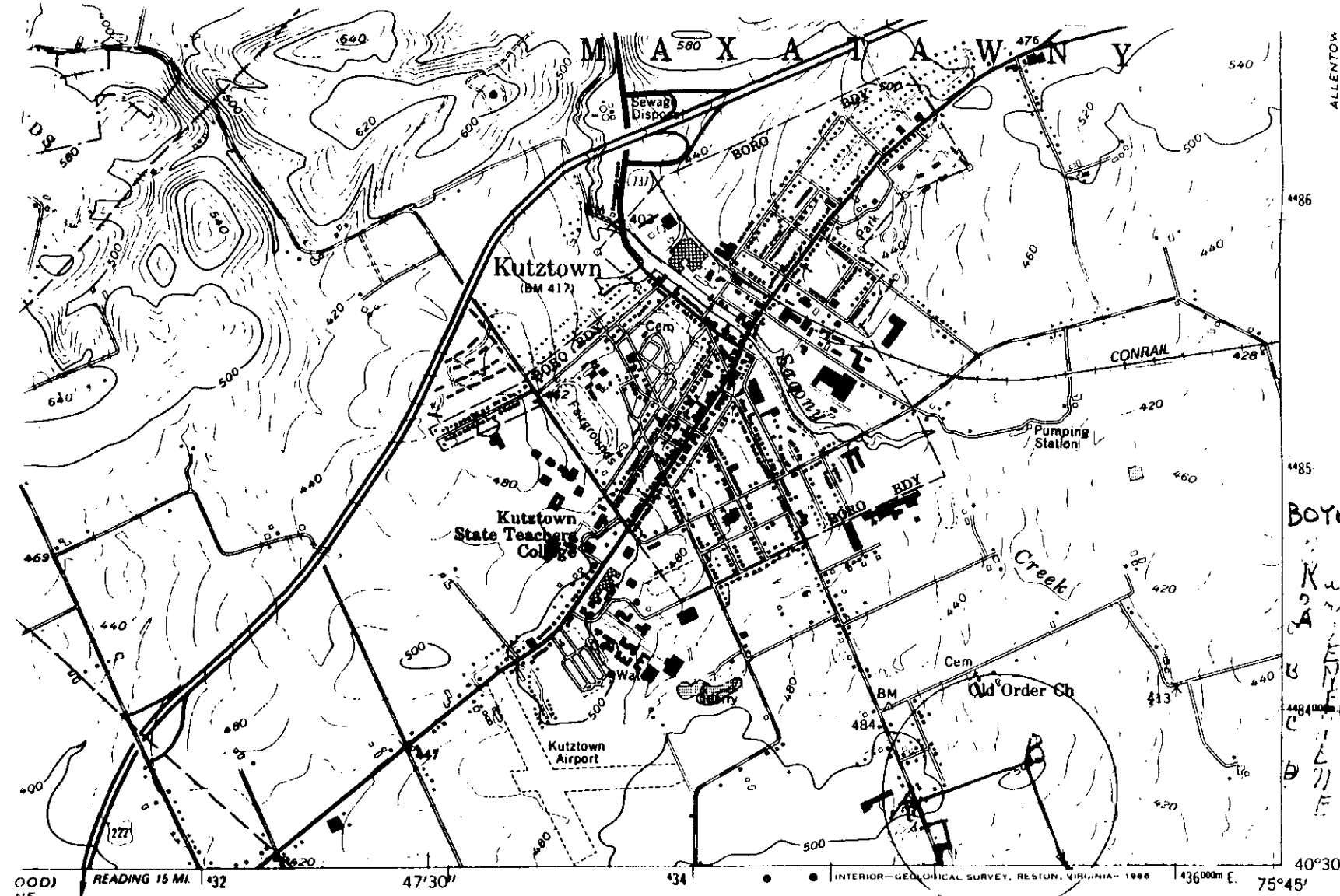
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BOYER-MERTZ FARM  
 BERKS COUNTY, PA.  
 FARMSTEAD PLAN



1. Farmhouse
2. Tenant house
3. Barn
4. Summer kitchen with addition
5. Wagonshed/hay barn
6. Wagonshed/corncrib
7. Buggy shed
8. Carriage shop
9. Privy
10. Pump house
11. Chicken house
12. Chicken house
13. Chicken House
14. Chicken House
15. Stone cistern
16. Stone cistern
17. Stone cistern
18. Stone cistern
19. Stone cistern
20. Corn crib
21. Chicken house n/c
22. Milk house n/c
23. Beilers Station tool shed n/c
24. House of Angstadt's son n/c
25. Wire corn crib n/c
26. Wire corn crib n/c
27. Milk

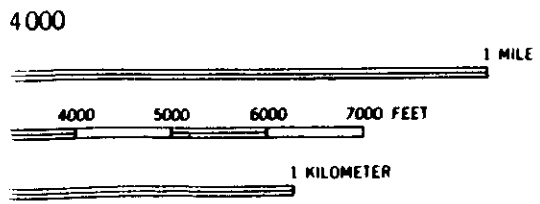
*Non-contributing photo views*



ALLENTON

BOYER-MERTZ  
 Kutztown  
 Kutztown Road  
 A - 4483 260  
 E - 434110  
 B N - 4483320  
 434600  
 C - 4482270  
 L - 435260  
 D - 4482900  
 E - 435660

READING 15 MI. 432 47'30" 434 436'00m E. 75°45'



SCALE 20 FEET  
 DATUM OF 1929

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**  
 Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
 Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -  
 U.S. Route ( ) State Route  
 ( ) Interstate Route

**KUTZTOWN, PA.**  
 SE/4 HAMBURG 15' QUADRANGLE  
 40075-E7-TF-024

1956  
 PHOTOREVISED 1969 AND 1974  
 DMA 5865 III SE SERIES V851

**YOAS SERVICES, INC.**  
 509 W. 4th St.  
 Williamsport, PA 17701  
 717-326-2041

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
 move the projection lines 6 meters south and  
 30 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

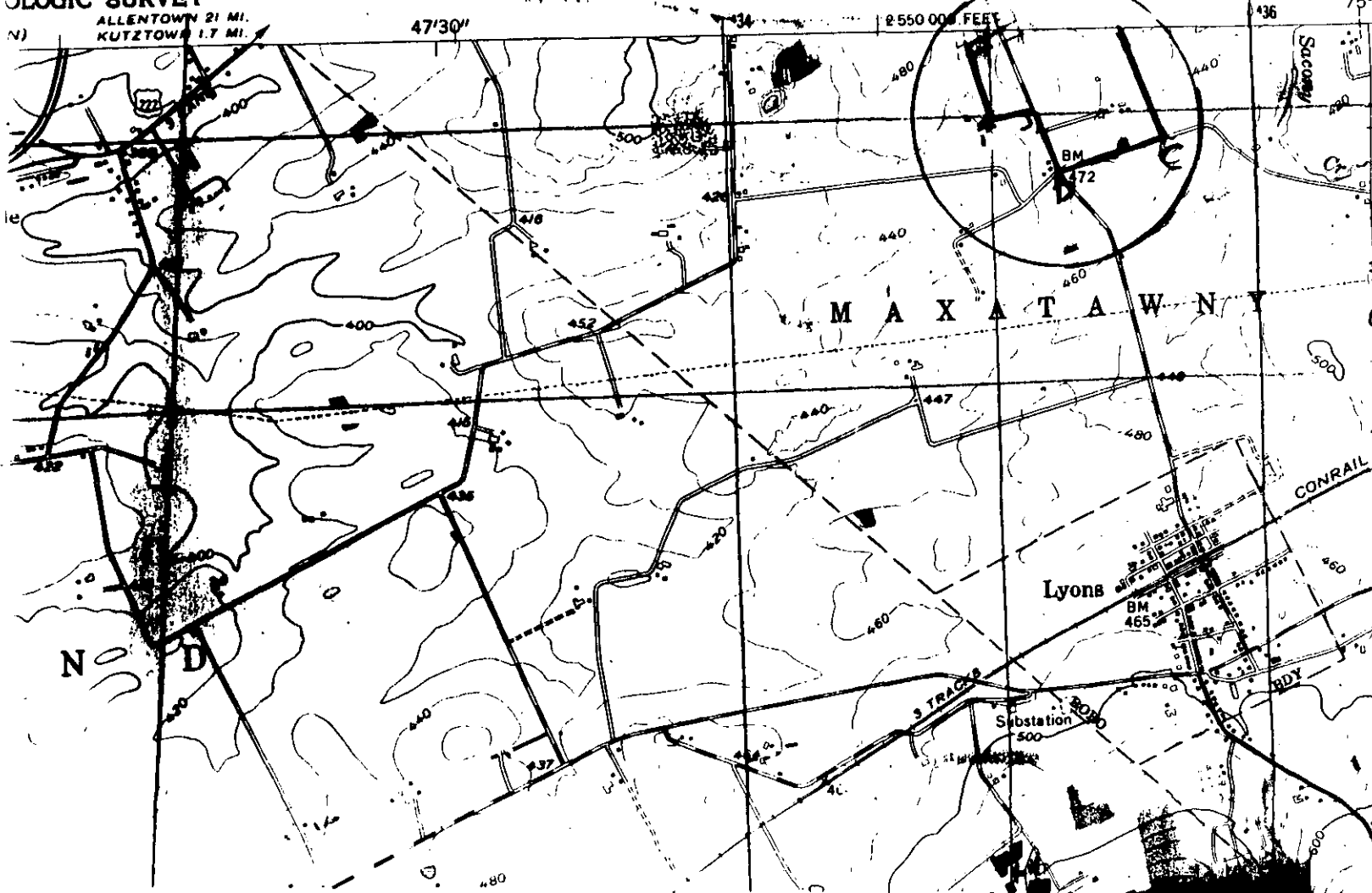


PENNSYLVANIA  
 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES  
 GEOLOGIC SURVEY

ALLENTOWN 21 MI.  
 KUTZTOWN 1.7 MI.

FLEETWOOD QUADRANGLE  
 PENNSYLVANIA—BERKS CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5885 II SW  
 (TOP-TOPI)



40°30'  
 BOYER-MERTZ  
 Farm  
 Berks Co, Fleetwood  
 Road, Zone 18

- A E 434410
- N 4583260
- N 4443300
- N 4443300
- B 15435000
- N 4443300
- D E 435660
- N 4443300

481  
 Christian  
 Schlegel Farm  
 Berks Co, Fleetwood  
 Road, Zone 18