

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 Geiger Mill
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Mill Road not for publication N/A
city, town Geigertown (Robeson Township) vicinity N/A
state PA code PA county Berks code 011 zip code 19523

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Cristmille 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
Domestic/single dwelling
Agriculture/outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use
Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: gristmill
Other: vernacular house and agricultural buildings

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stucco
walls stucco
roof asphalt
other tin

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Geiger Mill complex is located in the village of Geigertown in southern Robeson Township, situated about 200' north of Route 82 along Cold Run Creek. The four historic resources include, watercourses (pond and races), three contributing buildings vernacular in style, a banked 2 1/2 story plus basement, stucco over stone mill, the date stone reads " Paul Geiger Anno 1783", a c 1783, 2 1/2 story stucco over stone house, a c 1800 1 story stucco over stone smokehouse with a hipped asphalt shingle roof, one non-contributing building, a small frame storage shed with shingle roof c 1950. This mill complex has few changes that interfere with its ability to depict the significant time period.

The house was built in two sections, the front or earliest section dating from the time of the mill. The west facade has an entry porch with a gable roof, one 6/6 window on either side of the door, and three 6/6 windows on the second floor. There is a interior chimney on the north gable end. The two bay, 2 story rear section dates from 1853, and is also stucco over stone construction with an interior chimney to the rear. The present owners built a one story frame addition to the north gable end over Cold Run Creek. A breezeway connects the house and smokehouse all of which have strip shingle roofs. The interior of the house has been restored and has many original features including wide floor boards, reeded woodwork around windows and doors, wide beaded board doors, chair rail and two large open fireplaces.

The mill appears to be a 2 1/2 story structure, but the interior floor plan has a multi-level configuration with five different floor elevations. The fenestration reflects these levels. There are five 6/2 windows on the front or north facade, three windows on the south side, two windows on the west side and a window and door on the east gable end. There is no external bag hoist or upper story mill doors, the mill depending on an internal bag hoist in its operation. The mill has Dutch doors, frame windows a tin roof and an entry porch on the north side with a gable roof.

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

Geiger Mill

Section number 7 Page 2

The interior of the mill has interesting architectural features including the early floor levels for various types of equipment, stone corner fireplaces on the first and second levels and ladder type stairways. The mill has wide random width floor boards some measuring 17 1/2". Although most equipment has been removed, the early hurst frame exists as do the cut-outs that show the location of the millstones. A rare wrought iron elevator drive can be seen in the attic. A french buhr millstone was raised from the basement by the owner, and he also has the turbine although neither of these are in place.

The water power for the mill was supplied from Cold Run Creek which flowed into a pond and then into a headrace which entered the mill underground on the south side. The water flowed through the wheel pit and the tailrace exited underground on the north side and entered Cold Run Creek near the bridge. The system no longer contains water.

The exterior and interior architecture of the mill has changed very little since its construction in 1783, although most of the equipment has been removed and some of the original 6/6 sash have been replaced. The house has several additions as noted but the interior retains many original features. The watercourses no longer contain water but it is possible to determine how water power was delivered to the mill from the remains. 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 1783 until the mill ceased operations c 1919 shortly after World War I.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Industry
Architecture
Engineering

Period of Significance

1781 - c. 1919

Significant Dates

1781

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 Geiger Mill complex is eligible for the National Register under criteria A, C and D. This complex is important for its association with the county gristmill industry, being representative of a pattern of mills which were part of family farms. This property is an architecturally significant example of an eighteenth century mill complex. Although this mill has little equipment remaining its multi-level plan and fenestration which reflects these levels gives us valuable information on the placement of machinery and the operation of an eighteenth century mill.

As early as 1768 Paul Geiger applied for a land warrant. County historian Morton Montgomery in his history of 1886 states, "The old Geiger mill was built in 1781 by Paul Geiger, and remains in many respects as then put up having a Master wheel which was in use more than one hundred years. The present owner is John Marquart. Near this building John Geiger had a carding-mill, and Paul Geiger a sickle-factory, both of which have been discontinued."

The Geiger family are shown as the owners on the 1816, 1854 and 1862 county maps. The owner listed on the 1850 census of Manufactures is James Geiger, the mill having a capital of \$2,000., processing 6,000 bushels of wheat and rye with a product value of \$5,400. One man was employed and earned \$25 a month. In 1876 John Marquart purchased the mill from the Geiger family. In 1893 John Marquart sold the mill to Wayne Dampman, since that time the mill changed hands frequently, and ceased operating shortly after World War I.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Geiger Mill

Section number 8 Page 2

Because many of the architectural features of the original mill still exist on the exterior as well as the interior this is an important mill. The different floor levels give us valuable information on the placement of machinery and the operation of the mill. The interior actually has six levels including the basement, with ladder type stairways to each of the levels. The placement of windows reflect these levels. Another unique feature in the mill are the two early, large stone corner fireplaces.

Of the 104 mills in the Berks County Gristmill Survey six are definite 18th century survivors. (Some nine more mills for which we lack firm dates at this time appear likely to be contemporaries of these six.) The Geiger mill like the Kaufman and Snyder Mill are excellent examples of mill buildings from this era. These mills with their little-altered fenestration give clear evidence of the position of its original multi-level plan. This multi-level scheme was geared to the work the gristmill's men and machinery performed, and was typical in eighteenth-century mills.

The Geiger, Weidner, Griesemer/Brown and Thompson mill complexes illustrate an interesting finding of the Berks County Mill Survey: the majority of early mills surveyed were part of working farms. The building functions on these properties were, therefore, inter-related - the mill, house and outbuildings serving the mill and farm. The Geiger house serving as the miller's residence for many years. Additionally, the buildings have been part of the property since their construction. These factors give the buildings historical associations to each other and to the milling industry.

Architecturally, these buildings complement one another in their construction material (stone) workmanship, style, scale and setting. The beautiful Federal details in the house - the woodwork of the fireplace and the mantel, the reeded trim around the window and doors are an indication that the Geiger family were, for the time, fairly well-to-do.

In addition to housing the gristmill the local post office was operated from the mill and was known as "Geigers Mill", later it was changed to Gelgertown. For nearly 100 years the Geiger family passed the trade of milling from generation to generation providing milling services to the residents and lending the community their name. The buildings that housed the carding mill and sickle factory no longer remain, the mill is all that remains of these family enterprises. For 136 years the Geiger Mill was in operation - a long association to the milling industry of Berks County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Berks County Conservancy

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property approximately 1.75 acres

UTM References

A 18 4218 61510 44 510 11010
 Zone Easting Northing

C 18 4218 7310 44 510 01210

B 18 4218 71610 44 510 01810
 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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 2

Geiger Mill

Verbal Boundary Description

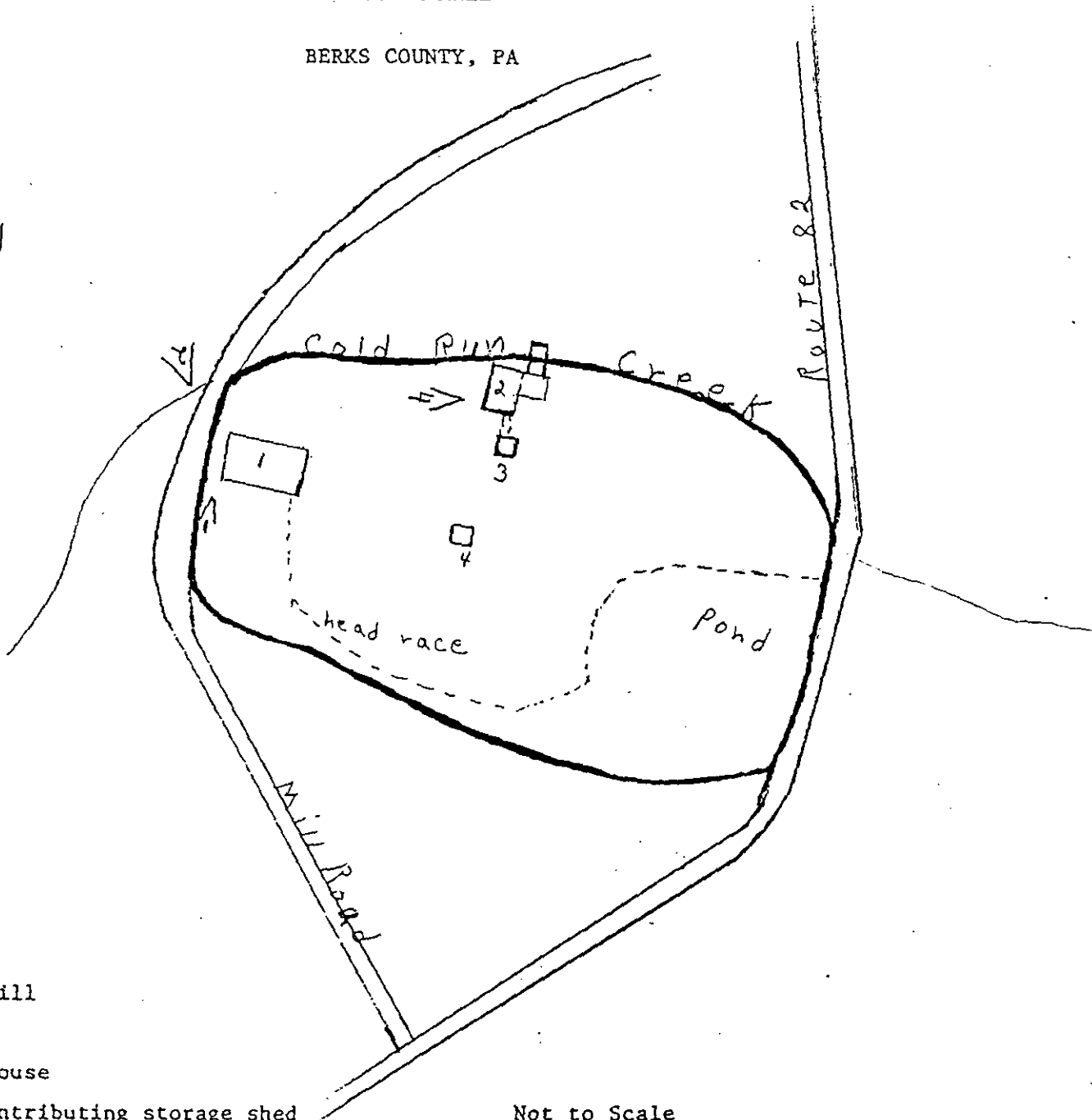
Starting at a point where Mill Road crosses Cold Run Creek proceed easterly on the south side of Cold Run Creek approximately 400' to Route 82, thence southerly on the west side of Route 82 approximately 300', thence westerly to Mill Road approximately 400', thence northerly on the east side of road approximately 200' to place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary was drawn to include the buildings on this property: the mill, house, smoke house, and the non-contributing storage shed. Excluded were the house, barns and outbuildings on the adjacent property located across Mill road. The boundary is formed by existing roads, a stream, and a contour line that can be seen on the USGS map.

GEIGER MILL

BERKS COUNTY, PA



- 1. Gristmill
- 2. House
- 3. Smokehouse
- 4. Non-contributing storage shed

Not to Scale

Key

_____ Boundry

< Photo Direction

