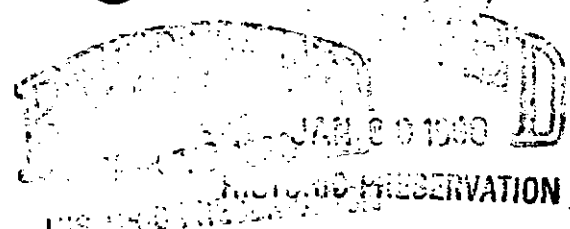


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Kauffman Mill  
other names/site number Spengler Mill

2. Location

street & number Mill Road and Mill Hill Road  not for publication N/A  
city, town Shartlesville (Upper Bern Township)  vicinity N/A  
state PA code PA county Berks code 011 zip code 19526

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>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ 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

Domestic/ single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: gristmill with attached dwelling

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls stone

weatherboard

roof metal

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Kauffman Mill is an early gristmill located in Upper Bern Township in Berks County, Pennsylvania. This is a rural farming area with open, hilly terrain, in the northern section of the "great valley" which runs along Route 22 south of the Blue Mountain. The mill stands at the corner of Mill and Mill Hill Roads, about 200 feet north of Mill Creek. The west gable end of the building is very close to Mill Hill Road, while the north side, or front of the mill is about eighty feet south of Mill Road. The area between Mill Road and the mill, now a parking space, was the site of the former water storage pond. A pipe took water from this pond below ground into the water wheel pit or turbine area, supplying power to the mill. A head race possibly 1500 feet long or more extended to the west roughly parallel with Mill Road, from which some remnants of its banks can be seen. A tail race exited the mill on the south side, entering the creek two to three hundred feet from the mill. This building is a rare example of a house and mill combined in which the house portion is of half-timber construction and the mill of stone. It is the only known building of its type in Berks County.

The mill is a banked building, one and one-half stories plus basement, built on land sloping south toward the creek and measuring 28'6" by 38'. The added living quarters are attached to the east gable end and extend the building another 17'6". Although this section is covered with horizontal board siding, the underlying structure can be seen at some places and appears to be framed hewn timber with vertical and diagonal members, infilled with stone, commonly called half-timbered. The aspect of mill and house is one of antiquity and amazing integrity of design and materials. Original plaster can be found on the walls of the house decorated with faint but clearly visible blue and yellow polka dots, yellow painted borders, and black

X See continuation sheet

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

Kauffman Mill

Section number 7 Page 2

baseboard. Wide floor boards, vertical beaded board partitions, nicely paneled doors, wrought iron hardware and similar early features are found in both sections of the building, giving evidence of little change in major architectural components since its presumed construction date in the late eighteenth century. A modern shed roofed building has been added to the south side of the mill for the storage of wagons or farm equipment. This has not altered the structure of the mill building.

The front or north facade, from west to east, has a widely spaced door and window in the mill and a closely spaced door and window in the house. The mortised and pegged door and window frames are flush with the exterior wall surface. The mill has a fine paneled Dutch door and six over six double hung window on this facade, representing the original door and window design. The house is covered with horizontal random width lapped boards having beaded edges. The east gable end of the mill can be viewed from the attic of the house. The exposed attic gable has a pointed wall with a stone flashing course suggesting an earlier pent eave on the mill and indicating that the house section is an addition rather than part of the original structure. The east gable of the house is two bays wide, with a door and window on the first floor, an attic window above, and a basement door in the stone lower level at the south side of this elevation. The modern shed roofed addition in the rear covers about two-thirds of the south mill facade, while the house has a full basement level of rubble stone construction and horizontal wood sheathing over half-timber above. The house has two windows on the first floor level (sash missing) and a tiny window opening into the basement. The mill features a small window to the office, above the wheel pit, visible outside the shed, while the section of wall inside the shed has fenestration that indicates a multi-level floor plan. On the basement level an early paneled Dutch door is set into its frame, flush with the exterior wall surface. To the east is a window opening and frame of the same period. Further to the east is a lower opening with a door which would have given access to the gear pit, and above it, on a level midway between basement and first floor, a properly framed window indicating that the stone floor level where the millstones were located would have been at the typical elevation, below the architectural first floor. The west gable end has evidence of a wood dateboard having been removed. The window frames in this

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

Kauffman Mill

Section number 7 Page 3

facade have been replaced by ones of modern steel. There is a flashing course indicating a pent eave. There are no door openings. The chimney was removed when the current steel roof was installed. The building is not in good repair and has serious structural problems.

The interior of the mill is essentially an empty building from which most of the milling equipment has been removed. The structural components of the building are intact and show evidence of the changes in technology over its history as an operating industrial enterprise. Starting in the basement, one can see the division into wheel pit, gear pit and ground floor work areas. The wooden floor is in place at the correct elevation, on grade, with wood sleepers supporting it. There are remnants of the hurst frame installed with the turbine and its flat belt drives. The summer beam supporting the first floor runs across the short dimension of the building and is hand hewn, 8" high by 7" wide. The west stone wall is corbelled out to support the hearth of the fireplace above. An open stairway of circular sawn material leads to the first floor.

The first floor flooring is random width, extremely wide (to 20"), tongue and groove, beaded on the under surface, and appears to be poplar. Projecting from the west wall is the fireplace which has a brick arched opening. The present first floor is on one plane to the area of the wheel house which is raised 1'5" above it and appears to be at its original elevation. There is a door to the house addition from the wheel house floor and, at its south end, the mill office which is set off by vertical, wide, random width, tongue and groove, beaded board walls. It has been shortened in a north-south direction approximately four feet to allow for the turbine installation. The office has an early paneled door.

The joists supporting the attic floor are hewn, 7" high by 5" on approximately 2'8" centers. The hewn summer beam running the long dimension of the building is in one piece and twelve inches square. There is a well made open ladder stair to the attic having beaded horses and ears on the treads. The attic flooring is mostly wide, probably poplar, as found on the first floor. The large chimney is against the west wall. Many of the roof members are recent work. There are three bins on the north

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Kauffman Mill

Section number 7 Page 4

---

side approximately 6' x 8' with 2'6" high sides and a low knee wall formed by a wide board. A doorway connects the mill attic to that of the house section. The interior condition of the mill is fair.

Regarding the machinery, the turbine and related drive equipment have been removed though the gate control remains. There is evidence of a hurst frame with two pairs of millstones, though no millstones are in place. A stone crane is in place on the stone floor and there is a second location for another. There are a few elements of stone furniture spread about. A paint staff used in dressing the stones leans against a first floor post. Structural evidence indicates that the original stone floor was at a lower elevation than is currently the case. There is an opening in the foundation wall separating the water wheel and gear pits for the shaft of a vertical water wheel. There is also a doorway in the mill end wall for installation and replacement of such shafts.

In the southeast corner of the attic, in the floor, are indications that a vertical wooden shaft and pulley were in place. Overhead is a large wooden horizontal shaft with a pin gear on one end and on the other two flat belt pulleys and a chain drive sprocket, one of which probably drove the bucket elevator from the basement which partially remains. There are several pulleys, shafts and pin gears stored in the attic, all of which would have been from the earlier technology.

The only milling machine remaining is a cob breaker used to reduce ear corn to pieces small enough to be put through the millstones. Manufactured by Schaeffer Merkle, it is built in on the wheel-house level. Drive power was by flat belt directly from the vertical turbine shaft. A belt tightener is in place. Ear corn was dumped in on this level and came out on the lower stone floor level. There are five storage bins along the south wall of the first floor.

**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 1939  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates  
c.1780  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person  
N/A  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder  
N/A  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Kauffman Mill is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A, C and D. Historically, it is significant in the area of Industry. It is one of the oldest mills in Berks County and represents the type of gristmill that is believed to have been prevalent in the 18th century. It exemplifies a custom mill, one that processed grain for the use of local farmers rather than for commercial sale. Architecturally, it is important as a rare example of an eighteenth century custom mill. Its small size and its simple configuration, lacking the typical exterior hoist hood or the large storage areas demonstrate architectural differences from the later and more common merchant mills. It is also an early example of a house-mill, found to be a much more common type of structure than was supposed before the Berks County 1988-89 mill study proved otherwise. This mill is considered important as a study artifact from which greater understanding of eighteenth century milling can be derived. Its integrity in exhibiting rare and early features in mill-house architecture is outstanding. This is the only mill building presently standing in Upper Bern Township, and is one of approximately thirty mills identified as eligible for the National Register by the Berks County Conservancy 1988-89 Gristmill Study.

See continuation sheet

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

Kauffman Mill

Section number 8 Page 2

The Kauffman mill is located in a rather remote section of the county, far from the historic transportation routes to Philadelphia, an area still largely undeveloped commercially. The 1816 map of Berks County is the first detailed map of the area, showing four mills in Upper Bern Township, unspecified as to the type of mill. This mill was listed as owned by Kauffman. In 1862 the owner was George Spengler, and the name "Spengler" is stenciled in red on the fireplace wall of the mill. By 1876, there were only two gristmills remaining in the township, this mill and a steam mill. According to a description in Morton Montgomery's History of Berks County published in 1886, "the Kauffman Mill remains as it was when built, but the capacity of the mill is small as the volume of the stream on which it is located is feeble." Despite these shortcomings, the mill continued production through the 19th century and into the early 20th century when it was operated by Sam Kauffman. Kauffman processed feed and flour on two pairs of stones, using water power, until about 1939. After his death the mill passed to his son Lawrence, who removed the equipment before selling the property to the present owner in the late 1970s.

This mill is one of the few house mills surviving in the county. Research findings and construction techniques indicate that the mill was built in the later half of the 18th century, and that the dwelling portion was added shortly after the mill was built. It is believed that this building housed the miller until the late 1900s when a separate house was constructed elsewhere on the property. During Sam Kauffman's tenure, before 1940, this house was used as the residence of the hired man. Since that time it has been vacant.

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

Kauffman Mill

Section number 8 Page 3

Architecturally this building is a real find. The combination stone mill and half-timbered house is unique among the county's eighteenth century architectural survivors. Although half-timbering was a well-known technique among Berks County's European immigrants and one or two examples of this type of building have been identified in the past, this is the only such building known to be standing today. Furthermore the interior painted wall decoration is quite a revelation and the many details of materials, construction and design are outstanding examples of the rural architecture of the period. The mill section, which pre-dates the living quarters, gives clear indication of its original form and technology. Although converted to a turbine power system, there is evidence of the earlier water wheel configuration, with foundation walls for the water wheel and gear pits in place and a doorway in the end wall for the installation and replacement of the large wooden shafts. The building as a whole is a delightful statement of simple rural design with gable end pent eaves, the main entrance on the long dimension of the first floor, and the clapboarded half-timbered house addition. The fenestration of the south wall clearly indicates the various floor levels of the basement and first floor to accommodate the original vertical water wheel and longitudinal hurst frame configuration. The interior continues the simple, sturdy design feeling with massive hewn summer beams and floor joists, and very wide boards for both flooring and office partitions.

Under Criterion D, this mill must be considered a remarkable artifact for both the casual and serious student of the history of mill architecture and technology. It is a unique Berks County mill-house design of exceptional structural integrity. The building is vacant and subject to vandalism at present. The owner does not have plans for its use nor is restoration of the mill a practical option. Therefore it is important to document this building through detailed description and National Register nomination.



9. Major Bibliographical References

Fagan, L. Township Map of Berks County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: H.F. Bridgens, 1862.

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

Richards, Henry M. Map of Berks County, 1816.

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

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

Acres of property Approximately one acre

UTM References

A	1,8	40,99,4,0	4,48,64,1,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1,8	40,99,9,0	4,48,62,8,0

B	1,8	40,99,6,0	4,48,64,1,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1,8	40,99,3,0	4,48,63,3,0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Beginning at the southeast corner of the intersection of Mill Road and Mill Hill Road, continue easterly along the south edge of Mill Road approximately 100 feet, then in a southeasterly direction passing east of mill building. but not including other nearby farm buildings, to a point on Mill Creek, about 300 feet, then northwesterly direction along the creek about 250 feet to the east edge of the bridge at Mill Hill Road, then northerly along the eastern edge  See continuation sheet  
of the road to the place of beginning

Boundary Justification This boundary includes the mill building, the land on which the mill pond was located, and the area of the stream closest to the mill. The head race is not included because most of it has been obliterated. The other farm buildings to the east of the nominated property have not been included as they are of a much later period than the mill. Roads and the stream determine the boundary on the north, west and south.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Phoebe Hopkins, Project Director &amp; Stephen Kindig, Consultant</u>	date	<u>July, 1989</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>

Kaufman Mill  
 011-UB-07  
 Berks County, PA

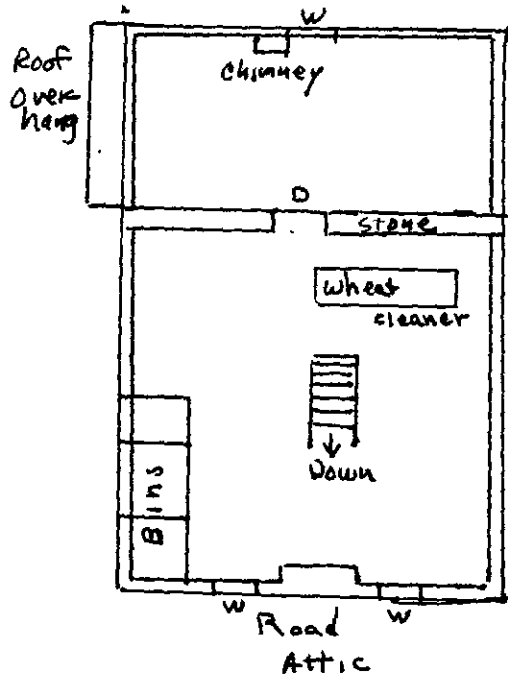
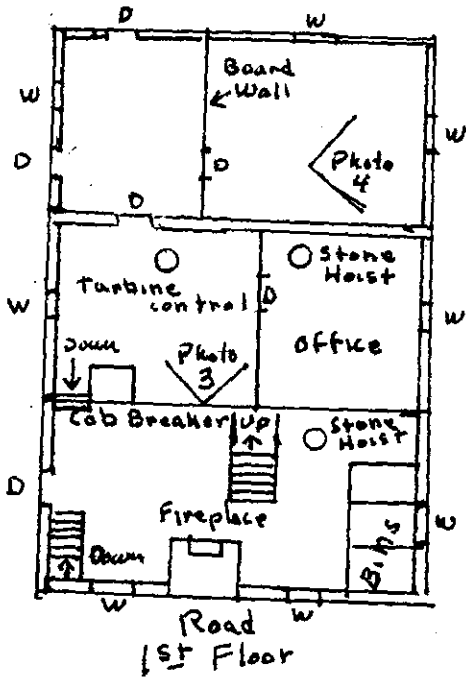
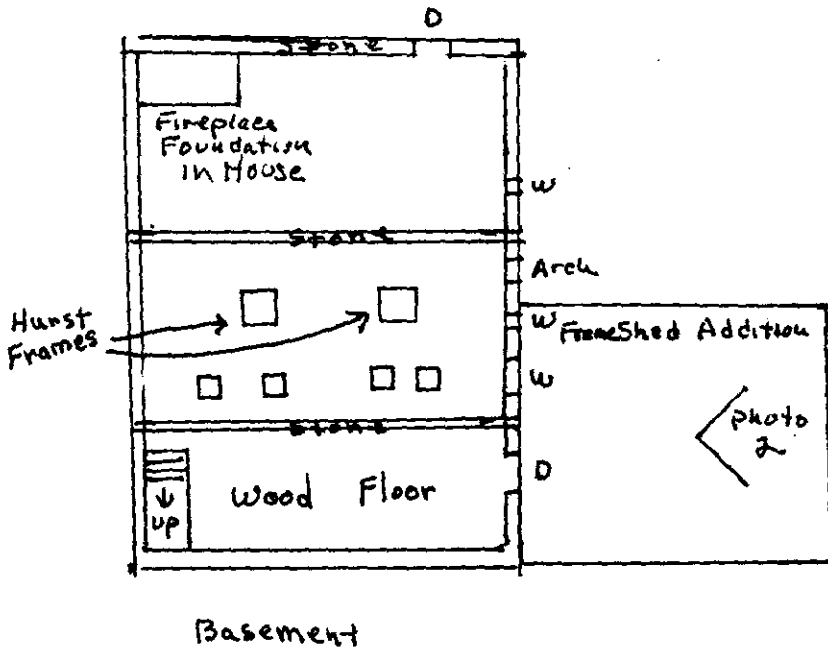
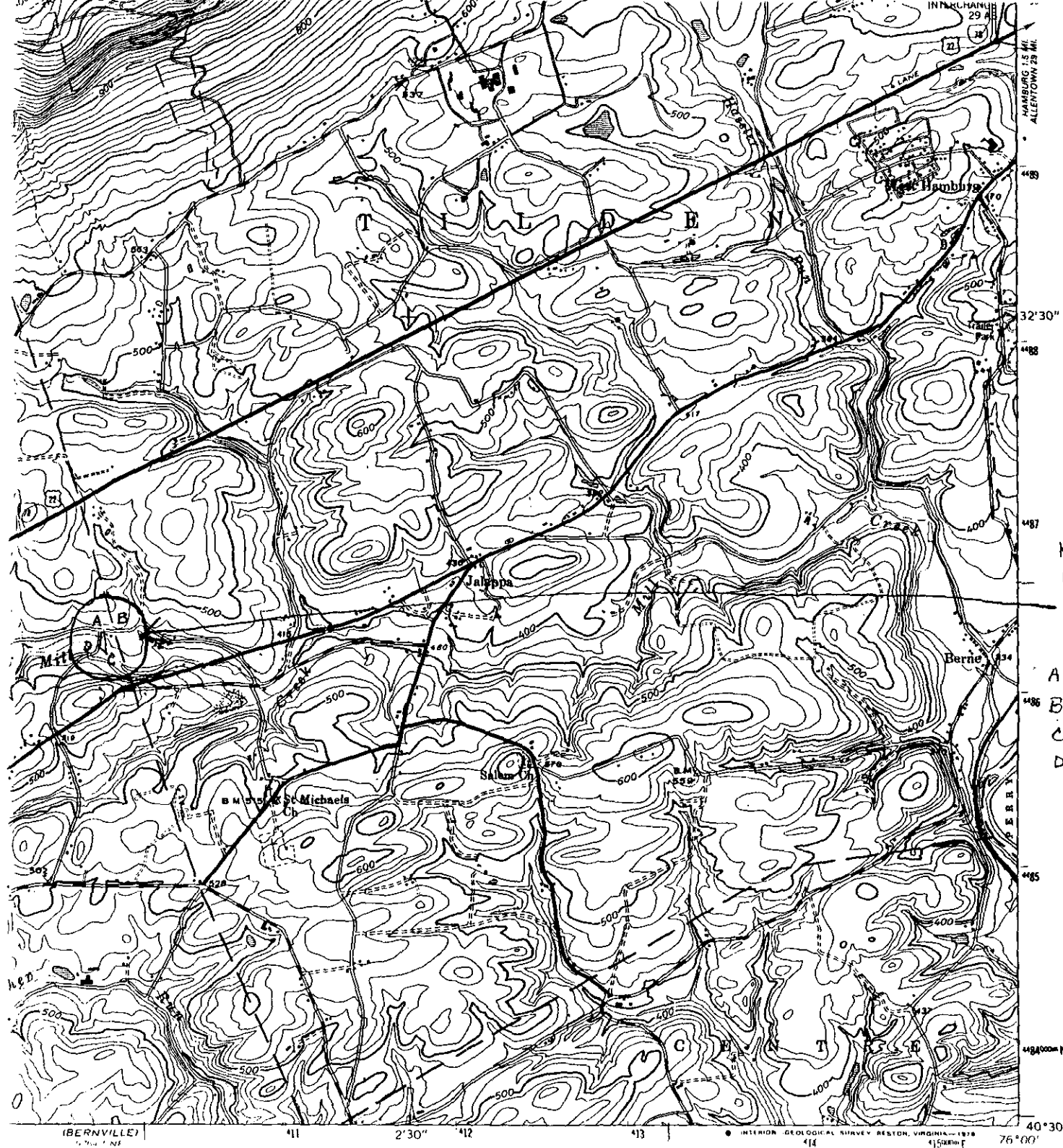


Photo 1



← North



Kauffman Mill  
 Berks County  
 Auburn Quadrangle  
 Zone 18  
 UTM references:  
 A 409940-4486410  
 B 409960-4486410  
 C 409990-4486380  
 D 409930-4486330