

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*.
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Oley Township Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number N/A

not for publication

city, town Oley Township

vicinity of

state Pennsylvania

code

county Berks

code

code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds, Berks County Court House

street & number 6th and Court Streets

city, town Reading,

state PA 19601

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Building Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1959

federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington, D.C.

state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

General

Oley Township is located in Berks County in southeastern Pennsylvania, approximately ten miles east of the city of Reading. It comprises most of the Oley Valley, a fertile and scenic pocket of farmland "almost entirely surrounded by hills, as it were, with the rest of the world shut out."¹ The township covers an area of 15,065 acres of some of the best agricultural land in the county. Roughly 80% of the land is open farmland, 10% is in scattered woodlots, and 10% is developed. The topography is gently rolling ranging in elevation from 300 to 500 feet within the valley and rising to 800 feet in the north-west corner. The township boundaries correspond fairly closely with the edges of the limestone valley along Bieber Creek to the north (view 1), Manatawny Creek to the east (view 2), and Oley Line Road to the south (view 3); and the hills above Monocacy Creek to the west (view 4). The farms and villages of this well-defined area, set apart geologically, topographically, and in cultural heritage, make up a historic district of remarkable integrity.

Throughout the township and defining its character are the buildings and landscape features of the mid-18th to late-19th centuries (view 5). Overall there are some 160 farmstead groupings, each with one or more buildings dating within the period 1740 to 1880. Every farmstead consists of a house and barn, and from one to ten outbuildings (view 6). Most common are stone cabins (views 7 & 8), springhouses (view 9), summer kitchens, bake-ovens, and smoke-houses (views 10, 11, and 12). Farm buildings such as small barns, sheds, and workshops exist in great variety (views 13 and 14). There are more than 500 such structures, all displaying insights into the building materials, construction techniques, architectural forms and types of lifestyle found in this locale in different periods. Surrounding many farmstead groupings are yards and barnyards, gardens, orchards, and groves of locust trees (views 14 & 15) which in turn are surrounded by meadows, pastures, and fields (views 1 & 16). These traditional farmland settings recall a 19th century use of space. With the exception of two modern highways (Rts. 73 and 662), township roads follow their 19th century cartways (view 17), level with the terrain, making right angle turns around fields, connecting the farms with the mills, churches, schools, and villages, and on two occasions passing through covered bridges (view 18).

Near the center of the township is the Village of Oley, the residential and commercial hub of the area. Its one Main Street has witnessed a 100-year period of development and includes several farmhouses c1800, a succession of dwelling houses, shops, and public buildings, mostly of brick, built 1830 to 1930, and only a few later 20th century homes (views 19, 20, 21, 22, 23). The collection of buildings here, upward of 150 residences and commercial buildings, displays a rich variety of forms, styles, building materials, and architectural details. As with the farmsteads, space and landscape define the setting. In front, the road or street (formerly tree-lined) surrounding each house, its fence, yard, garden, arbors, trees and plantings (view 24); and in the back along the alley, the sheds, barns, and carriage houses, mostly of frame construction (view 25). Despite modern innovations of paving, curbing, and some exterior building renovation, the architectural integrity of this residential grouping clearly imparts a nineteenth century sense of time and place.

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Title: Historical Sites of Berks County
1976 Map by George Meiser, IX
Historical Society of Berks County
Reading, PA

X County

Title: Architectural and Historic Resources Study of Oley Township
1980
Berks County Conservancy
Wyomissing, PA

X Local

Item 7. Description

Also contributing to the 19th century design of the community is the presence of five other small settlement areas near the edges of the township several miles distant from Oley Village. Each of these served as the location of a store or tavern in the early 1800s, later to be designated as a Post-Office site in the mid-1800s. These include the 18th century iron-making settlements of Oley Forge (view 26) and Oley Furnace (view 27) centered around an iron-master's mansion, store/tavern, gristmill, and worker's homes; and the 19th century cross-roads villages of Pleasantville (view 28), Yellow House (view 29), and Limekiln (view 30), each of which boasts a former store/tavern, lodge hall, church or school, and several dwellings.

Periods of Development

In looking at Oley Township as a whole, one can see elements of historic and architectural development covering a time-span of over 200 years. Based on the recently completed inventory and mapping of buildings, certain periods of significance can be identified.

1712-1740 was the settlement period when tracts were surveyed, fields were cleared, and shelters were most often constructed of logs. Because many of these log buildings were replaced by more permanent stone structures (sometimes on the same foundations), there are not a great number that remain. Possibly ten to twenty cabins, springhouses, and small barns or outbuildings survive from this period, although dates are difficult to determine. Most of these are stone buildings. Other reminders of the settlement period are certain property boundaries, family cemeteries (view 31), and roads (view 32).

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1740-1780 stands out as possibly the most significant period architecturally because the concentration, integrity, and diversity of Oleys' "Germanic Style" buildings of this era is thought to be unsurpassed in any other township in the country. This native Pennsylvania German colonial architecture exists in a variety of building types. Large steep-roofed stone houses, early stone barns with arched openings, and numerous small outbuildings are examples that can be found throughout the Oley Valley, on more than fifty farmstead locations.

1780-1820 is the other extremely significant period, representing the era of development of the fine Georgian manor, the great Pennsylvania stone barn, a thriving water-powered industry of mills, forges, and furnaces, and a network of roads with several inns and taverns. Another sixty farmsteads have buildings dating from this time.

1820-1860 was a significant period of growth with a population increase of 600. It marked the establishment of Oley Village which, in 1860, included 40 dwelling houses, two churches, two school houses, an academy, a tavern, two shops, and various small industries.² In the rest of the township over 100 houses were built, primarily plain-featured homes of stone or brick representing the vernacular style architecture that is the most common form to be found here.

1860-1900 witnessed little overall population growth but was a major period of village expansion. Brick Victorian featured homes were popular both in village and rural sites. At least sixty Oley Village homes and eighty rural dwellings have been dated from this time.

Development did not cease after 1900, but a period of very little growth lasted until 1950. At this time some of the land that had always been farmed was sold for other purposes - quarrying and housing. This has resulted in a fairly large number of "non-contributing" structures that have recently been added to the landscape. Fortunately they have been assimilated in such a way that the historic character overwhelmingly predominates.

Intrusions

At present the quarries occupy nearly 4% of the township area, and they have given new contours to the topography (views 33, 34, 35, 36). Operated by two companies at four different sites and they represent an intrusion in the southern section of rolling farmland.

New houses are found in two kinds of situations. Nearly two thirds are "concentrated" near Oley Village (view 37) in suburban-type neighborhoods distinct from the Main Street historic area, or grouped along Rt. 73 (view 38), a new highway with its own adjuncts (housing, sewer, and some commerce) cutting across farmland, providing a place to build. Here the fact that they are so grouped makes it easy to consider them lumped together in a small space, relatively insignificant when looking at the big picture. The other one-third of newer houses are widely scattered along township roads, (view 39, 40, 41) "diluted" in impact, where their residents enjoy being out in the country.

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Quarries and housing together occupy less than 10% of the township area. They serve as a counterpoint to the dominant historical theme that is found here, a reminder that it is the setting that holds it all together, the 12000-plus acres that were farmland in the 18th century and the 19th century, and still are, today. The key to the integrity of the district, it seems, is less dependent upon the integrity of its exceptional buildings (though this is impressive) as it is upon the integrity of the farmland which provides visual continuity linking all the farmsteads, villages, waterways, and woodlots, producing a total environmental of living history.

District Boundaries

The townships boundaries have been chosen as the district boundaries for the following reasons:

- 1) Definition. The township boundaries are clearly defined and are historic political boundaries. Although the original Oley territory included the townships of Exeter, Rockland, District, Earl, and Pike, the present boundary has existed since 1812. The southern border is marked by historic roads, dividing Oley from Exeter and Amity Townships. The other lines can be related to topographical changes that can be seen on the contour map. The Greater Oley Valley does include part of Pike (Keim settlements, Lobachsville and Pikeville villages), part of Exeter (Limekiln and Boone settlements) and part of Amity (Yellow House). These areas could become future "add-on" historic districts.
- 2) Visual Integrity. Upon entering Oley Township from almost any direction, one senses an emergence into an open area of well kept farmlands and scattered villages. Visually, historically, and agriculturally this area is a distinct entity, different from its surroundings.
- 3) Community Support. Because Oley Township is participating in the Rural Project of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, local government officials and citizens have helped with the township's historic sites inventory and support this nomination.

Building Inventory

An inventory of all township buildings and/or groups of buildings has been prepared by local volunteers. Each farmstead was counted as one site, regardless of the number of buildings or dwelling units on the premises. Each residential or commercial building was listed individually with the exception of the five modern residential tracts near Oley Village - Oley Meadows, Charmingdale, Rhodorf Hills, Clay Slate Road, and Mast Road. Those are uniform suburban-style developments in confined areas, where each tract was classified

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as one site. Ownership identification, architectural descriptions, historical information, and photographs were obtained for each property. Each site was classified as to significance with the assistance of Ellen Beasley and E. Garrett Brinton, Preservation Planning Consultants.

Literature searches of both primary and secondary sources were conducted to collect historical data for many of the significant sites. Style classifications were done in a general way, with representative examples chosen for the various architectural styles found in the township. Dates of construction were estimated for each building, based on datestones, maps, owners' information, and deed research. The condition and integrity of each site was evaluated by the field workers. The location of each site was keyed to the area H.E.L.P. maps, an emergency service system already in place. All of the above data was summarized for the purpose of this nomination.

Included on the following pages are:

- 7.A. Explanation of evaluation categories for the Oley Township survey.
- 7.B. Style categories and examples (keyed to photos and inventory)
- 7.C. Inventory summaries of Significance Classification, Dates of Buildings, and Outbuildings

Included in the appendix are:

- I. Oley Township Inventory in four parts
 - A. General Index-Oley Township 48 pages
 - B. Architectural-Description Oley Township 62 pages
 - C. General Index - Oley Village 21 pages
 - D. Architectural Description - Oley Village 18 pages

Information included is the site number (HELP system); the site number of those properties previously listed in the Berks County Conservancy survey; owner's name and address, photo inventory information; building use; date of construction; significance classification; architectural description including form, stories, bays, exterior material, notable features, condition, and integrity.

- II. Set of H.E.L.P. Systems maps for location of sites - 14 pages

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Included as accompanying documentation are:

Maps:

1. Set of four quadrangles of U.S.G.S. maps, 7.5 minute series to show the township boundaries. This set was used to produce the township base map of the same scale, but on one sheet. The corners of this base map were used as UTM reference points.
2. A land use/land cover map of the township identifying township roads, land use features, and public buildings.
3. A rural historic resources map showing locations of historic farmsteads, gristmills, blacksmith shops, limekilns, covered bridges, and cemeteries. Photo views are also marked on this map.
4. A historic resources map showing significance classifications.
5. A map showing dates of buildings.

Photographs:

A set of 70 black and white photographs, (5" x 7"s and 8" x 10"s), are included to illustrate the written description and significance sections. These are numbered in reference to the text and identified by HELP system number to be keyed to the inventory and the maps.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates _____ **Builder/Architect** _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Overview

Oley Township is one of many Pennsylvania Dutch farming communities located throughout the limestone valleys of southeastern and central Pennsylvania. However, because it is set apart topographically it has developed a unique identity. Ninety percent of its land area remains in its original use since settlement. Its concentration of 18th century stone farm buildings may be the greatest to be found in any one place. It has more designated historic sites including family homesteads and burial grounds, covered bridges, and grist-mills than any other part of Berks County. It has six historic villages. Its historic properties are distributed throughout the township, connected, for the most part, by a series of roads and fencerows that go back 100 to 200 years. Overall, it is an outstanding example of a Pennsylvania German farm community where the existing architectural and cultural heritage illustrates 250 years of rural development.

In Berks County, Oley Township is recognized as an important settlement area and a farming community of the first order. Within Pennsylvania it is considered significant for its associations with the early iron industry and certain early religious movements, as well as for its rural architecture of the 18th and early 19th centuries. In the mid-Atlantic region, Oley has been chosen by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a community worthy of an intensive effort in rural conservation. Through nomination to the National Register Oley Township seeks confirmation of its value as an entity, a historic district in which the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Settlement

The settlement of Oley Township between 1712 and 1740 was locally significant because it established the enduring character of the area. The mingling of people of different cultural backgrounds - French, German, Swiss and English - produced a community with a unique identity. Families were founded here that have remained for generation after generation. Patterns were established in fields and boundaries that persist to this day. The earliest of the remaining stone cabins, barns, springhouses, smoke houses and bakeovens were built marking the beginnings of a rich architectural heritage. Crafts were started, each farm having its specialty. By the time the township was officially chartered in 1740 it was a well-established working community of over forty farms.

One can speculate that Oley is what it is today because of the quality of heritage - the value system handed down through the generations, starting with the first settlers. The work ethic, the conservation ethic, the desire for independence and self-sufficiency - all are deep-rooted here. Through most of its existence, it has been a place of "Oley Families" holding to their heritage. For this reason there is unity and integrity to be found in its culture.

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Architecture

The wealth of Oley's architectural heritage is its most significant attribute, remarkable for its numbers, diversity, and quality. From the settlement period to the end of the 19th century, the range of architecture includes certain buildings "unique" to this area, others proclaimed the "best examples" of their type, many with a "distinctive Oley interpretation of style," and altogether an assemblage of vernacular architecture that presents a panorama of rural community development with very few gaps.

This architectural heritage as an expression of culture derives from Pennsylvania German values to build for permanence and to keep what can be used. Buildings were well-built. They were built to serve a function. When this function was no longer needed, they were made to serve some other function. Whether added-to, adapted, maintained or restored, they have lasted. Well over 700 buildings of the 18th and 19th centuries make up this historic resource.

Among Oley's most celebrated buildings, noteworthy for their integrity, adaptation to site, and expressive use of materials¹⁴ are the earliest steep-roofed stone cabins and farm buildings of medieval Germanic character, "buildings which illustrate the early chapters in America... the expression of a people who still cherished fresh memories of their homeland."¹⁵ Cited by Eleanor Raymond, Dr. G. Edwin Brumbaugh, and Robert C. Bucher¹⁶ for their outstanding Germanic character are the Abraham Bertolet Cabin (view 55), the Jacob Stauber Cabin (view 56), the DeTurk House (view 43), the Levan House (view 57), and the whole Kauffman Homestead (view 58), the "most intact complete farm group."

One feature associated with some of these buildings, the clay tile roof, is more abundant in Oley than any other place. There are thirty-eight tile-roofed buildings in the township, six on the Conrad Reiff farm along (view 59 and 60). Known as Oley Valley tiles, they were fashioned of native clay, designed with grooves to channel water to the central overlapping section. Because of their weight, heavy roof timbering and bracing was required.

Many mid-18th century farmhouses have been labeled "transitional style", denoting the transition from the center-chimney, plain-featured Germanic to the balanced formal Georgian style. End chimneys and a balanced five-bay facade might be combined with a steep roof or pent eaves as in the Cleaver Homestead (view 61), Peter Griesemer House (view 62), or John Hunter House (view 63).

By the end of the 18th century the Georgian style achieved its finest expression in the works of Gottlieb Drexel, builder of the Henry Fisher House, his masterpiece (view 64), and a number of other intricately detailed structures. Outstanding features of his work are the cornice moldings and doorway detail.

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(Nicholas Hunter House, view 65) These decorations were often repeated in interior
woodwork.¹⁷

The bulk of early 19th century township homes can be classified as "Pennsylvania German vernacular farmhouses." Primarily 2½ story, plain-featured rectangular stone buildings, they commonly have 2 to 5 bays with end chimneys, gable roofs, and 6 over 6 sashed windows with panelled shutters. Often they incorporate a rear wing which in many cases was an earlier house or summer kitchen. They may have porches along the front or at the ell. The same form was later adapted to brick and frame construction (view 15, 56, 66, 67, 68). As a group they exhibit the sturdy, orderly and functional character that befits the Pennsylvania Dutch farmland.

The development of a commercial center between 1830 to 1900, with the shops and homes of trades-people together with the homes of retired farmers, produced its own distinctive architecture expressing the thoughts and innovations of the times. Existing village architecture reflects a wide range of styles, materials, spatial relationships, and building types. This can be seen in representative streetscapes (view 19, 20, 21, 22, 23). The description given by Dr. Peter G. Bertolet in 1860 still rings true: "Some of the houses are fine buildings and the general appearance is clean and neat."¹⁸

Most of the types of buildings that have been built in Oley Township during the past two hundred years have survived in their appropriate settings. Enough of the total environment remains that it is possible to see and feel what rural areas of the period were like when passing from one type of place to another. One can visualize the activities that took place in the villages, along the streams at mills and forges, and on the farms. This affords an opportunity to explore the past open to anyone who visits Oley.

At a deeper level an opportunity to learn about the past through more technical and substantive research exists for anyone with the interest, skill, and time to devote to the subject. Oley represents a "gold mine" for scholarly research on architectural, cultured, social, and agricultural history. More than buildings remain to tell their stories. Family records, photographs, art-works, antiques, hand-crafts, and memories exist here spanning the generations. And still more is buried beneath the surface in archeological records. Taken all together Oley Township is a historical resource of infinite dimensions.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 15,065

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References

A	1,8	4	30	0,0,0	4,4	6,3	0,0,0
	Zone		Easting				Northing

B	1,8	4	3,0	0,0,0	4,4	7,4	5,0,0
	Zone		Easting				Northing

C	1,8	4	39	0,0,0	4,4	7,4	5,0,0
	Zone		Easting				Northing

D	1,8	4	3,9	0,0,0	4,4	6,3	0,0,0
	Zone		Easting				Northing

E							
	Zone		Easting				Northing

F							
	Zone		Easting				Northing

G							
	Zone		Easting				Northing

H							
	Zone		Easting				Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Phoebe L. Hopkins, Project Assistant

organization Oley Township Resource Cons. Project

date August 20, 1982

street & number R.D. #1

telephone 215-987-6558

city or town Oley

state PA 19547

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

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FOOTNOTES

1. Peter G. Bertolet, Fragments of the Past, Historical Sketches of Oley and Vicinity, 1860 (Oley, Pennsylvania, 1980), p. 1.
2. Bertolet, op. cit., p. 92.
3. John Joseph Stoudt, Early Pennsylvania Arts and Crafts, (New York, 1964), p. 29.
4. P.C. Croll, Annals of the Oley Valley (Reading, Pennsylvania, 1926), p. 119.
5. Croll, op. cit., p. 41-45.
Ibid
6. Croll, op. cit., p. 135.
7. Amos Long, Jr., The Pennsylvania German Family Farm, (Breinigsville, Pennsylvania, 1972) p. xiii.
8. Frederic Klees, The Pennsylvania Dutch, (New York, 1964), p. 193.
9. G. Edwin Brumbaugh, Colonial Architecture of the Pennsylvania Germans (Norristown, Pennsylvania, 1933), p. 26.
10. Klees, op. cit., p. 195.
11. John Joseph Stoudt, The Decorated Barns of Eastern Pennsylvania (Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, 1945) p. 7.
12. Croll, op. cit., p. 92.
13. Ibid. p. 106.
14. Eleanor Raymond, Early Domestic Architecture of Pennsylvania, (Exter, Pennsylvania, 1977 Reprint) Foreword.
15. Brumbaugh, op. cit., p.p. 26-47.
16. Robert C. Bucher, "Steep Roofs and Red Tiles", Pennsylvania Folklife, (Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1961), p.p. 18-26.
17. Dean Kennedy, "Farmhouses of Oley Valley," Pencil Points (New York, 1932) p.p. 214-226.
18. Bertolet, op. cit., p. 92.

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- Davis, A. M., Illustrated Historical Atlas of Berks County, Pennsylvania - 1876, (Corrected edition reprinted by H.S. in 1977-78, based on corrections by George M. Meiser, IX.) P.L., H.S., B.C.C.
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- Graeff, Arthur D. and Meiser, George M., IX, Echoes of Scholla - Illustrated: Choice Bits of Berks County History and Lore, The Berksiana Foundation, 1976. (Anecdotes selected from tri-weekly newspaper column in the Reading Times. Deals especially with canals and resort areas. Its 361 rare photos make it a valuable reference.) P.L.
- Hopkins, Phoebe Bertolet, "The DeTurk House of Oley" Historical Review of Berks County, Reading: Historical Society of Berks County Spring 1966.
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Description - Oley Township

BEGINNING at a point in Boyertown Pike, State Traffic Route 562, said point being 2700 feet East of the intersection of Route 562 with Route 662 in the Village of Yellow House; thence in and along Route 562 along the Township of Amity in a Northwesterly direction 8010 feet to a point; thence still along the Township of Amity in a southerly direction 950 feet to a point in Limekiln Road; thence in Limekiln Road along the Township of Amity and the Township of Exeter in a Northwesterly direction the various courses and distances: 19,920 feet to a point said point being approximately 2000 feet Northwest of the intersection of Limekiln Road and Weist School Road, said point being a corner in common of Exeter and Alsace Townships; thence leaving said road in a Northerly direction along the Township of Alsace 7030 feet to a point; then continuing along the Township of Alsace in a Northwesterly direction 4020 feet to a point a corner of Ruscombmanor Township; thence along the Township of Ruscombmanor the two following courses and distances: (1) in a Northeasterly direction crossing State Traffic Route 73 and crossing State Traffic Route 662, 7085 feet to a point; (2) in a Northerly direction 5600 feet to a point, a corner in common of Ruscombmanor and Rockland Townships, said point being a distance of 1000 feet West of the intersection of Hill Road and Furnace Road; thence along the Township of Rockland in a Southeasterly direction 10,800 feet to a monument on the East side of Forgedale Road, a corner in common of Rockland Township and Pike Township; thence continuing along the Township of Pike the three following courses and distances: (1) in a southeasterly direction 620 feet to a point approximately 400 feet East of Bertolet Mill Road; (2) in a Southerly direction 2020 feet to a point; (3) in a Southeasterly direction 5400 feet to a point; thence in a southerly direction along the Township of Pike and the Township of Earl crossing Route 73, 27,300 feet to a point, the place of BEGINNING.