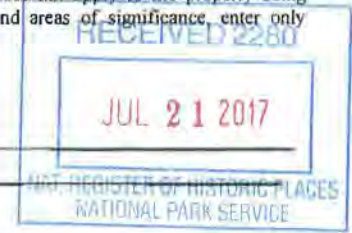


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Beck, William Henry & Clara Singer, Farm

Other names/site number: William and Norma Beck Farm

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Historic Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania, c.1700-1960

2. Location

Street & number: 950 Snyderstown Road

City or town: Howard State: PA County: Centre

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

 <hr/> Signature of certifying official/Title:	<u>7/19/2017</u> <hr/> Date
<u>Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission – State Historic Preservation Office</u> <hr/> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p> <hr/> Signature of commenting official:	
<hr/> Date	
<hr/> Title :	<hr/> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Patrick Anderson

Signature of the Keeper

8/31/2017

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Domestic-Single Dwelling
- Agriculture/Subsistence – Animal Facility
- Agriculture/Subsistence -- Storage
- Agriculture/Subsistence -- Processing
- _____
- _____
- _____

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Domestic-Single Dwelling
- Agriculture/Subsistence -- Storage
- Other -- Storage
- _____
- _____
- _____

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian Vernacular

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stone, wood, metal

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The William Henry & Clara Singer Beck Farm presently (2017) consists of ten buildings, plus farm fields and woodlots adding up to 100 acres and 114 perches. It still functions as a farm and the farmland is under protective easement. Snyderstown Road and Route 64 bisect the farmland into two long, narrow sections with the farmstead along and between the two roads; the farmstead buildings are mainly on the south side of Snyderstown Road, but two buildings stand on the opposite side. Of the ten buildings standing, seven retain historic fabric to some degree or another; six of these are contributing. Three (Morton building, garage, and potting shed) are modern and are noncontributing. There are two historic structures still extant (a cistern and well with pump with attachment for windmill machinery), but no sites or objects are currently standing. A total of twelve buildings previously existed as part of the farmstead and are no longer extant. In addition, five structures – an “out cellar,” windmill and associated underground concrete cooling tank, and three water cisterns – were once present and are no longer extant. The historic pattern of farm landscape elements has remained very consistent since the late 19th century. The fields and woodlots have retained their size, shape, and location, except for orchard plantings that have been removed. The crop fields, two woodlots, and tree lines should be regarded as contributing elements because of this historical continuity of use. The property retains all seven aspects of integrity, most strongly with regard to location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It possesses high integrity with regard to design because of the combined survival of historic buildings, fields, woodlots, pathways, and ornamental plantings.

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Narrative Description

Setting:

The William Henry & Clara Singer Beck Farm occupies gently sloping land in Walker Township, Centre County, between the ridges that define the Nittany Valley. It is in the Central Valleys Historic Agricultural Region. The farm consists of a long, narrow, roughly barbell shaped property parcel that straddles Route 64 and Snyder Road at its narrowest point. It is oriented roughly northwest-to-southeast. The property boundaries clearly coincide with visible treelines, field edges, and woodlots.

Exterior and interior materials, styles, and features of the contributing buildings:

The six extant historic (contributing) buildings are the house, barn, chicken coop, combination bake house/smoke house, summer kitchen, and milk house.

The house, built 1881, has a five-bay, center-door main block with a two-story bay window on the eastern end. A small porch is centered on the front. This block has two rooms and a center stair on the first floor, and three rooms on the second floor. The floor plan for the main block is common in Centre County – a simple two-room plan rather than the double-pile arrangement with center hall that one might expect from the five-bay exterior. An integral two-story ell has a porch on the western side. Another, narrower two-story section with shed roof porch on the east adjoins the first ell, creating a telescoping form. This last portion, according to the owner, was the original kitchen. After the freestanding summer kitchen was built, a door was cut to connect the house ell with the original kitchen on the second floor level. The original house had no fireplaces but did have three roof-ridge chimneys for stove heating placed near the gable ends. These were removed (down to below the roof ridge) in the early twentieth century (post 1914) when a metal roof replaced wood shingles. An exterior chimney then vented the kitchen stove and basement furnace. The house is constructed of a timber frame with mortise and tenon joinery. Two-inch thick vertical planks are attached to the frame, and then the whole is covered with horizontal wood siding. The windows are all 2/2 sash with shutters. The window trim, cornice returns, shutters, and porch posts are executed in typical late-Victorian fashion.

The house's interior retains a great deal of historic fabric, including original horsehair plaster, flooring, heating equipment, door knobs, latches, and locks, interior woodwork and moulding, and even some wallpaper. A bathroom was added in 1914, above the back section. At the same time, central heating was installed with a coal-burning furnace in the basement. Five original radiators survive from this system. In the late twentieth century a second bathroom was created from one of the upstairs rooms and the kitchen was modernized, but the overall floor plan and fittings have changed little.

The barn, built 1883, is a typical Pennsylvania bank barn built with post and beam construction and horizontal board cladding. Long regularly spaced louvered openings pierce the bankside and gable end walls; these have wood trim that closely matches the house window surrounds. On the upper level interior are a large forebay-side granary with eight bins; an "overden" over one threshing floor; eaves-side doors for threshing; and a gable-end side door in the granary for offloading. The upper level layout has two gable end mows and two interior

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floors. This barn has an unusually deep forebay, enclosed at the ends and supported by posts, that incorporates a pen for steers at the west end of the lower level. The lower level contains horse stables and cow stalls, probably at least from the early 20th century and likely earlier. Around 1950 the cow stalls were expanded by three, taking room away from the horse stable area. Overall the barn interior is an unusual example of a 19th-century Pennsylvania Barn that was never extensively altered for large-scale dairy production. Stanchions were never installed.

A combination bake oven/smokehouse building stands just to the rear of the house, off to the east. Based on function and construction and photographic evidence, it probably dates to the late 19th or early 20th century. This gable-front building is built of vertical boards. There is no door and loose construction on the oven side and tight-fitting door and battened construction on the smokehouse side. This visible difference nicely reflects the two functions. On the smoke house side, there are hooks for hanging meat, and a fold-down shelf for cutting. The smoke house side of the building was in use until about 1950. The brick masonry beehive oven is a "squirrel tail" type.

The summer kitchen has entrances in the gable end and on the east eaves side, and three 2/2 sash windows. It stands directly in line with the house extensions, just a few yards away. Its construction (vertical planks and narrow horizontal siding) plus family documentation suggests a construction date of c. 1914. The underpinning has been repaired with concrete blocks and with wood elements from the demolished tenant house. A simple one-room plan features the brick masonry housing for two large set-kettles at the south gable end.

The poultry house, sited just east of the barn, is an asymmetrical gabled building made of random-width vertical boards nailed to wooden sills and set on a concrete slab. Characteristically for this farm building type, the windows and chicken doors are set into the low south-facing eaves wall, and the human door is in the gable end facing the house. Inside are nest boxes on the rear wall and feed bins below the windows. A crosswise partition probably segregated hens and roosters. This building in its present configuration dates to the early twentieth century. It is possible that a late 19th century core was extensively renovated.

The milk house was probably built in 1938; among the family papers from September of that year is a credit to T. A. Orr for \$10.00 for "Building Milk House." (It is notable that we can identify the builder.) This is a small gable-entry balloon frame building with horizontal board cladding, set on a concrete foundation. According to the owner it was moved about eleven feet in 1946 to get it further from the barn drip line. The entire interior is lined with tightly joined beaded board, probably reflecting sanitation regulations. The building has one fixed six-light window. The original cooler that held the water supply, and the condenser that cooled it, are no longer extant.

The noncontributing buildings:

Three modern buildings complete the farmstead ensemble: a garage, metal Morton storage building, and potting shed. Across the street sits a typical corncrib made of narrow wooden slats on a concrete foundation, with a hatch in the roof for loading. This building was created after 2000 from the remnants of two separate cribs that originally stood here. These are all noncontributing.

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The buildings that have been removed:

A number of buildings and structures have been removed from the farmstead. On the south side of Snyderstown road once stood: a second barn, a privy, a buggy shed/garage, and combination structure that intersected the house at right angles by the back steps on the west side. This contained wood house, coal bin, and ice house and cool storage. On the opposite side of the road there was a pigsty, tenant house, machinery shed, privy, chicken house, summer kitchen/wood house, cooling house for water, and scale shed. In addition, three water cisterns and one windmill are no longer extant. The tenant house was removed around 1971, the machinery shed and buggy shed /garage after 2000. The second barn and scale house were removed in the thirties and the remainder after the 1940s.

The Landscape Elements:

Most of the 100 acres are devoted to crops. Aerial photographs from 1938, 1957, and 1968 show a strong consistency over time in shape and size down to the present. Even the orientation of cropping lines (roughly parallel to the two roads) has remained constant. At the southeast end of the parcel, two woodlots remain precisely as they were in the historic aerials. Little Fishing Creek runs along Route 64 where it crosses the property. A recent woodlot has developed along the north side of Route 64 between it and the farmstead. At the northwest corner of the property, an "L" shaped tree line shows on historic aerials and remains today. In 1938 the tree lines extended further, wrapping around the entire property line as far as Snyderstown Road. In addition, a line of fruit trees ran northwest to southeast through the middle of two farm fields; this linear orchard disappeared in bits after 1957, as did a few more apple trees just north of Snyderstown Road.

Immediately around the farmstead, five large maple trees, a Concord grape vine planting, and lilacs have survived since the 1920s. Other traditional perennial plantings that are at least fifty years old include hollyhocks, lilies of the valley, and rhubarb. A concrete front walk was laid out in the early twentieth century. By the creek, an ice pond area was created in the early twentieth century. (This is being treated here as an uncounted feature.) It is still there, though it is no longer filled regularly.

Boundaries:

This is a historic legal parcel that has had its current boundaries since at least 1890 and probably since 1881.

Integrity:

Integrity of location: The property and buildings generally possess integrity of location. One building (a milk house) was moved in the mid 1940s, but its relocation fits within the customary pattern of frequent moving of small agricultural buildings. The case of the corn crib, which is a recent amalgamation of two earlier corn cribs and therefore has resulted in some relocation, compromises its integrity of location. The property itself possesses integrity of location, since all the other buildings, farm fields, lots, relationship to roadways have changed little.

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Integrity of design: The farm's individual buildings retain integrity of design. The farm house retains substantially its interior and exterior construction fabric with the exception of modernized kitchen and bathroom. The house floor plan is barely altered. The barn retains its construction and its essential features (forebay, banked construction) very substantially. It also retains its original late 19th century floor plan to an unusual degree. On the upper level, the mow:floor:floor:mow plan with granary remains. The lower level is a comparatively rare case in which the 19th-century stables for horses, cows, and steers have remained in place. Most basements in surviving Pennsylvania Barns have had their interiors almost entirely reworked for dairying, so the Beck barn's integrity in this regard is noteworthy. Even the alteration to add cow stalls took place in the historic period and therefore contributes to significance. A mid twentieth century tenant cut windows in the lower-level gable end for additional lighting; these were closed in again by the present owner in the 1980s. The combination smokehouse/bake oven and the summer kitchen retain substantial historic fabric in foundation, walls, and framing. Both buildings still have their original layout. The beehive oven itself has undergone some repairs, including new stucco and chimney and brick masonry around oven door. The stone foundation has been repointed. Both the summer kitchen and smokehouse/bakeoven buildings have new metal roofs. The poultry house was rebuilt (perhaps from a smaller structure visible in the 1896 photo) in the early twentieth century. (Documentation comes from family papers.) It still has almost all of the historic construction materials from the twentieth century as well as the 1920s floor plan, and even period interior nest boxes and feed boxes. The corn crib is an unusual case where integrity of design is concerned. On one hand, it consists of original materials except for the foundation, and it faithfully follows traditional plan, volume, materials, and roof opening; on the other, it was rebuilt in the 2000s from two corn cribs. Therefore even though it is made of historic materials to a historically accurate design, it lacks integrity.

The farmstead as a whole retains the essence of its original linear plan and nicely shows the relationships among house, summer kitchen, smokehouse/bake oven, and poultry house, merging into the barn/milk house assemblage. In addition, the consistency in scale, appearance, and architectural vocabulary is characteristic for the region. Like any working farmstead, it has lost buildings. The missing buildings are regrettable losses that do diminish integrity of design. The second barn and scale shed would have been somewhat unusual, so their removal does not detract from the property's representativeness or agricultural significance; in any case, they were removed before 1960 by the farm operators. In every case, surviving features demonstrate connections to the key historic production patterns that the missing buildings would have represented. Survival of the windmill and orchard would be an exceptional rarity, a plus if they are extant but not necessarily a minus if not. The survival of one cistern is unusual and enhances the site's significance. In scale and finish the three modern outbuildings detract little from integrity of design, since in scale and finish they are very much in keeping with the historic fabric. The Morton building occupies the site of the machinery shed. Some historic materials from the demolished tenant house were used in the garage.

The farm landscape retains substantial integrity of design, because its historic acreage has been present at least 125 years and probably longer. We know for certain that its field, woodlot, treeline, and circulation patterns have continued (except for removal of fruit trees and some tree lines) at least since the 1930s. And we know from the agricultural census of 1850 and 1880 that farm land use was quite close to the present proportion of wood and improved acreage, so it is reasonable to conclude that this continuity stretches back to the original division of the farm. The survival of perennial plantings and trees around the farmstead is also noteworthy.

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Integrity of setting: The farm retains it to a strong degree. On every side it is surrounded by open farmland and other farms, all still being cultivated. The nearby hamlet of Snyderstown is a historic element as are the roads (Snyderstown Road was built in the 19th century and Route 64 (first a railroad line, located in 1958.)

Integrity of materials: This is substantially present. Historic construction materials and landscape elements are a strong presence. Some elements, like the bakeoven, have been repaired, but still retain most of their original fabric.

Integrity of workmanship: This is demonstrated in the wood framing systems from timber framing to plank to modified light wood framing evident in the various farm buildings, in the site plan of the farmstead, and in the continued plan of farm fields and woodlots.

Integrity of feeling is certainly present because the historic resources and landscapes predominate in one's experience of the place.

Integrity of association is also certainly present since the property has been farmed since the 1850s. The easement on the property means that it will continue to be farmed in perpetuity.

Conclusion/ Physical Description Section:

The Beck Farm presently (2017) consists of ten buildings, plus farm fields and woodlots adding up to 100 acres and 114 perches. Seven of the ten extant buildings retain historic fabric, and of these six are contributing buildings, while three are noncontributing. There are two historic structures still extant, and no sites or objects are currently extant. Twelve previous buildings and five previous structures are no longer extant. Of these, three were removed after 1971 and the others were probably removed before the 1960s, that is during the historic period. The historic pattern of farm landscape elements has remained very consistent since the late nineteenth century. The fields and woodlots have retained their historic size, shape, and location, except for orchard plantings that have been removed. The crop fields, two woodlots, and tree lines are therefore contributing elements. The property as a whole retains all seven aspects of integrity, most strongly with regard to location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Despite the loss of some historic resources, it possesses high integrity with regard to design because the surviving contributing buildings and landscape elements possess an exceptional degree of continuity with past forms and materials.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance
1880-1960

Significant Dates

n/a

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

n/a

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The property type is significant locally under Criterion A for Agriculture, as measured against the Registration Requirements for the Central Valleys, as defined in the Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania MPDF. Because the present farm came into being in 1880, the Period of Significance is from then to 1960, the cutoff year for the MPDF.

The Beck Farm is here treated as a property type of “farm” as laid out in the MPDF. The property’s significance derives from the many and pervasive ways in which it meets the MPDF Registration Requirements for the Central Valleys. These requirements stipulate that a property must clearly reflect the historic product mix, household strategies, and labor patterns that prevailed in Central Valleys farming between 1880 and 1960. Not only does the Beck Farm’s production history fit squarely within Central Valleys patterns of agricultural change over time, but its landscape reflects that history in many ways.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The present farm of 100 acres and 114 perches first appears in the legal record in 1890, when it was formally transferred to William Henry Beck by various heirs of his father Henry Beck, who had died in 1884. According to the present owner, Henry had set aside the acreage for William Henry in 1881. The house and barn were built soon after.

The property type is a “farm” which will be assessed here for significance under Criterion A for Agriculture, under against the Registration Requirements for the Central Valleys, as defined in the Pennsylvania MPDF for Agriculture. The property meets the Registration Requirements because it demonstrates change over time in Central Valleys agriculture from about 1880 to 1960.

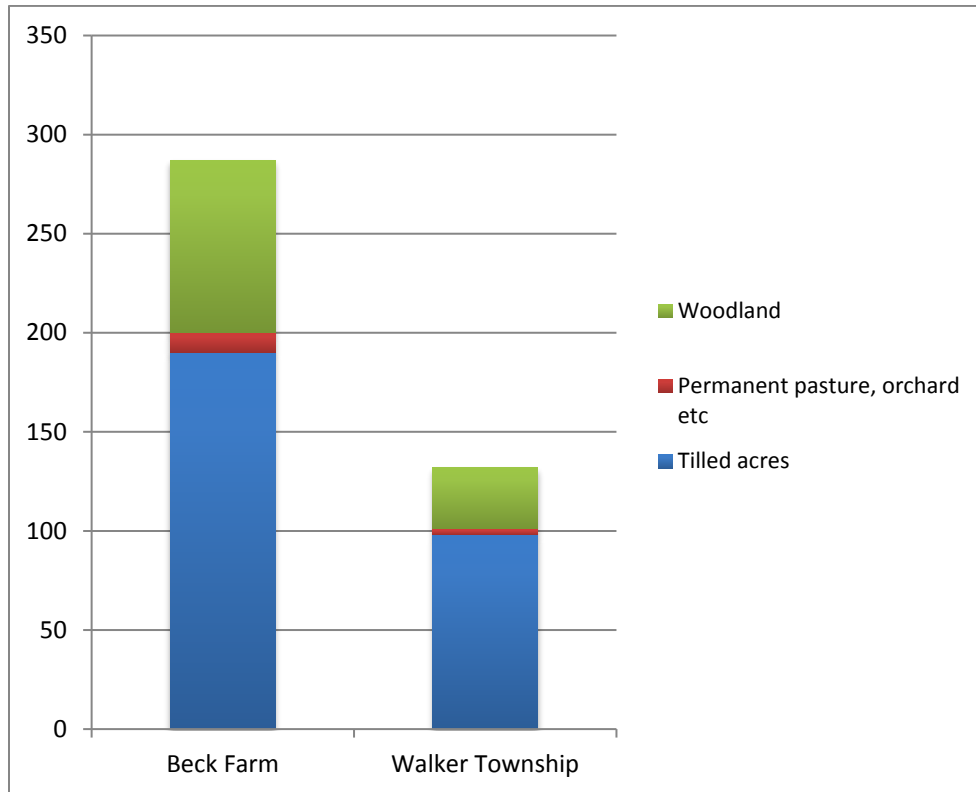
1880-c. 1920: a High Powered Feed Grain and Livestock Economy

The Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), “Historic Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania,” sets out “Registration Requirements” for properties in the Central Valleys Historic Agricultural Region. A farm’s production should be at or above average for the region and the farm’s built environment should reflect the product mix and patterns of mechanization, labor, and tenancy. Agriculture in the Central Valleys during the period c. 1880-1920 featured a diversified production system in which above-average mechanization, an emphasis on crops (especially grains), livestock feeding (especially steers and swine), and a system of kinship-based share tenancy were the salient elements. The Beck Farm mirrored the region’s production patterns quite closely. A comparison with the 1880 agricultural census shows that the Beck Farm (on the verge of being divided) was larger than the average Walker Township farm, and correspondingly yielded more hay and grain, carried more livestock, and produced more butter. Proportionally, however, the production mix was very similar to that of the township and of the Central Valleys agricultural region as a whole. The only exception would be that the Beck Farm had more sheep in 1880. With regard to mechanization, the Beck Farm was

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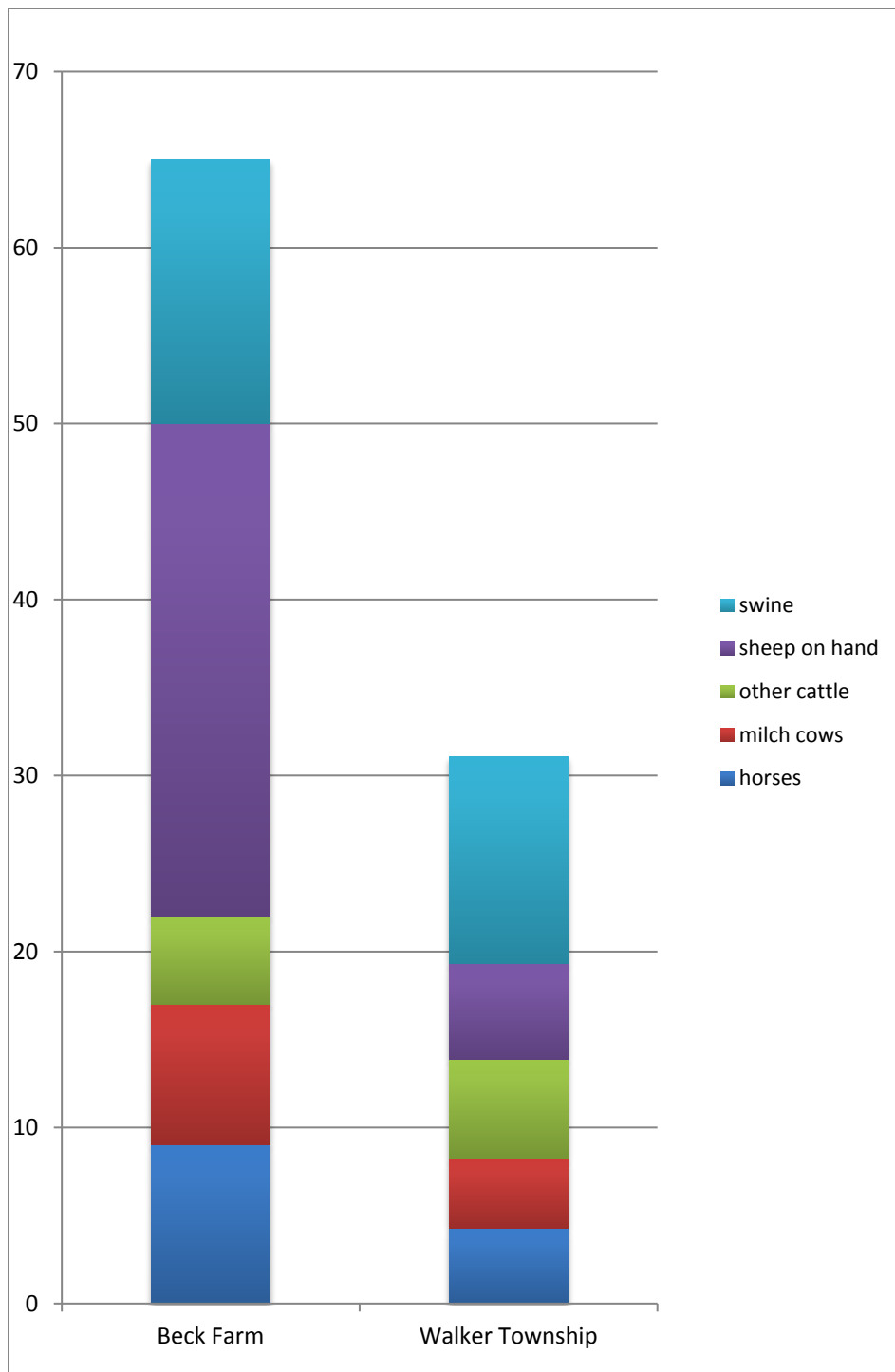
slightly above the township and state averages in 1850, but then well above average in 1880.
This fits well with the Central Valley's characteristic "high powered" agricultural economy.



1880 census: the property was still part of Henry Beck's farm and would be subdivided the following year. Though the acreage is larger than average, the proportion of tillage, pasture, and woodland is similar.

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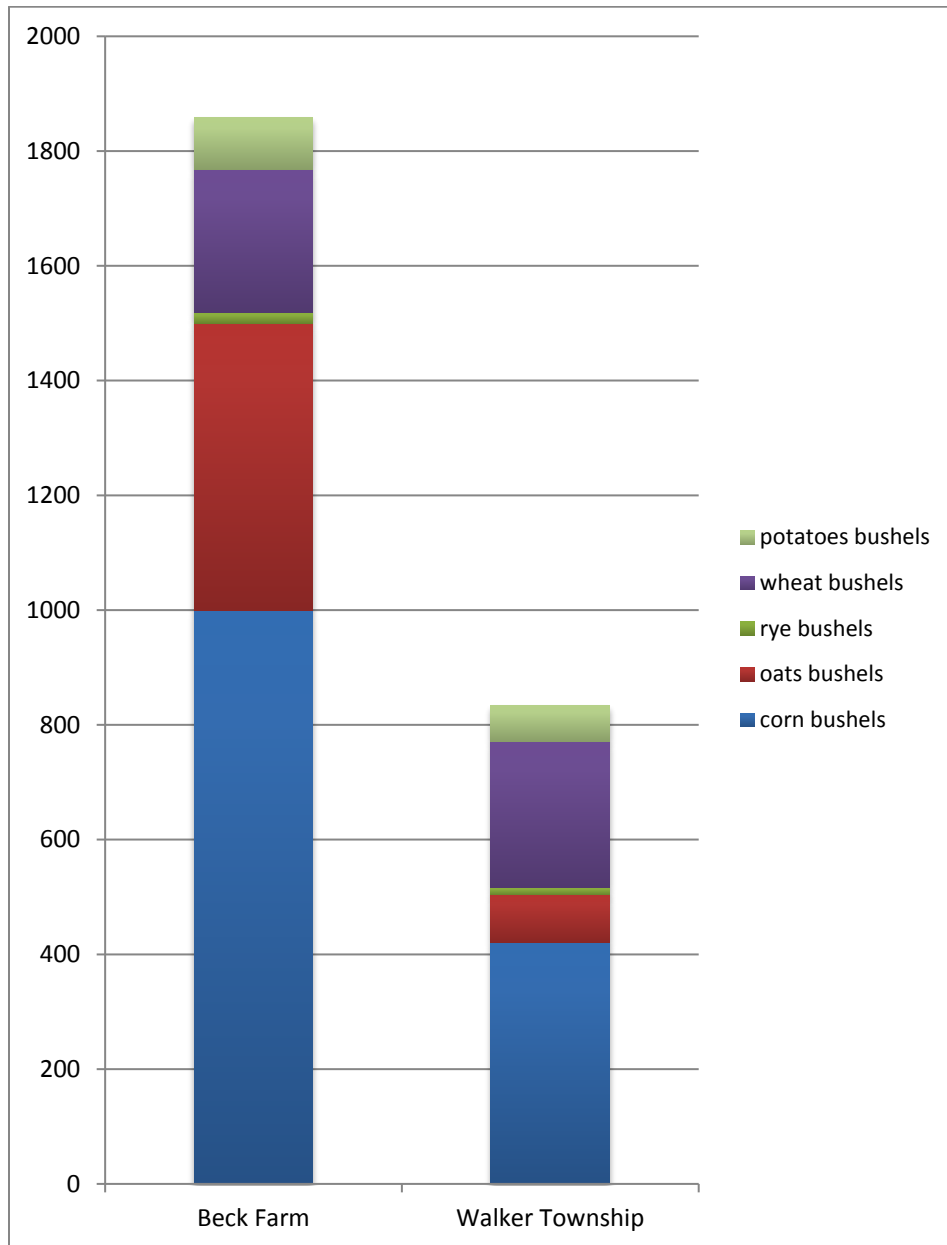
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1880 livestock: except for sheep, the Beck Farm carried typical proportions.

Beck Farm
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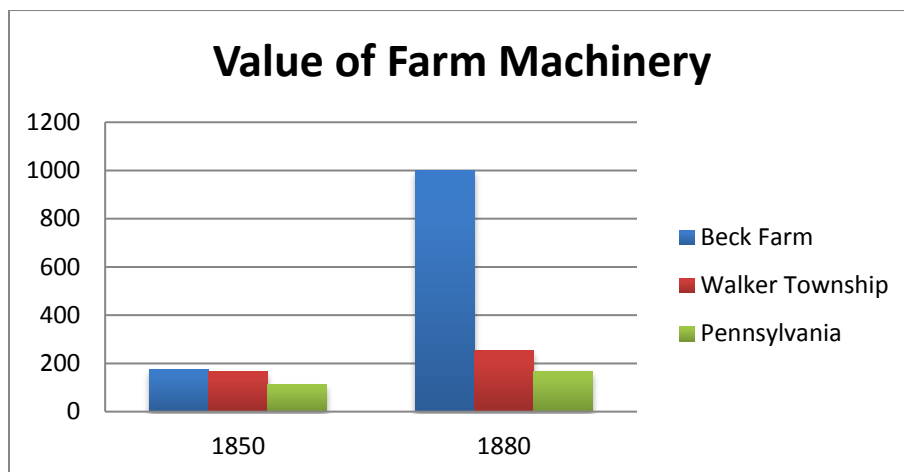
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1880 crops: the Beck Farm reported a typical mix.

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Farm Machinery: the Beck Farm was slightly above average in 1850 and well above average in 1880.

Family labor predominated on the Beck Farm, with characteristic gender division of work. The Beck Farm also has a well documented history of tenancy, which is another distinguishing feature of Central Valleys agrarian history. Between 1881 (when family tradition holds that William Henry Beck began farming on the property) and 1890 William Henry Beck was a tenant first of his father and then of his father's estate – a typical pattern of "kinship based" tenancy that was characteristic of the Central Valleys.

The Registration Requirements stipulate that once typical production, labor, mechanization, and tenancy patterns are shown, the built environment must also concretely demonstrate those patterns. We can see this clearly on the Beck Farm. Both buildings and landscapes in the c. 1880-1920 period reflected the product mix, and along with it the "variety of household and market strategies" that is emphasized in the Registration Requirements. For example, the farm house was a productive space where women would perform work such as food processing, especially in the kitchens. The combination smoke house and bake oven not only reflected home bread production but also was tied to historical swine production and processing. It therefore represents both household and market strategies. The c. 1914 summer kitchen facilitated the intensification of work that led to more varied diets and household production for market. The barn's integral horse stalls and upper-level machinery storage tied it to a heavily mechanized farming system, and other spaces such as the upper level hay and grain storage and the purpose-built steer pen facilitated a longstanding strength in the region: feeding beef animals. And the eight-bin granary, double floors and mows, and multiple stalls for horses and cattle in the barn are architectural features that have a strong association with tenancy. For example, landlords and tenants in the Central Valleys often kept track of their shares by designating specific granary bins or hay mow areas for each party. The farm fields, woodlots, and circulation pathways assumed their basic form at this time, with an emphasis on cropland and woodlots over pasture – another key characteristic of Central Valleys agricultural history. The present crop fields retain their late 19th century basic shape, because contour strips were never installed on this farm. The woodlots present landscape evidence of the historical importance of farm woodlots in providing cordwood, fencing material, game, building materials, and other necessities on a diversified Central Valleys farm. This surviving material

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and layout in both buildings and landscape is an exceptional illustration of the late 19th century farming system.

c. 1920-1960: Continued Reorientation of the Livestock Economy

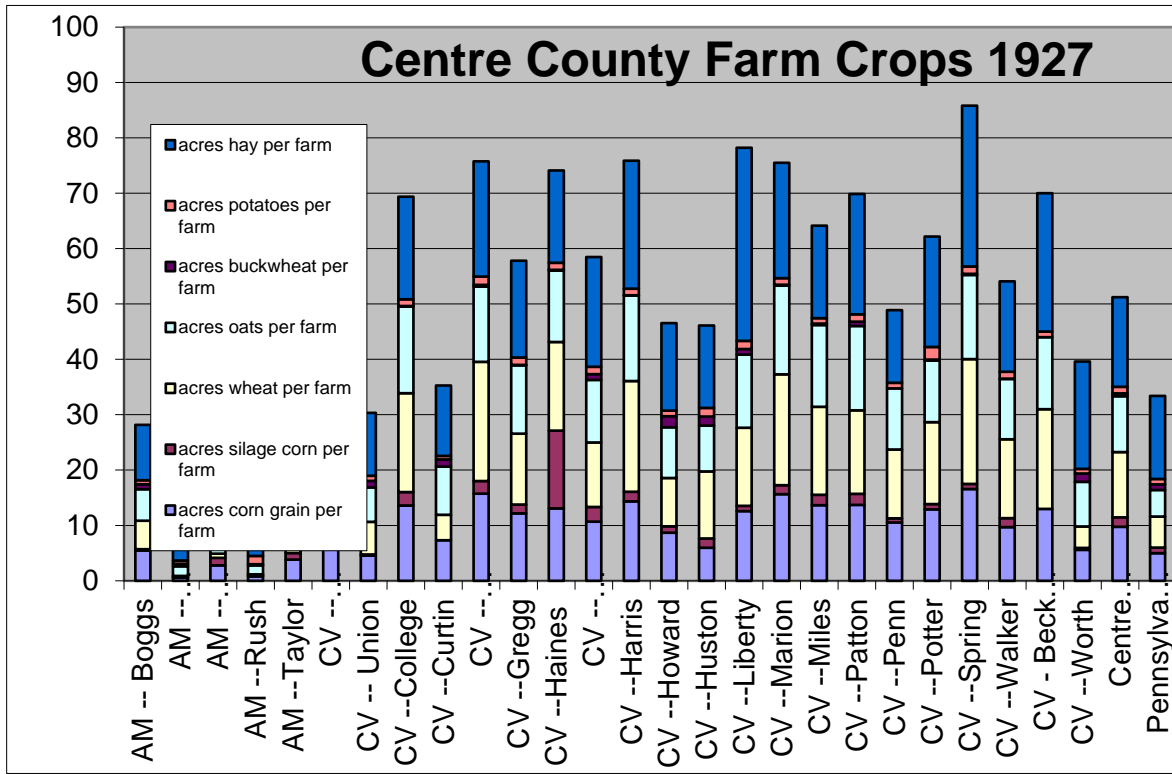
During this period in the Central Valleys, agriculture shifted towards fluid milk and poultry, still within a diversified context in which grains, fruit, livestock, and vegetable production helped to reduce risk, especially during the Depression years. The Beck Farm patterns closely matched those for the township and for the Central Valleys. On average the Walker Township farm was 98 acres in 1927, while the Beck Farm was 100. The Beck Farm produced more total crops than the average Walker Township farm, but about the same as for the Central Valleys generally; and the balance among the various crops (principally corn, oats, wheat, and hay, probably in a traditional rotation) fit both township and regional averages very well. The same was true for the livestock mix, with typical numbers of horses, milk cows, beef cattle, swine, and poultry. The rise in poultry numbers after 1880 reflected the trend in the Central Valleys toward more poultry for eggs and meat. The Beck Farm had more bearing apple trees than average – 80, according to the 1927 census report. Mid-twentieth century production patterns on the Beck Farm (as documented in family papers and oral histories) are also consistent with township and regional ones. Mr. William Beck (the present owner) recalls that his grandfather (William Henry Beck) fed beef cattle for market and grew “apples, peaches, pears and cherries which he sold wholesale and retail.” His grandmother kept chickens and kept her own egg money, which she used for household necessities. This activity was typical for the 1930s and succeeding decades. In the mid 20th century the Becks milked a small herd and sent the milk out to eastern urban markets via the Dairymen’s League. This too reflects the historical patterns in the Central Valleys.

Tenancy also continued on the Beck Farm during this period. After William Henry’s death in 1922, his widow Clara Singer Beck employed five different tenant farmers to work the property between 1926 and 1941.

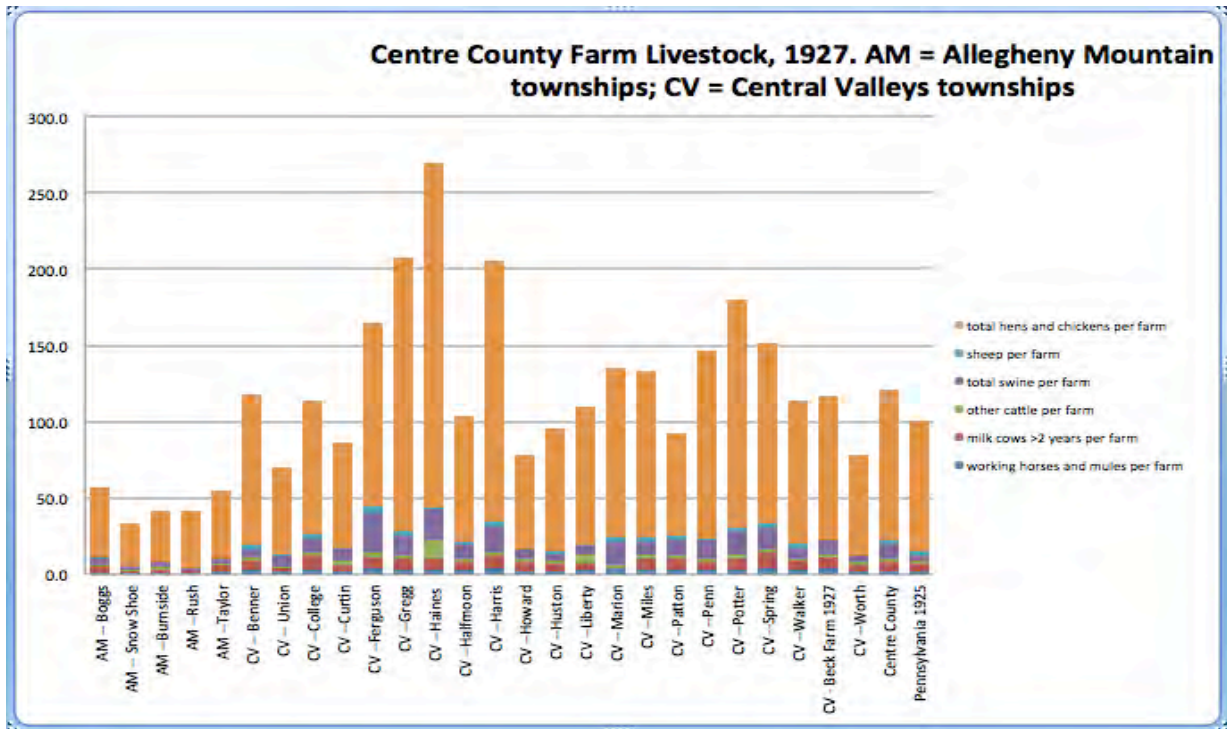
Therefore the Beck Farm meets the MPDF standard for its production, labor, mechanization, and tenancy patterns during the period 1920-1960.

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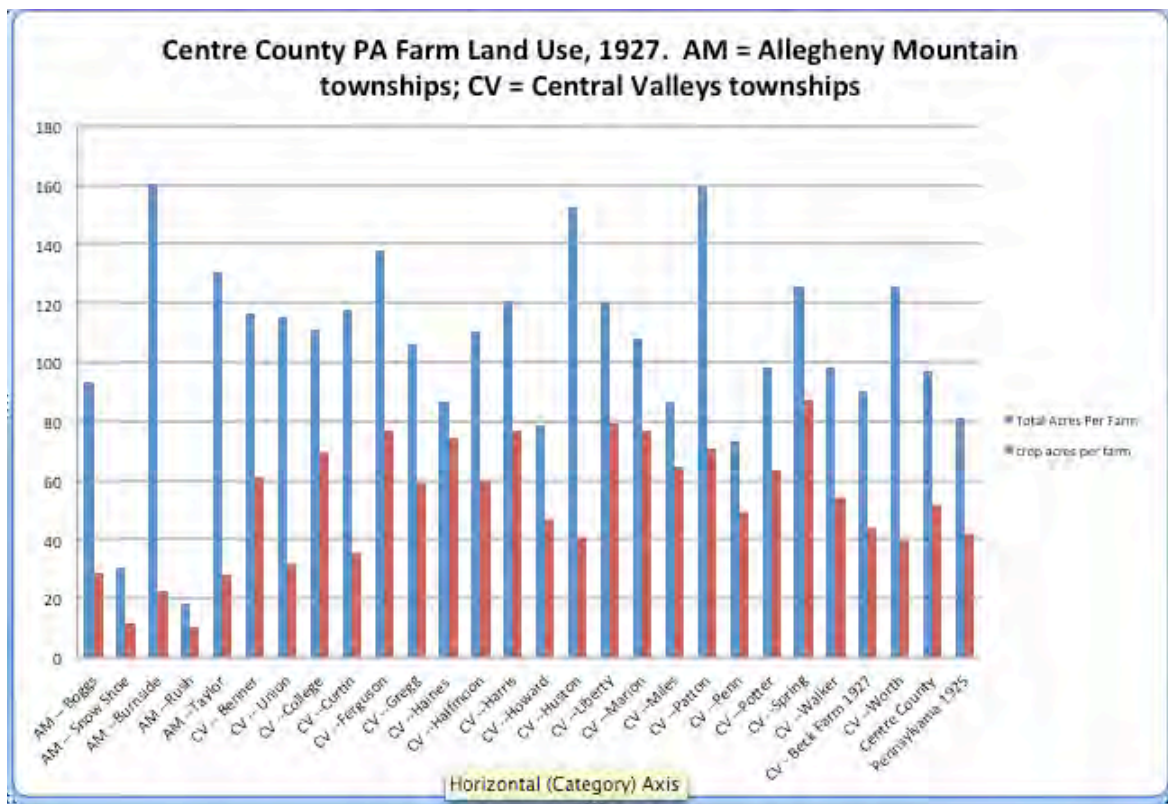
The Beck Farm never had a silo, so neither did they grow corn for silage. Otherwise the mix is typical for the Central Valleys. (Townships marked "CV" lie in the Central Valleys agricultural region.)



The Beck Farm was typical for the township and for the Central Valleys in 1927.

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The Beck Farm land use was typical for the township and Central Valleys in 1927.

The historic buildings and landscapes from the period also clearly reflect production patterns, household strategies, and labor patterns characteristic of the Central Valleys between 1920 and 1960— namely a shift to dairy and poultry layered over mechanized diversified farming, an emphasis on crops and woodlots, and the continuing significance of share tenancy. The Beck Farm buildings reveal these attributes in multiple ways. The cow stalls in the barn (including three added in the 20th century) show the shift to small scale fluid-milk dairying that occurred throughout the region in the twentieth century. The fact that they replaced horse stalls shows a shift to tractor power. The lower level floor was concreted and the walls whitewashed around this time, another typical alteration for dairying. The purpose-built steer pen would have been used by William Henry Beck in his feeding program. Large mows and granary bins on the barn upper level would have accommodated the farm’s substantial hay and grain crops. Machinery was also stored there. In sum, the barn epitomizes the diversified market strategies characteristic of the region for the period. Technological changes of the early twentieth century are also plentifully illustrated in the house, where there are extant original central heating and plumbing elements. The corn crib, even though altered, remains to remind us of the importance of that crop in the historic mix. The milk house also reflects small-scale dairying in the mid 20th century after the advent of sanitation regulations. The poultry house (rebuilt c. 1920) is built evidence for the increasing importance of eggs and meat in the twentieth century. The summer kitchen and combination smoke house and bake oven continued in use until at least the mid 20th century and continued in their role in both household and market strategies. Patterns of gendered labor appear clearly in the siting of poultry house/summer kitchen/smoke house and bakeoven on the one hand (generally women’s spaces) and the barn/milk house on the other

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(generally men's spaces.) The barn's spatial arrangement continued to support tenancy in the same manner as it did earlier.

The c. 1920-1960 farm landscape also retains a very strong continuity of historic land use that emphasizes cropland and woodlots over pasture – another key characteristic of Central Valleys agricultural history. Some crop fields were enlarged during this period, reflecting the shift in mechanization to fossil fuel power, since tractors worked best in larger areas. The woodlots continued to be important and continued in their historic location and shape. A few tree lines remain from this period. The farmstead landscaping includes unusual survivals of ornamental and food plants that were popular in the early twentieth century. This enhances significance.

In conclusion, the Beck Farm contains numerous built evidence and historical production patterns that make it representative of agriculture in the Central Valleys region from about 1880 to 1960. All key aspects of Central Valley farming systems in both periods are represented to varying extents, in the farm's historic production, labor, and tenancy patterns and in its buildings and landscape elements. Taken in total, the buildings and landscapes meet the threshold for demonstrating agricultural change over time as described in the Central Valleys registration requirements.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Historic Agricultural Resources of PA, MPDF, Central Valleys Region.
<http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/agriculture/history/> This document contains a full bibliography for the region's agricultural history.
Deeds for Beck property. Centre County Recorder of Deeds Office, Bellefonte, PA.
Estate Records for Beck property. Centre County Historical Library, Bellefonte, PA.
1850, 1880, and 1927 agricultural census. Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project website: <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/agriculture/history/>
Historic aerial photographs, 1938, 1957, 1968. Penn Pilot, <http://www.pennpilot.psu.edu/>
Tax records for Beck property. Centre County Historical Library, Bellefonte, PA.
Beck Family papers. Private collection.

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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Beck Farm
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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 100 acres, 114 perches

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map): WGS84

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 18 | Easting: 282380 | Northing: 4541141 |
| 2. Zone: 18 | Easting: 284422 | Northing: 4541141 |
| 3. Zone: 18 | Easting: 284422 | Northing: 4538421 |
| 4. Zone: 18 | Easting : 282380 | Northing: 4538421 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Centre County, Walker Township Parcel # 14-004-,006-,0000-

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This parcel was created about 1881 and has been in the same family, and dedicated to agriculture, since that time.

Beck Farm
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Sally McMurry
organization: Professor Emerita, Penn State University
street & number: 506 West Foster Avenue,
city or town: State College state: PA zip code: 16801
e-mail sam9@psu.edu
telephone: 814-441-3882
date: _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Beck Farm
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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:

City or Vicinity:

County:

State:

Photographer:

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of ____.

BECK FARM,WALKER TOWNSHIP, CENTRE COUNTY, PA. PHOTO LOG. JPEG PHOTOS AND TIFF FORMAT PHOTOS HAVE IDENTICAL FILENAMES. PHOTOGRAPHER William Beck (Photo 12 and 13) and Sally McMurry (all others). DATE PHOTOGRAPHED, 2016.

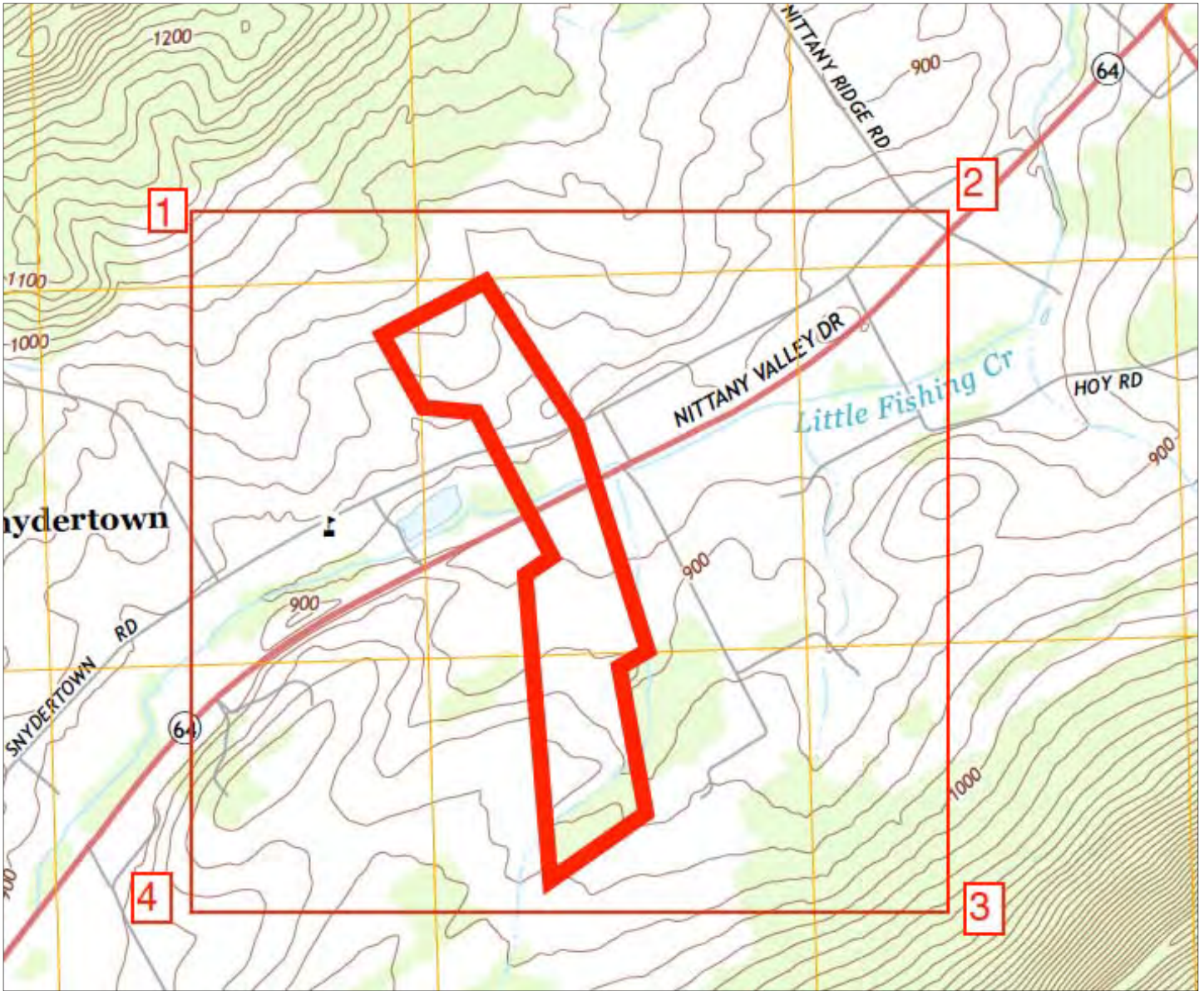
FILENAME AND PHOTO NUMBER(PHOTO NUMBER IS LAST FOUR DIGITS OF FILENAME)	DESCRIPTION	CAMERA FACING WHAT DIRECTION?
PA_CENTRE_BECK FARM_0001	HOUSE AND OUTBUILDINGS	NE
PA_CENTRE_BECK FARM_0002	HOUSE FAÇADE	SW
PA_CENTRE_BECK FARM_0003	SMOKEHOUSE AND BAKE OVEN	NE
PA_CENTRE_BECK FARM_0004	BARN, POULTRY HOUSE, MILK HOUSE, MORTON BUILDING	W
PA_CENTRE_BECK FARM_0005	BARN BANK SIDE	S
PA_CENTRE_BECK FARM_0006	BARN FOREBAY SIDE	N

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PA_CENTRE_BECK FARM_0007	BARN AND POULTRY HOUSE	SW
PA_CENTRE_BECK FARM_0008	CORN CRIB	NE
PA_CENTRE_BECK FARM_0009	MILK HOUSE	SW
PA_CENTRE_BECK FARM_0010	SUMMER KITCHEN EXTERIOR	SW
PA_CENTRE_BECK FARM_0011	SUMMER KITCHEN INTERIOR SHOWING SET KETTLE HOUSING	S
PA_CENTRE_BECK FARM_0012	FARM LANDSCAPE, FIELDS	N
PA_CENTRE_BECK FARM_0013	FARM LANDSCAPE, FIELDS, WOODLOT	S
PA_CENTRE_BECK FARM_0014	FARM HOUSE AND ORNAMENTAL PLANTINGS	W
PA_CENTRE_BECK FARM_0015	LANDSCAPE TREES ALONG SNYDERTOWN ROAD	E

William Henry & Clara Singer Beck Farm National Register nomination boundary



Centre County, Pennsylvania
USGS Quad: Madisonburg

UTM References:
1. 18/282380/4541141
2. 18/284422/4541141
3. 18/284422/4538421
4. 18/282380/4538421

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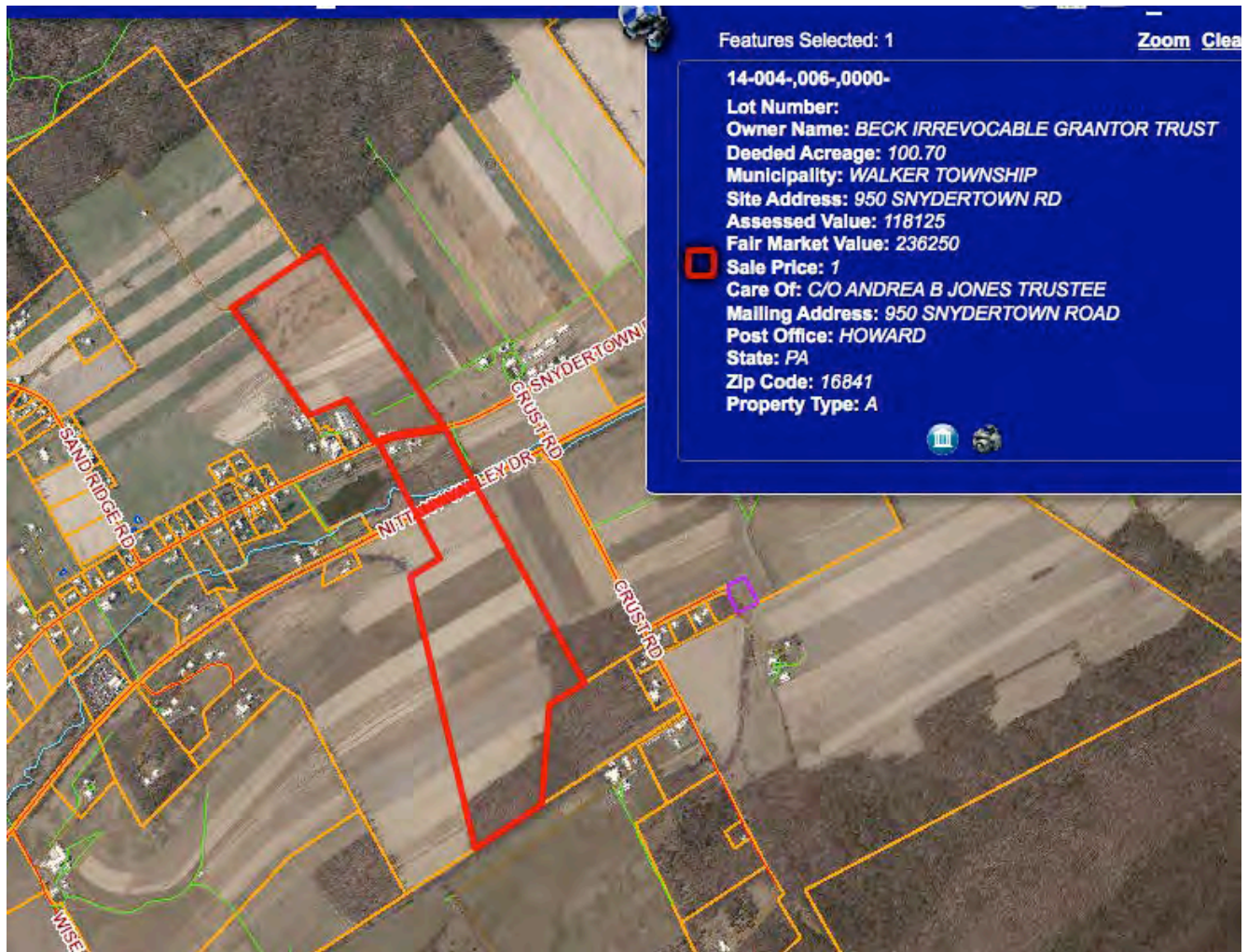


Figure 4. Beck Farm current property map aerial. The woodlots have remained, as has a portion of treeline in northwest corner and along the stream near the farmstead buildings. Crop fields have substantially retained their shape and orientation. Orchard trees have disappeared.

Beck Farm
Name of Property

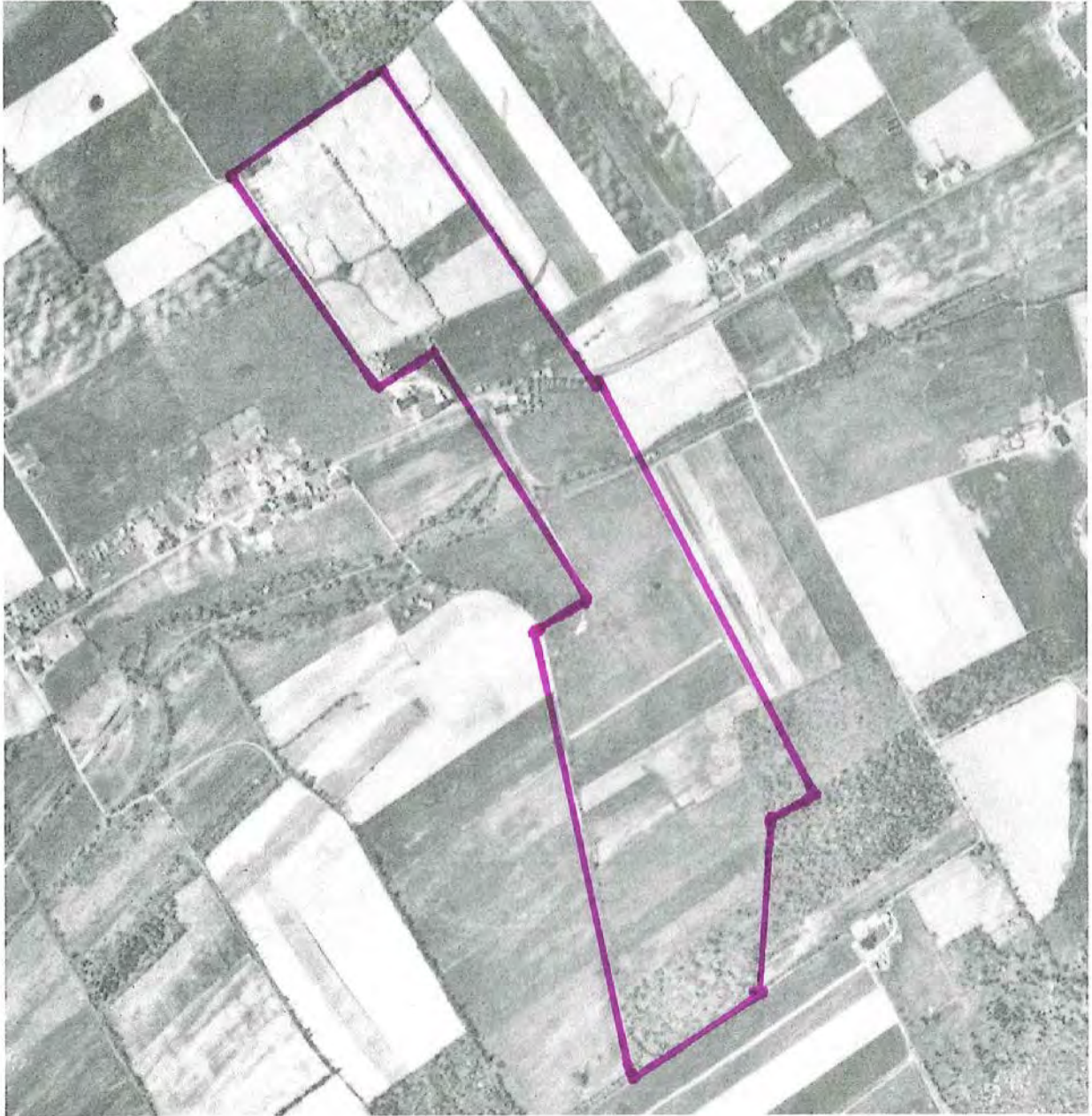
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Figure 1. 1938 Aerial with property lines

Beck Farm
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BECK FARM 1957



Figure 2. 1957 Aerial with property lines

Beck Farm
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Figure 3. 1968 aerial with property lines.

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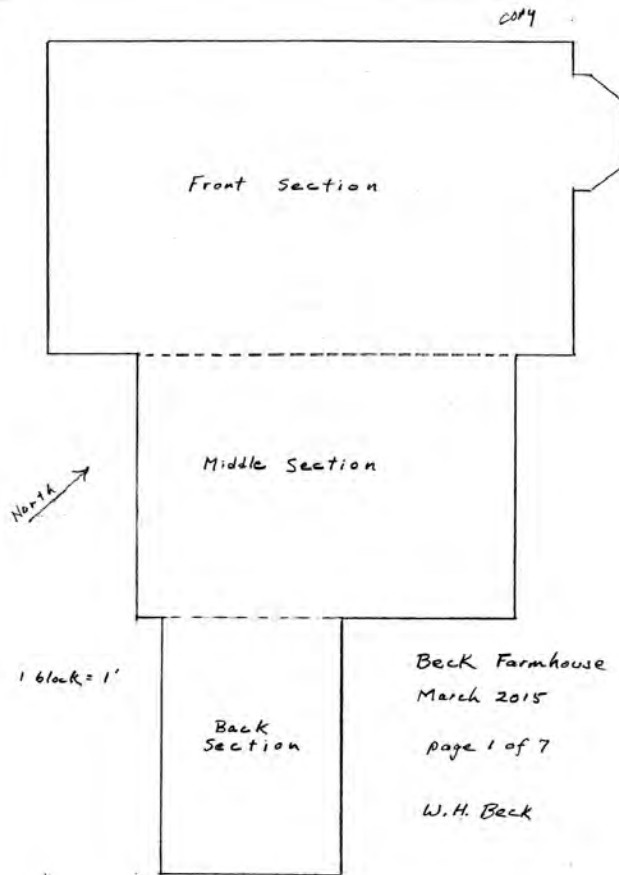


Figure 7. Beck Farmhouse footprint plan.

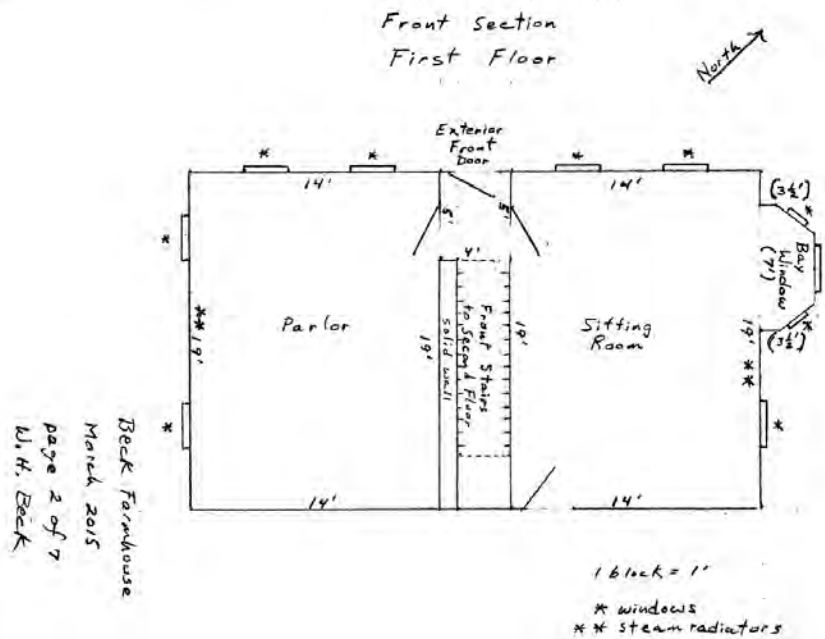


Figure 8. Beck Farmhouse lower level, front section, plan.

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Figure 5. Beck Farm farmstead site plan with photo key

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Photo 1: HOUSE AND OUTBUILDINGS

Beck Farm
Name of Property

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Photo 2: HOUSE FAÇADE

Beck Farm
Name of Property

Centre County PA
County and State



Photo 3: SMOKEHOUSE AND BAKE OVEN

Beck Farm
Name of Property

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Photo 4: BARN, POULTRY HOUSE, MILK HOUSE, MORTON BUILDING

Beck Farm
Name of Property

Centre County PA
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Photo 5: BARN BANK SIDE

Beck Farm
Name of Property

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County and State



Photo 6: BARN FOREBAY SIDE

Beck Farm
Name of Property

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Photo 7: BARN AND POULTRY HOUSE

Beck Farm
Name of Property

Centre County PA
County and State



Photo 8: CORN CRIB

Beck Farm
Name of Property

Centre County PA
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Photo 9: MILK HOUSE

Beck Farm
Name of Property

Centre County PA
County and State



Photo 10: SUMMER KITCHEN EXTERIOR

Beck Farm
Name of Property

Centre County PA
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Photo 11: SUMMER KITCHEN INTERIOR SHOWING SET KETTLE HOUSING

Beck Farm
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Photo 12: FARM LANDSCAPE, FIELDS

Beck Farm
Name of Property

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Photo 13: FARM LANDSCAPE, FIELDS, WOODLOT

Beck Farm
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Photo 14: FARM HOUSE AND ORNAMENTAL PLANTINGS

Beck Farm
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Photo 15: LANDSCAPE TREES ALONG SNYDERTOWN ROAD

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Robb Farm, Huntingdon County, 2011, for comparison. This farm has comparable resources in terms of buildings and landscapes. Note the topographical similarity with flat valley croplands with wooded ridge in the background and farm buildings distributed linearly along the road.



05/23/2016 22:31





05/23/2016 22:12



05/23/2016 22:19



1883

05/23/2016 22:53



05/23/2016 22:51



05/23/2016 22:54



05/23/2016 22:31



1883

05/23/2016 22:30



05/23/2016 22:14



05/23/2016 22:05







07/10/2016 22:50



07/10/2016 23:01

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Beck, William Henry and Clara Singer, Farm

Multiple Name: Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania c1700-1960 MPS

State & County: PENNSYLVANIA, Centre

Date Received: 7/21/2017 Date of Pending List: 8/16/2017 Date of 16th Day: 8/31/2017 Date of 45th Day: 9/5/2017 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: MP100001570

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 8/31/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept, National Register Criterion A.

Reviewer Patrick Andrus Patrick Andrus Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2218 Date 8/31/2017

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION



July 20, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Program
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street NW Mail Stop 7228
Washington DC 20240

Re: NR nomination discs

Dear Mr. Loether:

The following nomination forms are being submitted electronically per the "Guidance on How to Submit a Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places on Disk Summary (5/06/2013)":

- William Henry & Clara Singer Beck Farm, Centre County
- David M. Mayer House, Lancaster County
- Penn Wynn House Apartments, Philadelphia County

The enclosed discs contain the true and correct copies of the nominations for the William Henry & Clara Singer Beck Farm, the David M. Mayer House, and the Penn Wynn Apartments. The proposed actions are for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions regarding the nominations please contact David Maher at 717-783-9918.

Sincerely,

David Maher
National Register section
Preservation Services