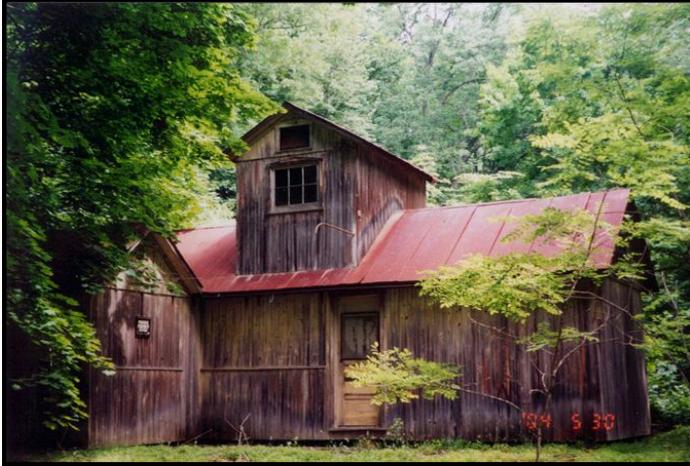


BEE TREE MILL

This mill is located at 224 Bee Tree Road that is just south of SR 439—also called York Road. You can access this road from highway 45. Bee Tree Rd. is narrow and rather steep. We never did get to the bottom of the hill. The mill is on private property. There is no place to park near the mill but this is a spectacular and unusual mill.



Our farmer friend that we met at the gas station told us that he remembers cutting ice from the pond in the winter months and afterwards having a sip of cider before heading home. In the 1960's only cider was being produced at the mill.

The mill is a log-frame structure that is in A-1 condition. As we walked past the mill there was the sluice gate. Three buildings were near the gate. The dam appeared to be intact although the millpond has silted up and contains a

very small quantity of water. Nature has taken over the millpond. This mill does not appear to be an Oliver Evans designed mill. The mill is a nineteenth century two storey mill that made cider at one time.

This land was known as Long Valley and has been owned by the Sampson and Simpson families. The mill was first mentioned in the 1823 tax list as belonging to Daniel Sampson. In 1849 Caleb W. Royston bought the property from a Nicholas Sampson. By 1865 the Simpson family was the owner. W. H. Simpson, in November 1874 reported that his cherry tree was in full bloom and that he spotted seventy-five geese on his millpond. W. H. Simpson was the last operator of the mill and died around 1970. The mill has not operated since his death.



On a hill, high above the mill, is the miller's house. The house has a great view of the valley.

Since we could not talk to anyone, further information about this mill was not found. There might be grist milling machinery inside the mill or cider making machinery or no machinery at all. This is a mill we recommend seeing, if only in a drive by.