

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| |
|---------------------------|
| STATE: New Jersey |
| COUNTY: Hunterdon |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| ENTRY DATE NOV 19 1974 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: N of Stockton off Rosemont - Sergeantsville Road

CITY OR TOWN: Stockton vicinity Delaware Township CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 13th - Joseph Maraziti

STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34 COUNTY: Hunterdon CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | | | |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Board of Chosen Freeholders of Hunterdon County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Flemington STATE: New Jersey

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hunterdon County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Flemington STATE: New Jersey CODE: 34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: H.A.B.S. - New Jersey - 442 New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (2764.1)

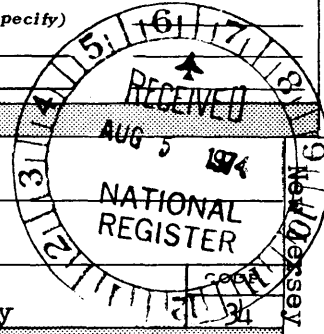
DATE OF SURVEY: 1937, 1961 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress Historic Sites Section, DEP

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1420, Trenton, NJ

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: New Jersey

COUNTY: Hunterdon

ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 19 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

| | |
|---|---|
| (Check One) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| (Check One) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered |
| (Check One) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Descriptive statement taken nearly verbatim from "Dedication of the Reconstructed Green Sergeant's Bridge", prepared by the Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge Association.

The restored Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge spans Wickecheoke Creek in Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, and carries westbound traffic on the Sergeantsville - Rosemont Road (County Road #32).

The clear span, face to face of stone abutments, is 73'8". The length of the 12 foot wide timber deck roadway is 82 feet. The overhead clearance is 12½ feet.

The old abutments, which probably predate the Revolution, were rebuilt and reinforced in 1961 with concrete keyed into the rock footings and steel dowelled to the old stone masonry walls in order to support modern-day traffic. The north and south faces of the abutments are surfaced with 12 inch thick stone masonry veneer anchored to the concrete. The stones were taken from the stream below.

The old timber trusses, 84 feet long by 12 feet 9 inches high and 1 foot 9 inches thick, have been reconditioned and erected in their former position now resting on steel brackets which project from a new steel under-carriage.

This under-carriage consists of two 36 inch wide flange steel girders spaced 11 feet on centers separated by floor beams at each panel point of the old timber trusses.

The timber deck consists of new and salvaged 3 inch by 10 inch planking laid on 4 inch by 12 inch new treated timber floor stringers spaced about one foot on centers and spanning 10 feet between floor beams. Timber wheel guards and a 2½ foot high timber rail on each side of the deck provide for vehicle safety.

The timber trusses are enclosed by 1 inch by 12 inch white pine vertical tongue and groove boards which are nailed to 3 inch by 5 inch horizontal nailers spaced 3 feet on centers. The vertical joints between the siding boards are covered by ¾ inch by 3 inch batten strips. Approximately 60% of the original pine siding is contained in the restored structure. It is painted white.

The pitched roof has 2 inch by 6 inch pine rafters, spaced two feet on centers overlaid by one inch tongue and groove sheathing. About 90% of the old rafters were reused. The balance of the roofing, including the cedar shingles and lathing, however, is new.

When the bridge was reassembled in 1961 ventilation was provided for the wooden structure by inserting four 3 feet by 3 feet louvers on the sides (Two per side).

To the south, and immediately adjacent, of the covered bridge a new single lane steel beam - concrete deck bridge has been built to carry eastbound traffic. The random native stone masonry parapet and wing walls were designed to soften contrast between the modern bridge and the covered bridge.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

 Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1872; Reconstructed 1961.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

 Aboriginal Education Political Urban Planning Prehistoric Engineering Religion/Phi- Other (Specify) Historic Industry

osophy

 Agriculture Invention Science Architecture Landscape Sculpture Art

Architecture

 Social/Human- Commerce Literature

itarian

 Communications Military Theater Conservation Music Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Engineering/Transportation.

The last remaining covered bridge in New Jersey, Sergeant's Bridge was constructed in 1872 across the Wickechoke Creek due to actions of the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Charles Ogden Holcombe of Lambertville, responsible for most of this regions covered bridges, was the designer and chief carpenter of the bridge, which was built on the site of a pre-Revolutionary stone bridge, using the original stone abutments. Another builder involved was Peter Sibley, a nearby ship-carpenter. The masons were Ely and Charles Everitt, but being constructed on old abutments their work was confined mainly to repairs to the wingwalk.

During their period of popularity in New Jersey, roughly from 1825 to the last quarter of the 19th century, there were perhaps 75 such bridges constructed in the state. The bridges covered to provide protection to the wooden structural members from the elements. The roof prevented falling rain from rotting the timbers and the side walls minimized the amount of rain wind would spray into the support beams. (Although many covered bridges eliminated side walls.) Later, the bridges were commonly used for shelter from a quick thunderstorm and a romantic, if not totally secluded, spot for young lovers.

Before this covered bridge was built the property surrounding was sold to Charles Sergeant in 1805. On his death in 1833, his son, Richard Green Sergeant, inherited the estate. It appears that since the nearest resident was Richard Green Sergeant that the bridge was popularly titled Green Sergeant's bridge and the name has stuck ever since even though the covered bridge is different than the earlier stone bridge which had at least two piers.

As late as 1955 there were three such covered bridges in New Jersey, the other two spanning the Delaware River at Raven Rock and Columbia. The hurricane and flood of 1955, however, washed away the two bridges on the Delaware leaving the remaining Green Sergeant's Bridge the only 19th century covered bridge in New Jersey.

(cont.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic American Buildings Survey - New Jersey - 442.
 Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., 1937.
Rural Hunterdon. Hubert G. Schmidt. New Brunswick, 1945 (p. 169)
"The Story of the Saving of the Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge."
 Edward R. Johnson, Chairman, Hunterdon County Committee
 on Historic Sites and Structures. /1960/
History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties. James P. Snell,
 Philadelphia, 1881 (p. 376)
"Dedication of the Reconstructed Green Sergeant's Bridge."
 /Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge Association/, (cont.)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

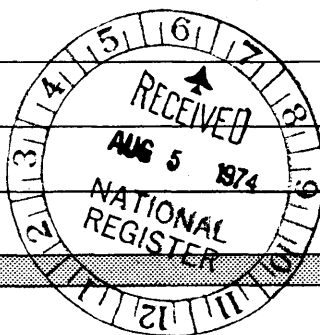
| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 40 26 38 | 74 57 58 | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

18/50285
4476840
CB

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **not applicable**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Terry Karschner, Historian-Curator

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites Section, Dept. of Environmental Protection** DATE: **02-20-1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: **Trenton** STATE: **New Jersey** CODE: **34**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name David J. Bardin
 Title Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection
 Date July 1, 1974

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

W. R. Montrose
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/19/74

ATTEST:
W. M. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 11/18/74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | | |
|------------------|------------|-------------|
| STATE | New Jersey | |
| COUNTY | Hunterdon | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | | DATE |
| | | NOV 19 1974 |

(Number all entries)

Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge
Delaware Township
Hunterdon County, 019
New Jersey, 34

8. Significance (cont.)

Interestingly, this bridge nearly met its demise shortly after, when, in 1959, an inspection revealed that the bridge was no longer safe due, in part, to the same 1955 flood. The New Jersey State Highway Department at this time would probably have torn down the bridge, but public sentiment prevented them from taking any action.

In the meantime, while the state sought a compromise solution, the bridge collapsed. The Board of Chosen Freeholders of Hunterdon County then carefully dismantled and removed all the sections of the covered bridge.

Soon the problem was solved. The highway department agreed to restore the bridge using "as many of the members and pieces of the present dismantled bridge as shall be practicable" (Assembly, Number 522) and constructing a new bridge parallel and adjacent to the the covered bridge.

The restoration was completed in the fall of 1961 and soonafter dedicated.

There is a New Jersey State Roadmarker at the site which reads:

Green Sergeant's

Last of New Jersey's 75
Covered Bridges. Built in
1872, on the site of a 1750
Bridge. Restored in 1961.
Named for a Local Farmer.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| STATE New Jersey | |
| COUNTY Hunterdon | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | NOV 19 1974 |

(Number all entries)

Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge
Delaware Township
Hunterdon County, 019
New Jersey, 34

9. Bibliography (cont.)

- Hunterdon County, 1961. Brochure on the restoration of the bridge.
- "Assembly, No. 522, State of New Jersey." Trenton, 1961. An act to permit the restoration of the covered bridge.
- "Green Sergeant's Bridge", New Jersey Business. New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company, July, 1963.
- "Last Covered Bridge Narrowly Escaped Demolition", Hunterdon County Free Press. Richard Harpster and Alastair Frazer. March 1, 1972 (p. 12)

Additional articles in newspapers:

Hunterdon County Democrat:

- "Covered Bridge to Mark Its 100th Year." September 7, 1972.
- "A White Christmas." 1930's block print of the bridge. December 21, 1972.

Trenton Evening Times:

- "100 Year Old Covered Bridge Span Takes a Break." September 18, 1972.
- "Long Span" Photograph. December 21, 1972.

