

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rock Brook Bridge
other names/site number County Bridge #B-03-01

2. Location

street & number Junction of Long Hill and Dutchtown-Zion Roads N/A not for publication
city or town Montgomery and Hillsborough Townships vicinity
state New Jersey code 034 county Somerset code 035 zip code 08504

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
[Signature] 12/20/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

for Signature of the Keeper Entered in the Date of Action
[Signature] National Register 2/18/94

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	Total

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

7 Stone Arch Bridges of Somerset County, NJ

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: road-related (vehicular)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: road-related (vehicular)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: stone arch bridge

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone

roof N/A

other Stone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Engineering

Period of Significance

1825

Significant Dates

1825

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hageman, H.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Rock Brook Bridge

Somerset County, NJ

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre Rocky Hill Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 8 | | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 0 | | 4 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 0 | |
Zone Easting Northing

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marvin A. Brown

organization Cultural Resource Consulting Group date 7/23/92

street & number 54 Woodbridge Avenue telephone (908) 985-4380

city or town Highland Park state NJ zip code 08904

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name County of Somerset

street & number County Administration Building telephone _____

city or town Somerville state NJ zip code 08876

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: 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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Rock Brook Bridge, Somerset County, New Jersey

DESCRIPTION

The Rock Brook Bridge is an approximately 41-foot-long, 16-foot-wide, random rubble structure with a double-arched section and an open span crossed by a roadway. It retains its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Its stonework, dating from two periods, is intact, its arches built in 1825, its open span, originally an arch, rebuilt following a storm in 1891. Alterations are primarily related to the 1891 storm and to maintenance of a utilitarian structure over time. It also retains its integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. It has not been moved, closed to traffic, or replaced, and still provides a means for people and conveyances - with care, one vehicle at a time - to cross a small stream in a quiet, wooded corner of the county.

The bridge is built of local shale, quartzite, and argillite rubble laid randomly with mortared joints. At its west it has a double-arched section and two wing walls. At its east it simply has two wing wall/abutments. Between the double-arched section and the wing wall/abutments is an opening about 13 feet across now spanned by modern I-beams. The roadway of the bridge is about 40 feet long at its north side and about 41 feet long at its south side. It is about 16 feet wide from outside wall to outside wall. The bridge's northwest wing wall is about 9 feet long; its southwest counterpart is about 9 1/2 feet long. The wing wall/abutment at the southeast is about 16 feet long. The northeast wing wall/abutment, which angles out sharply from the main roadway to run almost parallel to the brook, is about 28 feet long.

The double-arched section of the bridge stands about 10 feet high, from the shallow rocky bed of the brook to the roadway. Its two segmental arches are about 10 feet wide and 6 feet high. Their rectangular voussoirs are 15 to 16 inches long. The pier between the arches is about 3 feet wide. The eastern pier is about 4 feet wide. It serves as the abutment for the I-beams that span the opening to its east. The open span between the central pier and the eastern wing wall/abutments originally formed a third arch, which was damaged by a storm and replaced in 1891. The 1891 work, representative of stonework in the county in the late 19th century, required rebuilding the ends of the walls of the east arch and east wing wall/abutment to accept sleepers that would support a deck across the open span.

Alterations to the bridge include the 1891 arch replacement; the apparent removal of original parapet walls and their replacement by metal guardrails; the installation of I-beams at the open span; and remortaring with cement-based mortar. Some short lengths of white plastic

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Rock Brook Bridge, Somerset County, New Jersey

pipe project from the north walls, to assist in draining the structure. In spite of these alterations, the bridge retains its integrity and character.

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Rock Brook Bridge, Somerset County, New Jersey

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rock Brook Bridge is significant under Register Criterion C for its engineering, for it embodies a type, period, and method of construction. It is a rare survivor of the few stone bridges known to have been built in Somerset County, and the state, during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It is part of the initial major stage of growth of an established and reliable transportation network in the county, the construction of roads with solid watercourse crossings. The form, method of construction, and materials of its arched section are similar to those of other early dated bridges in the county - particularly the Opossum Road and Cat Tail Brook bridges - and this section is representative of the earliest surviving period of stone arch bridge construction in the county. The bridge is significant for its open span as well. Following a "tremendous rain" in 1891, an original third stone arch was replaced by an open span now crossed by modern I-beams (Somerset Messenger-Gazette 1931). The reconstruction of the eastern end of the center span and the eastern wing wall/abutment to accompany the flat span represents late 19th-century stone construction in the county.

The bridge's builder was H. Hageman, who was almost certainly a local mason (Somerset Messenger-Gazette 1931). The size, configuration, and laying of its stone walls and two standing arches are quite similar to two dated bridges in Montgomery Township, the 1822 Opossum Road Bridge and the 1825 Cat Tail Brook Bridge, which stands only about one-half mile away. It is formed of local stone, its adornment provided by its neatly laid voussoirs. It is a good example not only of local bridge building methods, but of stone construction in general in the county. It is one of the most imposing of the few early stone structures of any type that survive in the county.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Beers, F. W.

- 1873 Atlas of Somerset County, New Jersey. New York: Beers, Comstock, and Cline. On File at Rutgers University, Alexander Library, Department of Special Collections and Archives.

Brecknell, Ursula

- 1972 Montgomery Township: An Historic Community, 1702-1972. Published by the Montgomery Township, New Jersey, Bicentennial Committee. Pamphlet in files of Cultural & Heritage Commission of the County of Somerset, Somerville, New Jersey.

Craig, Robert W.

- 1982 National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form - Kingston Mill Historic District [Princeton, South Brunswick, and Franklin Townships, Mercer, Middlesex, and Hunterdon Counties, New Jersey]. On file at the Office of New Jersey Heritage, Trenton.

Karschner, Terry

- 1974 National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form - Bridgepoint Historic District [Montgomery Township, Somerset County, New Jersey]. On file at the Office of New Jersey Heritage, Trenton.

Kudless, Carol Ann and Joseph C. Kudless

- 1977 Minutes of the Meetings of the Justices and Chosen Freeholders for the County of Somerset. Somerville, N.J: Somerset County.

McCabe, Wayne T.

- 1976 National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form - Cat Tail Brook Bridge [Hillsborough Township, Somerset County, New Jersey]. Revised by Terry Karschner, Office of Historic Preservation. On file at the Office of New Jersey Heritage, Trenton.

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Otley, J. W. and J. Keily

1850 Map of Somerset County, New Jersey. Camden: Lloyd Vanderveer. On File at Rutgers University, Alexander Library, Department of Special Collections and Archives.

Research & Archaeological Management

1989a Somerset County Cultural Resource Survey: Phase I Report. Prepared for the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission, Somerville, New Jersey. On file at the Office of New Jersey Heritage, Trenton.

1989b Somerset County Cultural Resource Survey: Phase II Report. Prepared for the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission, Somerville, New Jersey. On file at the Office of New Jersey Heritage, Trenton.

1989c Somerset County Cultural Resource Survey: Summary Report. Prepared for the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission, Somerville, New Jersey. On file at the Office of New Jersey Heritage, Trenton.

Somerset Messenger-Gazette

1931 Century-Old Bridges in Somerset Village. Somerset Messenger-Gazette 6/12/31. Article in files of Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission, Somerville, New Jersey.

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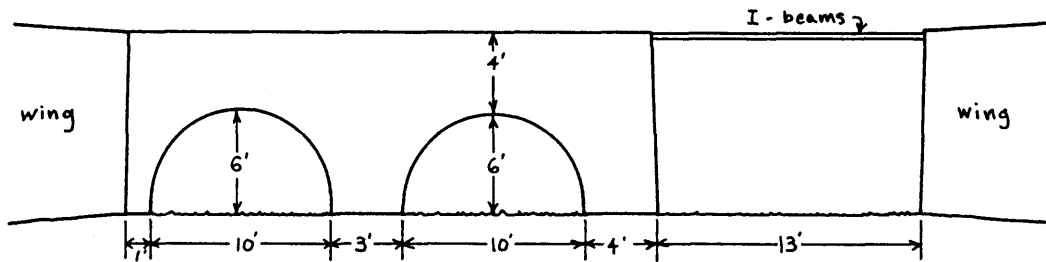
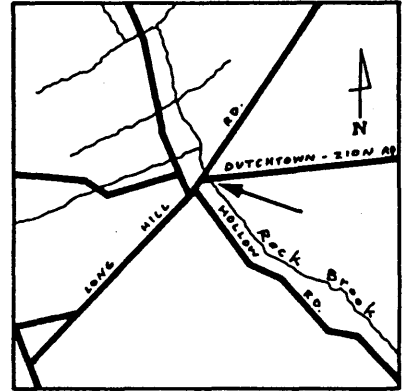
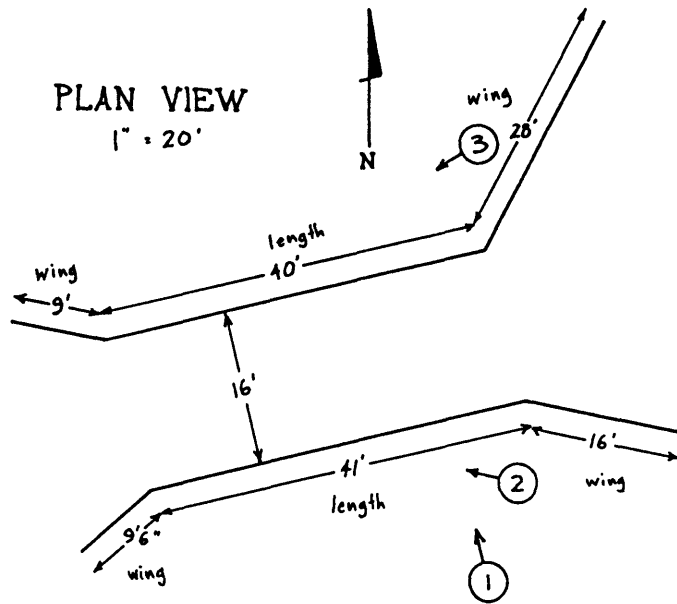
Rock Brook Bridge, Somerset County, New Jersey

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated resource occupies the property upon which the main body of the bridge and its wing walls and abutments stand.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nominated resource are the same as the boundaries of the property owned by Somerset County. The county owns the bridge and the property upon which it stands; there is no deed which records the boundaries of that property.



SOUTH SIDE
1" = 10'

• ROCK BROOK BRIDGE •
MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP, SOMERSET COUNTY, N.J.
OCTOBER 1990