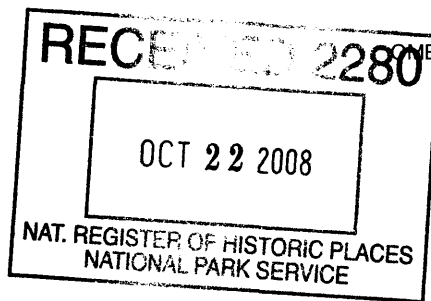


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 *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 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. 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

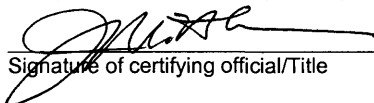
historic name Gilpin's Falls Covered Bridge  
other names CE-78

2. Location

street & number MD Route 272  not for publication  
city or town North East  vicinity  
state Maryland code MD county Cecil code 015 zip code 21901

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 of certifying official/Title

10-21-08  
Date

State or 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 this 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Patrick Andrews 12/3/2008

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
1		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Burr Arch Truss Bridge

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood

roof Wood

other

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 pattern of our history.
- B** Property 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)

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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**Area of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENGINEERING

**Period of Significance**

1859-60

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

George Johnson, Builder

**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 files (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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Gilpin's Falls Covered Bridge, CE-78  
Name of Property

Cecil County, Maryland  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.255 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1	8	4	1	8	0	6	0	4	3	8	9	2	1	7
	Zone			Easting				Northing							
2															

3															
	Zone			Easting				Northing							
4															

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 Eric Sennstrom, Director  
Organization Cecil County Planning & Zoning date April, 2008  
street & number 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Suite 2300 telephone (410) 996-5220  
city or town Elkton state MD zip code 21921

### 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 Board of County Commissioners of Cecil County, William C. Manlove, President  
street & number 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Suite 2100 telephone (410) 996-8300  
city or town Elkton state MD zip code 21921

**Paperwork Reduction 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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

CE-78  
Gilpin's Falls Covered Bridge  
Name of Property

Section 7 Page 1

Cecil County, Maryland  
County and State

## Description Summary:

Gilpin's Falls Covered Bridge spans North East Creek near the village of Bay View in northern Cecil County, Maryland. It originally carried Nottingham Road, but was bypassed by the construction of Maryland Route 272 a short distance to the west (upstream). Constructed in 1859-60, it is a Burr arch through truss structure, measuring 119 feet overall.

## General Description:

The Gilpin's Falls Bridge was built in 1859-60 by contractor George Johnson. It measures 119 feet in overall length, making it the longest surviving covered bridge in Maryland. The trusses consist of a series of twelve kingpost panels, with a pair of concentric timber arches fastened to the vertical members on both sides. The bridge rests on concrete abutments. The internal clear road width is 14 feet. Overhead clearance is approximately 13 feet. The bridge is capped with a gable roof covered in wood shingles; the exterior is clad in weatherboard siding which terminates below the eave line to allow light into the bridge. Horizontal window openings appear in both side walls, at mid-span.

Just below the bridge, North East Creek drops 106 feet over Gilpin's Falls, named for Samuel Gilpin, a distant relative of the Washington family, who acquired extensive land holdings in Cecil County in the early 1730s. Gilpin harnessed the Falls' power to operate a grist and saw mill; in later years, a woolen mill and hydroelectric plant occupied the site. A dam breast, sluice, and foundation walls survive from these enterprises, located a short distance below the bridge.

The Gilpin's Falls Covered Bridge was closed to vehicular traffic in the early 1930s. Roofing and siding were replaced in 1958-59 following storm damage. Ownership was transferred to The Board of County Commissioners of Cecil County from the Maryland State Highway Administration in 1987. An engineering study in 1997 revealed significant deflection and side sway and advanced deterioration and insect infestation of the timbers, and the bridge was subsequently closed to pedestrian use. A comprehensive restoration is currently (2008) planned, using \$1,040,000 in funds awarded under the Historic Covered Bridge Program of the Federal Highway Administration.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

CE-78  
Gilpin's Falls Covered Bridge  
Name of Property

Cecil County, Maryland  
County and State

Section 8 Page 1

## Summary Statement of Significance:

The Gilpin's Falls Covered Bridge is significant under Criterion C as an example of a Burr truss structure. It is one of only six covered bridges surviving in Maryland, and one of two located in Cecil County. At 119 feet in length, it is the longest remaining wooden covered bridge in Maryland.

## Resource History and Historic Context:

The Gilpin's Falls Covered Bridge exemplifies the type of structure patented by Theodore Burr of Connecticut in 1817. In Burr's design, a series of king-post trusses was combined with a long wooden arch, a combination which resulted in a stronger bridge. Single king posts had been used since the Middle Ages for short crossings. Nineteenth-century bridge builders learned to combine a series of structural triangles into a unified span. In Burr's truss, the arch, upper chord, and the diagonals act under compression; the vertical members and lower chord act under tension. A gable roof and weatherboard siding protected the structural members from deterioration by exposure to weather.

The Gilpin's Falls bridge is one of one of six surviving covered bridges in Maryland, and one of two located in Cecil County. A ubiquitous form in the latter 19<sup>th</sup> century – some 50 covered bridges are said to have existed in Harford County alone – the covered timber bridge was quickly superseded by metal and, later, concrete structures which were invulnerable to rot, insects, and fire. Maryland's surviving covered bridges include four Burr-truss structures: Gilpin's Falls, Fair Hill (CE-238), Jerusalem/Jericho (1865, HA-438/BA-361, NR), and Utica (c. 1860, F-3-004, NR). The other two were constructed without Burr's reinforcing arch; Loys Station (c. 1865, F-6-003, NR) is a multiple king post truss, and Roddy Road (c. 1860, F-6-006, NR) is a shorter span with a single king-post truss. At 119 feet overall, the Gilpin's Falls bridge is the longest covered bridge in the state.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

CE-78  
Gilpin's Falls Covered Bridge  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

Section   9   Page   1  

Cecil County, Maryland  
\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

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## Major Bibliographical References:

CE-78, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD

Cleary, Richard L. Bridges. New York: W. W. Norton, 2007.

Wallace, Montgomery & Associates. Cecil County 1997 Biennial Bridge Inspection Report, Bridge Number CE-110, Gilpins Falls Covered Bridge over Northeast Creek. Ms. on file at Cecil County Department of Public Works, Elkton, MD

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

CE-78  
Gilpin's Falls Covered Bridge

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Name of Property

Cecil County, Maryland

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County and State

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## Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property, 1.255 acres, is described among the Land Records of Cecil County, Maryland, in Liber 232, folio 261, and depicted as Parcel 570 on Cecil County Tax Map 19.

## Boundary Justification:

The boundaries encompass the bridge, abutments, and approaches within their immediate setting, and represent the remnant of the property historically associated with the resource.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

CE-78  
Gilpin's Falls Covered Bridge

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Name of Property

Cecil County, MD

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County and State

Section PHOTO Page 1

## Index to Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs which accompany this documentation:

Name of Property: Gilpin's Falls Covered Bridge

Location: Cecil County, Maryland

Photographer: Peter E. Kurtze

Date: August 6, 2008

Photo captions:

MD\_CecilCounty\_Gilpin'sFallsCoveredBridge\_0001.tif

View from northwest

MD\_CecilCounty\_Gilpin'sFallsCoveredBridge\_0002.tif

View from southwest

MD\_CecilCounty\_Gilpin'sFallsCoveredBridge\_0003.tif

View from southeast

MD\_CecilCounty\_Gilpin'sFallsCoveredBridge\_0004.tif

Interior, view from south