

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received MAR 24 1980

date entered AUG 25 1980

1. Name

historic COVERED BRIDGES OF ADAMS, CUMBERLAND AND PERRY COUNTIES

and/or common *Thematic Resource*

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town

vicinity of

congressional district

state Pennsylvania

code 42

county

Adams,
Cumberland & Perry

code 001/041/099

3. Classification

Category

district

building(s)

structure

site

object

☒ thematic

Ownership

public

private

☒ both

Public Acquisition

in process

being considered

Status

occupied

unoccupied

work in progress

Accessible

yes: restricted

yes: unrestricted

no

Present Use

agriculture

commercial

educational

entertainment

government

industrial

military

museum

park

private residence

religious

scientific

☒ transportation

other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Adams Co. Courthouse/Cumberland Co. Courthouse/ Perry Co.

street & number Baltimore Street/South Hanover Street/Center Square

city, town Gettysburg/Carlisle/New Bloomfield

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory
of Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

date November 1979

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg

state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Only 17 covered bridges remain in the counties of Adams, Cumberland and Perry. The earliest of these is the Sauk's Bridge (38-01-01) of Adams County, this is also the only Town truss bridge of the group.

No overall regional characteristics are evident with a variety of siding, flooring and portals present. Because this is only a small remnant of the original number of bridges (except Perry County) it is impossible to ascertain any patterns in style or design.

The Rice bridge of Perry County displays a unique combination of Queen-posts and Burr arch. This is the only bridge of this type in Pa., however others may have existed but are now destroyed.

<u>Adams County</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Length</u>
Sauk's	38-01-01	1854	Town	100'
Jacks Mountain	38-01-08	1890	Burr	75'
Conewago Chapel	38-01-10	1899	Burr	98'
Heikes	38-01-14	1892	Burr	67'
Kuhn's Fording*	38-01-12	1882	Burr	228' 2 spans
Anderson's Farm*	38-01-05		Burr	70'

Cumberland County

Thompson*	38-21-10	1853	Burr	149'
Ramp	38-21-11	1882	Burr	136'
Bowmansdale*	38-21-13	(1973) 1867	Burr	112'

Perry County

Bistline	38-50-03	1871	Burr	96'	
Adairs	38-50-04	1864(1919)	Burr	150'	2 spans
Red	38-50-06	1886	MK-QP	45'	
Saville	38-50-07	1903	Burr	60'	
Kochendefer	38-50-09	1919	MK-QP	60'	
Rice	38-50-10	1869	QP-Burr	123'	
New Germantown	38-50-11	1891	MK-QP	74'	
Mt. Pleasant	38-50-12	1918	MK-QP	73'	
Book's	38-50-13	1884	Burr	70'	
Waggoner	38-50-15	1889	Burr	74'	
Dellville	38-50-16	1889	Burr	174'	3 spans
Fleisher	38-50-17	1887	Burr	113'	
Clays*	38-50-18		Burr	74'	

*Not nominated, included only for comparison

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Thematic Resources

Adams, Cumberland, Perry Counties

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Condition of Perry County Bridges:

1. Bistline Bridge (38-50-03) This bridge is basically good condition
2. Adairs (38-50-04) Adairs bridge though supported by steel I beams is now in structurally good condtion, although some minor maintance (Painting, board replacement) needs to be done. The steel supports in noway detract/ from the significance of this bridge.
3. Red (38-50-06) Thought closed to vehicular traffic is in good structural sound and well maintained.
4. Saville (38-50-07) This bridge is in good structural condition and is well maintained.
5. Kochendefer (38-50-09) This bridge is in excellent condition
6. Rice (38-50-10) This bridge is in excellent condition.
7. New Germantown (38-50-11) This bridge is in excellent condition.
8. Mt. Pleasant (38-50-12) This bridge is in excellent condition.
9. Book's (38-50-13) This bridge is structurally sound but could use some minor maintenance.
10. Waggoner (38-50-15) This bridge is in good condition.
11. Dellville (38-50-16) This bridge is in excellent condition.
12. Fleisher (38-50-17) This bridge is in fair condition.

Note: We are not going to redefine the boundaries of these covered bridges from the originally submitted boundaries.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The counties of Adams, Cumberland and Perry were once rich in covered bridges, but floods, arson and progress have greatly diminished their numbers in recent years. In 1959, Adams County had 15 covered bridges, earlier records showed a total of 25. Today Adams County has 5 bridges, one of which sits on dry land and is used as a farm storage building. One other partial bridge, Kuhn's Fording, sits as a skeleton on the banks of its creek the results of the latest devastating flood.

Cumberland County was also rich with 14 bridges in 1959, today three remain, one of which has been moved and completely rebuilt in recent years, and one which has been altered and in very poor condition.

Perry County has been more fortunate, of its 16 bridges listed in 1959, 11 remain.

The area of Pennsylvania is noted for its large farms and agricultural production. From Adams County northward to Perry the land changes from board flat valley's to the narrow valley's of the Appalachian Mountains. Transportation to and from market was important to the economic status of each county. To cross small streams was part of this transportation challenge, the use of wood as a bridge building material was a feasible answer to this transportation need. The covered bridge was an important step in the technology of bridge building in Pennsylvania.

The 17 bridges nominated here present the only surviving examples of this technology in these counties which still possess their integrity and original location. The majority of these remaining bridges employ the Burr Arch trussing system, however, there are several combinations of multiple kingpost and Queenpost bridges and one Town truss. This last bridge also is importantly for its involvement in the Battle of Gettysburg.

9. Major Bibliographical References

County Bridge Records

PHMC Covered Bridge Survey 1979

Allen, Richard Sanders. Covered Bridges of the Middle Atlantic States.

Brattleboro, VT: Stephen Greene Press, 1959, p. 61-71, 72.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 1.01

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

See continuation sheets

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan M. Zacher

organization PHMC

date _____

street & number Box 1026

telephone 717-787-4363

city or town Harrisburg

state Pennsylvania

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

ED WEINTRAUB, Director
title Office of Historic Preservation

date 3/10/80

For HCRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Administration

date 8/25/80

date 7/31/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Covered Bridges of Adams, Cumberland and Perry Counties
Adams, Cumberland, Perry Counties

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The covered bridge is an important and significant historic structure in the Commonwealth of Pa. Not only does Pa. have the most extant covered bridges today, it probably had the most during the height of the covered bridge period 1830 to 1875. Estimates have been made that Pa. once had at least 1500 covered bridges. (Allen, 1959: 51). Not only is the sheer number important but Pa. had the first known U.S. covered bridge, as well as the prototypes for most of the major truss types.

The first US covered bridge was located in Philadelphia over the Schuylkill, built in 1800 by Timothy Palmer, a master carpenter from Newburyport, Massachusetts. From the completion of this first bridge, the age of the covered bridge was upon Pa. Not only was the truss types of Burr and others first tried out in Pa. but the covered bridge spread as the local carpenter adapted it to the local problem of crossing the numerous small streams and creeks throughout Pa. The covered bridge is also important in the history of bridge building. The early stone arch bridges were really only practical on smaller streams and then in areas with an abundance of good building stone. The peak of the stone bridge in Pa. can be seen in the Rockville Bridge over the Susquehanna River built by the Pa. Railroad and contains a quarter of a million tons of stone. The covered bridge was the transition from the stone to the cast-iron in most places.

Since the heyday of the covered bridge they have been rapidly disappearing through neglect, flood, arson and progress. Prior to the Agnes Flood of 1972, Pa. had 271 covered bridges, spread across 41 of its 67 counties. Since that time the number has been decreasing at a fast rate. Because of their importance, the state level National Register Review Committee as well as the Office of Historic Preservation have embarked on a covered bridge survey and registration project. A survey form and inquiry letter were developed and mailed to county bridge engineers, historical societies, members of the Society of Industrial Archaeologists, the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society and numerous others. To date we have information on approx. 3/4 of the 41 counties containing covered bridges. Our results to date show that the number of covered bridges is down about a third from the 1972 figure of 271. Just since beginning our survey, two bridges have been destroyed by arson and one by an overloaded truck. It is because of

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this rapid disappearance rate, as well as their significance to Pa. in the history of transportation that we intend to nominate as many as possible to the National Register of Historic Places. Because of time and the immensity of the task a thematic nomination covering the whole state is impossible. We are therefore nominating these structures on a county or two county basis. All bridges constructed after 1930 have been excluded unless the bridge has a significance of its own. Bridge construction dates and builders are not always readily available, therefore after exhausting the files of the bridge engineers, historical societies and the archives, we have been lenient with the bridges for which we could find no dates, mainly on the view that very few have been built in the last 50 years and that the registration of all of these fast disappearing resource is valuable. Moved structures have been included in our nominations for several reasons; firstly in all cases if these structures had not been moved they would have been destroyed, secondly they still retain their significance as examples of trussing types and while they have lost their location they still retain an integrity of location in a rural setting. Therefore we have tended to nominate every eligible covered bridge in each county.