

**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

1. Name

historic Covered Bridges of Chester County Thematic Resources

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town

various localities in Chester Co.

vicinity of

congressional district

state Pennsylvania

code 42

county Chester

code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chester County Courthouse

street & number Market & High Street

city, town West Chester

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Pennsylvania Inventory
title of Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

date 1980

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg

state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition excellent deteriorated Check one unaltered Check one X original site
X good ruins X altered X moved date 1972, Larkin (38-15-11)
X fair unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Only 15 of the original 85 Chester County covered bridges remain today, two of the remaining bridges are shared with Lancaster County and one with Delaware County. Four of the bridges are already listed on the National Register (3 individually, 1 as part of Valley Forge National Military Park), they will be mentioned here for comparison.

<u>Bridge Name & Number</u>	<u>Truss</u>	<u>Year</u>
Rudolph & Arthur (38-15-01)	Burr	1880
Glen Hope (38-15-02)	Burr	1889
Linton Stevens (38-15-03)	Burr	1886
Speakman #1 (38-15-05)	Burr	1881
Speakman #2, Mary Ann Pyle (38-15-06)	Queenpost	1881
*Hayes Clark (38-15-07)	Kingpost	1971 not being nominated
Gibson's (38-15-10)	Burr	1872
Larkin (38-15-11)	Burr	1881
*Hall's, Sheeder (38-15-12)	Burr	1850 (NR 4-23-73)
*Kennedy (38-15-13)	Burr	1856 (NR 1-21-74)
*Rapp's (38-15-14)	Burr	1866 (NR 6-18-73)
*Knox (38-15-15)	Burr	1865 (NHL 1-20-61)
*Mercer's Mill (38-15-15, 38-36-38)	Burr	1880 (share w/Lancaster Co.)
*Pine Grove (38-15-21, 38-36-40)	Burr	1884 (share w/Lancaster Co.)
Bartram's (38-15-17, 38-23-02)	Burr	1860 (share w/Lancaster Co.)

* not included in this nomination. See NR listings + Lancaster Co nomination

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 checked="" 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)

According to county records, Chester County once had 85 covered bridges, 21 of which were shared with other counties. The earliest recorded covered bridge in Chester County was built in 1807 and the most recent in 1899. Only 15 covered bridges remain today, the oldest being the Hall's, Sheeder Bridge built in 1850. The covered bridge played an important part in the transportation system of the County throughout the 19th century. Many of the bridges were built to serve local mills and the transportation of agricultural produce to market.

Because Chester's bridges were built under the control of the county very good records of the builders and the cost of construction exist. Before a bridge could be built petitions and competitive bidding were required as well as the overseeing of bridge construction were conducted by the County.

The covered bridge was an important transportation resource in Chester County, the remaining bridges are fine examples of this period in Pennsylvania Bridge technology.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Allen, R. S. Covered Bridges of the Middle Atlantic States. Brattleboro, Vt: Stephen Greene Press, 1959, p. 59-60.
James, Arthur P. Covered Bridges of Chester County, Pennsylvania. West Chester: Chester County Historical Society, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property .4

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

See Continuation Sheet

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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F

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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 Pa. Historical & Museum Comm.

date July 1980

street & number Box 1026

telephone 717-783-9926

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 11/13/80

For HCRRS use only

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

for Keeper of the National Register

Agent

Chief of Registration

date

date 12/10/80