

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Skippack Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Bridge #142, Montgomery County

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Pennsylvania Route 422 - Germantown Pike

CITY OR TOWN:
Lower Providence Township

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE 42	COUNTY: Montgomery	CODE 091
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

Has been in continuous use in original dimensions since 1792.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Public

STREET AND NUMBER:
Germantown Pike

CITY OR TOWN:
Lower Providence Township

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Airy and Swede Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Norristown

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN:
Harrisburg

STATE:
Pennsylvania

CODE:
42

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania

COUNTY: Montgomery

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Eighteenth-century eight-arch stone bridge, thirty-three foot wide.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1792

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

An eight-arch Skippack Bridge was built in 1792 to cross the Skippack Creek on Germantown Pike in Lower Providence Township. Skippack Bridge presents the most ambitious architectural and engineering project in the remaining among sites in the proposed flood area. The thirty-three foot wide bridge has carried traffic since the day of its completion in 1792. "Measuring" or inspection of bridge construction was completed November 2, 1792. The original date stone reads Skippack Bridge 1792 and gives the names of Mathew Potts, John Mann and Conrad Boyer. The bridge was repaired in 1874 and a second date stone bears among others the name of John Steeven, one of the commissioners.

The bridge was funded by monies of which at least a part has been collected by a 1762 lottery. During the February Term 1792, the Court appointed a six man jury to lay out a road and bridge easily accessible from either the present Manatawny Road or Germantown Pike and the Norristown Road, which is the Old Baptist Church Road and ford. The findings of the six man jury during the May Term 1792 stated that upon examination of the Skippack Creek between the Manatawny Road (Germantown Pike) and the Norristown Road (Old Baptist Church Road) no place suitable for erecting a bridge to service both roads could be found, and the present site was recommended. One of the points of reference used in surveying the bridge site was the Peter Williams' Tavern which also became the location for the various board meetings during the construction of the bridge. This tavern was located on the east side of the creek. Bridge land on the west side ran through the property of Abraham Funk referred to in the discussion of the Funkite cemetery.

In summary, the Skippack Bridge is a unique and outstandingly handsome example of an eighteenth-century engineering project. It predates by seven years the Perkiomen structure at Collegeville, which has the historic claim of being the oldest bridge in Montgomery County. Few historians of technology have concerned themselves with provincial continuation of traditional masonry engineering practice, but this bridge is certainly among the ten oldest spans in the United States. The degree of its subsequent alteration deserves careful analysis and review.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

County Bridge Records #142 (a) Court Dockets Feb. term 1792 (b) Montgomery County Commissioners Minute Book #2 April 27, 1792.
 Jacobs Papers - Historical Society of Pa.
 Historical Survey of Skippack Valley, by Dr. Anthony N. B. Garvan, Consultant for Ian McHarg Assoc. Feb. 1970.
 The Picket Post - Valley Forge Historical Society, Valley Forge, Pa. p. 13

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							
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	40°	10'	54"	75°	25'	21"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Eva Boswell, Historian, Joseph J. Peters, M. D., President

ORGANIZATION: Skippack Historical Society and Evansburg Historical Society DATE: July 2, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box #1

CITY OR TOWN: Collegeville STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

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 J. K. [Signature]

Title Executive Director

Date September 8, 1970

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

SEE INSTRUCTIONS