

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Franklin
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Martin's Mill Covered Bridge
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Conococheague Creek, ca. 3½ miles SW of Greencastle, Pa. Rt. 341			
CITY OR TOWN: Antrim Township		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Ninth	
STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE: 42	COUNTY: Franklin	CODE: 055

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> No					
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Martin's Mill Bridge Association; William O. Shuman, Secretary	STATE: Pennsylvania
STREET AND NUMBER: 162 East Madison	
CITY OR TOWN: Greencastle	
CODE: 42	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Franklin County Courthouse	COUNTY: Franklin
STREET AND NUMBER: 1 North Main Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Chambersburg	
CODE: 42	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None	FOR NPS USE ONLY
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	ENTRY NUMBER
STATE:	DATE
CODE:	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Compendium of the Reconstruction of Martin's Mill Bridge, presented by Martin's Mill Bridge Association to the Awards Committee, Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, May 2, 1973.  
 Garling, Paul. "Historical Sketches at the Confluence of the East and West Conococheague," n.d.  
 Martin's Mill Bridge Association. Historical Bulletin and Program (prepared for dedication ceremonies), May, 1973.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	.	"	0	.	"	39°	47'	28"
NE	0	.	"	0	.	"	77°	45'	13"
SE	0	.	"	0	.	"		46'	35"
SW	0	.	"	0	.	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Harvey Freedenberg, Student Aide

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission DATE: July, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: William Penn Memorial Museum and Archives Building

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 William J. Wewer

Title Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Date 9/17/73

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Martin's Mill Bridge is a 205-foot-long covered bridge, spanning the east branch of the Conococheague Creek, approximately three-and-one-half miles southwest of Greencastle, Antrim Township, Franklin County. The bridge was begun and completed in 1849 under the direction of contractor Jacob Shirk.

In 1850, a board of viewers appointed to inspect the bridge and certify the quality of Shirk's work described the structure as, "205 feet long, 13 feet 3 inches high, 16 feet wide on the inside, plank used in the lattice work 3 inches by 10 inches, upper chord 3 inches by 8 inches and 3 inches by 10 inches, lower chord, 3 inches by 12 inches and 5 inches by 12 inches." No record appears as to the contract price.

Shirk employed what is known as the "Town lattice truss" in the bridge's construction. Devised and patented in 1820 by Ithiel Town, a Connecticut architect, this design used no arches or exterior supports, but consisted of a lattice work of thick wooden planks pinned together with wooden pegs or "trunnels." This type of truss, resembling a criss-cross garden fence, became popular in Pennsylvania in the 1830s as Town peddled his patented design and enriched himself on royalties. His truss was considered substantial enough to support spans up to 200 feet in length. Another advantage of the Town truss was the fact that it was less expensive than the arch-truss bridges popularized by Theodore Burr and others.

In June, 1972, floodwaters on the Conococheague Creek rose four feet above the bridge's piers, dislodging the wooden structure. Two-thirds of the bridge remained intact after being carried some distance downstream. The western one-third landed on a raised portion of ground, and was fractured in the process.

In August, 1972, the Martin's Mill Covered Bridge Association commenced a fundraising drive to underwrite the costs of reconstruction. The donation of labor and engineering services substantially reduced the project's costs.

The reconstructed bridge, completed in May, 1973, now rests on piers five feet higher than those in existence at the time of the 1972 flood. The strengthening of these piers and bridge stones may permit the passage of light traffic over the bridge in the future.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1849

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 type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Martin's Mill Bridge is the longest lattice-type covered bridge in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and one of two covered bridges remaining in Franklin County.

The area surrounding the Martin's Mill Bridge was first settled in the 1730s or early 1740s when colonists began to cross the Susquehanna River and push southward into the Cumberland Valley. As early as 1785 a grist and saw mill are mentioned in local records. The mills stood just south of what is now the western entrance of the covered bridge with a mill race between the two buildings. The brick mill was torn down in 1905, and parts of the dam and mill race north of the bridge are the only reminders of a once flourishing enterprise.

On January 19, 1849, the citizens of Antrim and Montgomery Townships presented a petition to the Franklin County Court asking the appointment of a board of viewers to consider the need and proposed location of a bridge at the point where the mills were situated. Later that year the board submitted its report, agreeing with the petitioners that a bridge was necessary and that it would be cheaper to build the bridge on what is now its site than at the site of the original fording.

For some time the bridge functioned principally as an approach to the mills and as an auxiliary east-west link between portions of Antrim and Montgomery Townships. The bridge was restored in 1928 as a result of wear incurred with the passage of motor vehicle traffic. Further damage was done by the flood of 1936 and by a truck which crashed through the flooring in 1948. By the 1950s, steps to limit the size of loads allowable on the bridge were taken. The bridge was known at this time as Shindle's Bridge, so-named for the occupants of a nearby farmhouse.

In 1958, Franklin County Commissioners voted to abandon and demolish the bridge on the grounds that its continued existence posed a hazard to traffic traversing it, and that the bridge would be bypassed by a new and more modern road under consideration at the

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Franklin	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

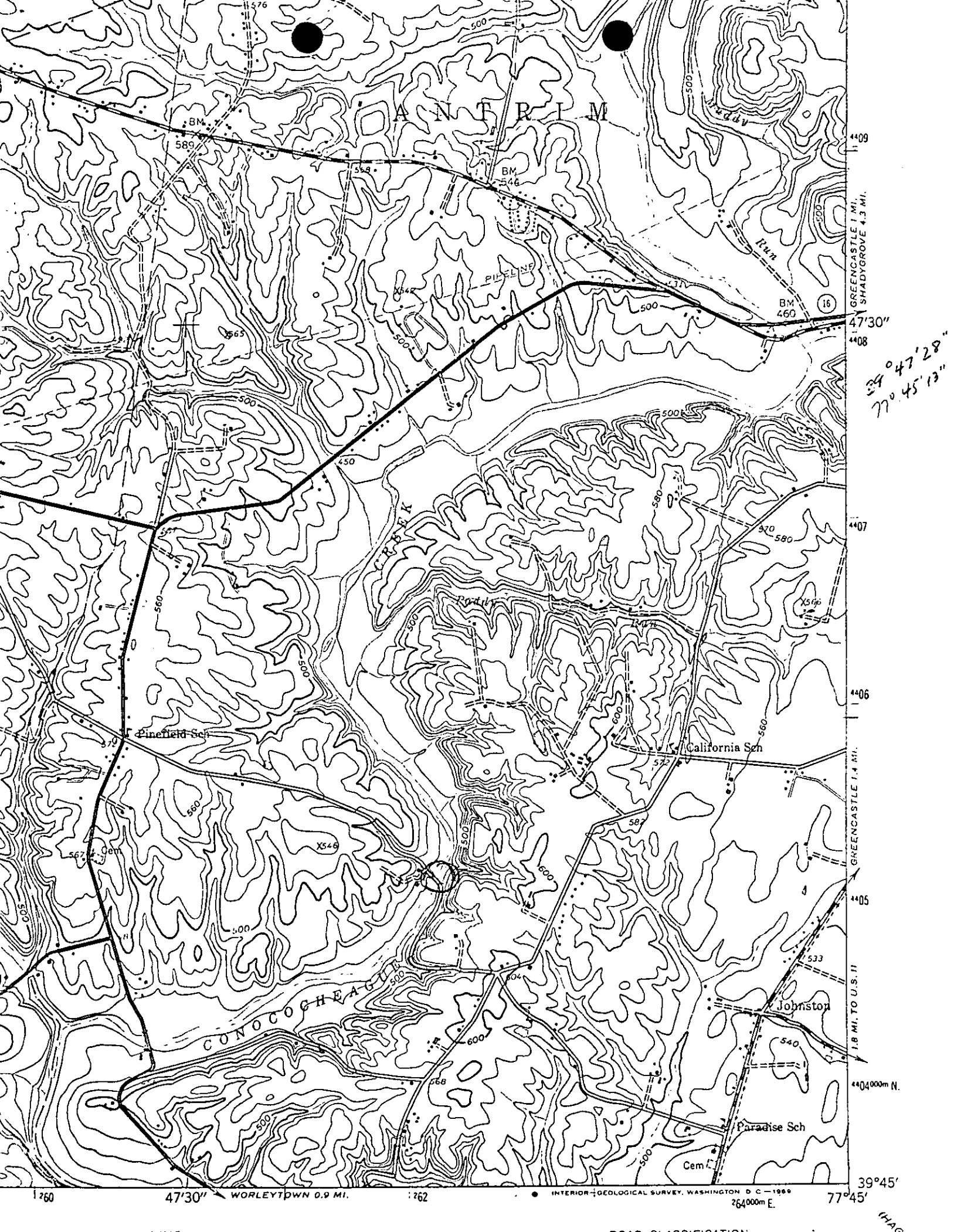
8. Significance

Martin's Mill Covered Bridge

time. After a court fight in 1959, in which the commissioners' decision was upheld, the county elections of the same year installed three new commissioners who were persuaded, in 1962, to abandon plans for demolition and transfer ownership of the bridge from the county to the non-profit Martin's Mill Covered Bridge Association.

The Association was the driving force behind efforts to reconstruct the bridge following the severe damage it suffered at the hands of Hurricane Agnes. The bridge will be open to passenger traffic under a three ton weight limit and thus restore thru traffic on Route 341 for the first time since 1958.

Though the bridge has been altered as a result of its destruction and restoration, it remains a fine example of a vanishing bridge type in Pennsylvania. At least fifteen covered bridges were demolished in the 1972 floods. Numerous others were seriously damaged. Martin's Mill Bridge also testifies to the dedication of a local preservation group working to save this landmark from extinction at the hands of either man or nature.



DANTRIM

BM 589

BM 546

BM 460

Pinefield Sch

California Sch

Johnston

Paradise Sch

Cem.

CONOCHEAGUE RIVER

PIPELINE

GREENCASTLE 1 MI.  
SHADYGROVE 4.3 MI.

GREENCASTLE 1.4 MI.

1.8 MI. TO U.S. II

39°45'

77°45'

47°30' WORLEY TOWN 0.9 MI.

INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON D.C. - 1988

264000m E

39°47'28"  
77°45'13"

1/48