

Part of
Covered Bridges of Bradford, Sullivan, and
Lycoming Counties TR

Available at the National Park Service website
<http://www.nr.nps.gov/nrcover.htm>

#38-57-01

Name: Forksville Covered Bridge

Location: L.R.56007 Spur Forks Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4594000 E 366420 Acreage:

Owner:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation $166' \times 25' = 4150$

Stream: Loyalstock Creek

Truss Type: Burr

Builder: Sadler Rogers

Year: 1850

$$\frac{(146' + 20') \times (15' + 10')}{43,560} = .09$$

End Post to

End Post Length: 146 ft

Clearance:

Road Surface

Width: (15 ft)

Load:

Distinguishing
Features:

This large one span bridge crosses Loyalstock Creek and serves the small community of Forksville.

Built in 1850 by Sadler Rogers, who also built the Hillsgrove bridge, this structure is only one of three covered bridges left in Sullivan County.

It has vertical plank siding sheaths the walls almost to eave level. Its flooring is made up of very narrow wooden strips laid across the width of the bridge.

Condition:

Good

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

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

**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 BRADFORD, SULLIVAN AND LYCOMING COUNTIES

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town

vicinity of

congressional district

10/11/17

state Pennsylvania

code 42

Bradford/Sullivan
county /Lycoming

code 015/113/08

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. Bradford/Sullivan/Lycoming County Courthouses

street & number

city, town Towanda/Laporte/Williamsport

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory
of Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976

federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg

state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

There are seven remaining covered bridges in the counties of Bradford, Sullivan and Lycoming.

Bridge	County	Truss	Year	Length
Knapp's	Bradford	Burr	1853	95'
Forksville	Sullivan	Burr	1850	146'
Hillsgrove*	Sullivan	Burr	c.1850	171'
Sonestown	Sullivan	Burr	c.1850	99'
Buttonwood	Lycoming	Burr	1898	63'6"
Cogan House	Lycoming	Burr	1877	93'
Lairdsville	Lycoming	Burr	1888	77'10"

*Listed on NR on 7-2-73

All burr arch trusses, the seven bridges range from 63'6" to 171'. A variety of siding, flooring portal types make comparison on a regional basis difficult. It is also hard to compare the small number remaining with once present in the three counties. However, the remaining bridges are fine examples of the wooden bridge in Pennsylvania.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Located in the Susquehanna River watershed, these north central Pennsylvania Counties have never been heavily populated with agriculture and lumbering the most important economic basis today, as well as in the past. The use of lumber as a building resource was not only evident in their bridges but their buildings as well. While never rich in the number of covered bridges historically, there is significant difference between what was present 75 years ago and what is present today.

In 1890, Sullivan County had 30 covered bridges, today they only have 3. Bradford County had a least two with the possibility of many others not recorded, today only one remains. This remaining bridge is the highest-above-water covered bridge in Pennsylvania. Lycoming also has been reduced in number to only three.

These remaining examples of the covered bridge are an important link and record of the transportation histories in each county.

