

38-57-03

Name: Sonestown Covered Bridge

Location: T310 Davidson Township

UTM: Zone 18 N 4578160 E 369880 Acreage:

Owner:

Sullivan County

$$(99' + 20') \times (15' + 10') = 119' \times 25' = 2975$$

$$\div 43,560 = .06$$

Stream: Muncy Creek

Truss Type: Burr

Builder:

Year: c.1850

End Post to

End Post Length: 99 ft

Clearance:

Road Surface

Width: (15 ft)

Load: 3 tons

Distinguishing Features:

Sonestown bridge crosses Muncy Creek in eastern Sullivan County. Built to reach Johnny Hazen's gristmill, the Sonestown bridge is only one of three left in the county. It has vertical plank siding open near the eaves to admit light. Its flooring is wide planks laid widthwise with vertically laid planks for wheel tracks.

Condition:

Good

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>

**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 _____
date entered _____

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street & number _____ not for publication _____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 county Bradford/Sullivan /Lycoming code 015/113/08

3. Classification

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

