

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Askew Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Skew Bridge, "The Whiskey Bridge"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
North 6th Street, near Woodward

CITY OR TOWN:  
Reading

STATE: Pennsylvania      CODE: 42      COUNTY: Berks      CODE: 011

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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Reading Railroad Company

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Reading      STATE: Pennsylvania      CODE: 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Berks County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
6th and Court Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Reading      STATE: Pennsylvania      CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D.C.      CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania

COUNTY: Berks

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DATE

## 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

The Askew Bridge was designed by Richard Osborne in 1856. The bridge carries double tracks of the Pennsylvania and Reading Railroad over North 6th Street to the railway terminal. Completed in 1857, the bridge was constructed of local brownstone. The main arch which spans the street is forty feet across. A smaller arch on each side of the main arch spans the sidewalk. Each course of the arch is laid in an elliptical curve which follows the oblique angle that the railroad tracks make with the street. Because of the elliptical course in which the blocks are laid, there is no keystone.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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)

1857

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 type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | osophy   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Askew Bridge is regarded as the best example of a skew bridge in the United States. The bridge which derived its name from the skew arches used in its construction was also called the Soap and Whiskey Bridge. Richard Osborne, the designer, used a soap model of the bridge in its construction. The whiskey appellation is derived from the large amounts of whiskey which were given to the Irish workers as part of their salary. The bridge is in excellent repair and is still in use by the Reading Railroad.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Federal Writer's Project, Pennsylvania, A Guide to the Keystone State. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1940.

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		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	40°	20'	33"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	75°	55'	30"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Pennsylvania Register of Historical Sites & Landmarks

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Comm. DATE: 5/72

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 1026

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 Weaver*  
State Liaison Officer

Title Deputy Executive Director  
Pa. Historical & Museum Comm.

Date 6/12/72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

LEESPORT (LEESPORT P.O.) 5.9 MI.  
TUCKERTON 2.1 MI.  
5864 IV NW  
(TEMPLE)

MOSLEM SPRINGS 10 MI.  
TEMPLE 2.3 MI.

PRICETOWN 5.7 MI.

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

75°52'30"

40°22'30"

2520 000 FEET

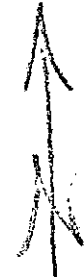


380 000  
FEET

STONY CREEK MILLS 0.4 MI.  
FRIEDENSBURG 5.7 MI.

466

20' 6 MI.  
13 MI.



70°20'33" 75°55'30"