

38-15-12

Name: Hall's, Sheeder Covered Bridge

Location: L.R. 1519⁴, West Vincent Township/East Vincent Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4444100 E447100

Owner: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Stream: French Creek

Truss Type: Burr

Builder: Robert Russell and Jacob Fox

Year: 1850

Length: 2 spans, 100'

Width: 15'

Load:

Condition: Good

Distinguishing Features:

Bridging East and West Vincent Townships the Hall's, Sheeder Bridge is the oldest covered bridge still standing in Chester County. Its stepped portals and horizontal clapboard siding is similar to the Wertz's or Red Covered Bridge of Berks County. Built by Robert Russell and Jacob Fox the entire two span bridge cost \$1,564 to build.

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 Chester County Thematic Resources

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town

vicinity of

congressional district

state Pennsylvania

code 42

county Chester

code 029

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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: |

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chester County Courthouse

street & number Market & High Street

city, town West Chester

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title of Historic Places Pennsylvania Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980

federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg

state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition Check one Check one
 excellent deteriorated unaltered original site
 good ruins altered moved date 1972, Larkin (38-15-11)
 fair unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Only 15 of the original 85 Chester County covered bridges remain today, two of the remaining bridges are shared with Lancaster County and one with Delaware County. Four of the bridges are already listed on the National Register (3 individually, 1 as part of Valley Forge National Military Park), they will be mentioned here for comparison.

| <u>Bridge Name & Number</u> | <u>Truss</u> | <u>Year</u> |
|--|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Rudolph & Arthur (38-15-01) | Burr | 1880 |
| Glen Hope (38-15-02) | Burr | 1889 |
| Linton Stevens (38-15-03) | Burr | 1886 |
| Speakman #1 (38-15-05) | Burr | 1881 |
| Speakman #2, Mary Ann Pyle (38-15-06) | Queenpost | 1881 |
| Hayes Clark (38-15-07) | Kingpost | 1971 not being nominated |
| Gibson's (38-15-10) | Burr | 1872 |
| Larkin (38-15-11) | Burr | 1881 |
| Hall's, Sheeder (38-15-12) | Burr | 1850 (NR 4-23-73) |
| Kennedy (38-15-13) | Burr | 1856 (NR 1-21-74) |
| Rapp's (38-15-14) | Burr | 1866 (NR 6-18-73) |
| Knox (38-15-15) | Burr | 1865 (NHL 1-20-61) |
| Mercer's Mill (38-15-15, 38-36-38) | Burr | 1880 (share w/Lancaster Co) |
| Pine Grove (38-15-21, 38-36-40) | Burr | 1884 (share w/Lancaster Co) |
| Bartram's (38-15-17, 38-23-02) | Burr | 1860 (share w/Lancaster Co) |

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Allen, R. S. Covered Bridges of the Middle Atlantic States. Brattleboro, Vt: Stephen Greene Press, 1959, p. 59-60.

James, Arthur P. Covered Bridges of Chester County, Pennsylvania. West Chester: Chester County Historical Society, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .4

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

See Continuation Sheet

A

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan M. Zacher

organization Pa. Historical & Museum Comm.

date July 1980

street & number Box 1026

telephone 717-783-9926

city or town Harrisburg

state Pennsylvania

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Ed Weintraub, Director
title Office of Historic Preservation

date 11/2/80

For HCERS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

According to county records, Chester County once had 85 covered bridges, 21 of which were shared with other counties. The earliest recorded covered bridge in Chester County was built in 1807 and the most recent in 1899. Only 15 covered bridges remain today, the oldest being the Hall's, Sheeder Bridge built in 1850. The covered bridge played an important part in the transportation system of the County throughout the 19th century. Many of the bridges were built to serve local mills and the transportation of agricultural produce to market.

Because Chester's bridges were built under the control of the county very good records of the builders and the cost of construction exist. Before a bridge could be built petitions and competitive bidding were required as well as the overseeing of bridge construction were conducted by the County.

The covered bridge was an important transportation resource in Chester County, the remaining bridges are fine examples of this period in Pennsylvania Bridge technology.

Part of
Covered Bridges of Chester County TR

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