

DEC 18 1979

# 38-05-19      **Name:** RAYSTOWN OR DIEHL'S  
**Location:** LR 05097, Station 68+54, Harrison Township  
**UTM: Zone** 17    **N** 4431240      **E** 700700 **Acreage:**  
**Owner:** Harrison Township

**Stream:** Raystown Branch of Juniata River  
**Truss Type:** Burr  
**Builder:**  
**Year:** 1892

**End Post to**  
**End Post Length:** 88'4"  
**Clearance:** 12'

**Road Surface**  
**Width:** 9'1" roadbed 12'10"  
**Load:** 3 Tons

**Distinguishing**  
**Features:**

Diehl's bridge has a high burr truss and low sidewalls leaving most of the sidewalls open. This bridge can be seen from the Pa. Turnpike.

**Condition:**

Good

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
Inventory of Historic Places

Official use only  
NUMBER:

SEE INFORMATION SHEET BEFORE FILLING OUT FORM  
PLEASE TYPE

**1** HISTORICAL NAME OF PROPERTY:

Diehl's Covered Bridge

**2** LOCATION:

STREET on Rt. 05097, Station 68+54 over Raystown Branch of Juanita River  
CITY near MANN'S CHOICE  
TOWNSHIP HARRISON COUNTY Bedford Code 009  
Congressional District 9

**3** CLASSIFICATION:

PRESENT USE

CATEGORY

district  
 building(s)  
 structure  
 site  
 object

OWNERSHIP

private  
 public  
 both

STATUS

occupied  
 unoccupied  
 work in progress

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

in process  
 being considered

ACCESSIBLE

Yes: restricted  
 Yes: unrestricted  
 No

Agriculture  
 Commercial  
 Educational  
 Entertainment  
 Government  
 Industrial  
 Military  
 Museum  
 Park  
 Private Residence  
 Religious  
 Scientific  
 Transportation  
 Other

**4** OWNERSHIP:

NAME Pennsylvania Department of Transportation District 9-0  
STREET North Juniata Street  
CITY, TOWN Holidaysburg BAIR Co. STATE Pennsylvania ZIP 16648

**5** LOCATION of LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Bedford County Courthouse  
STREET \_\_\_\_\_ CITY, TOWN Bedford COUNTY Bedford

**6** REPRESENTATION in EXISTING SURVEYS:

TITLE OF SURVEY: Pennsylvania State Bridge Log, District 9-0  
DATE OF SURVEY: 1976 FEDERAL  STATE  LOCAL   
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Pennsylvania Dept. of Transportation  
CITY HARRISBURG STATE Pennsylvania

7

## DESCRIPTION:

Check One

Original Site Moved  Date \_\_\_\_\_

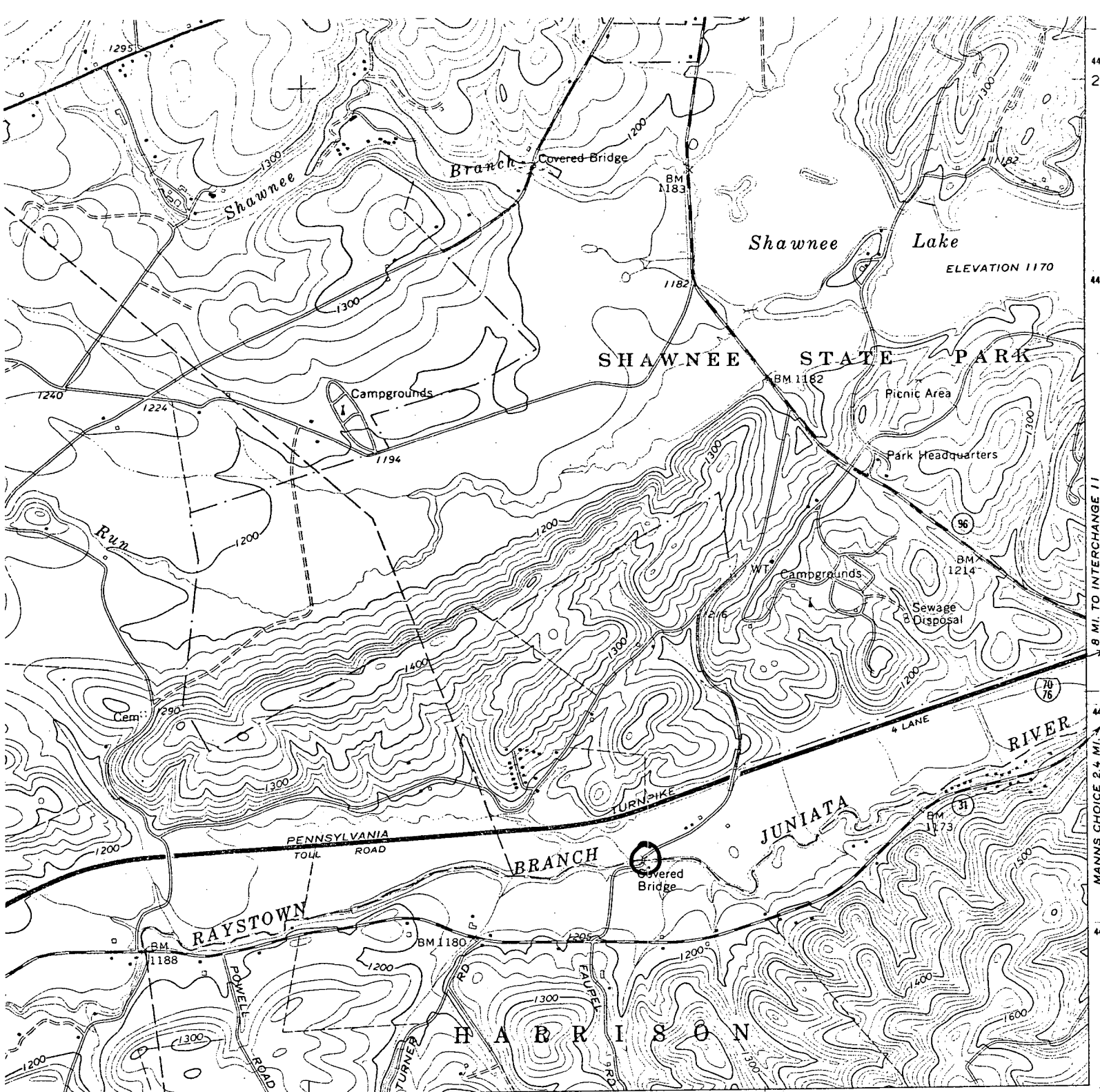
Architectural Description: A written description including features such as stories in height, length and width, number of bays, alterations and additions to the main structure; type of roof, windows, door, chimney design and placement, materials and style of construction; and a floor plan, if possible.

 good altered

Diehl's Covered Bridge spans the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River in Harrison Township, Bedford County. This Burr truss bridge has a single span of 80 feet and was built circa 1892. Supported by stone abutments the bridge has an exposed truss system with sheathing only to waist height. The deck of the bridge is timber and is 13 feet wide. The bridge has a 12'6" vertical clearance with a 13' clearance from the water to the base of the bridge.

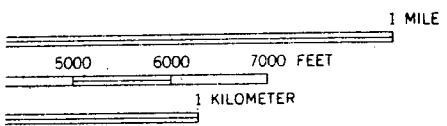
The bridge carries a 3 ton limit and is kept in good condition.



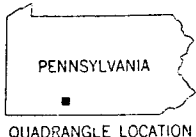


8 MI. TO INTERCHANGE 11  
MANN'S CHOICE 2.4 MI. N.E.

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C.—1972  
702000m. E. 78° 37'



FEET  
EL



**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
○ Interstate Route	○ U. S. Route
	○ State Route

T418

**SCHELLSBURG, PA.**  
SW/4 BEDFORD 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4000—W7837.5/7.5

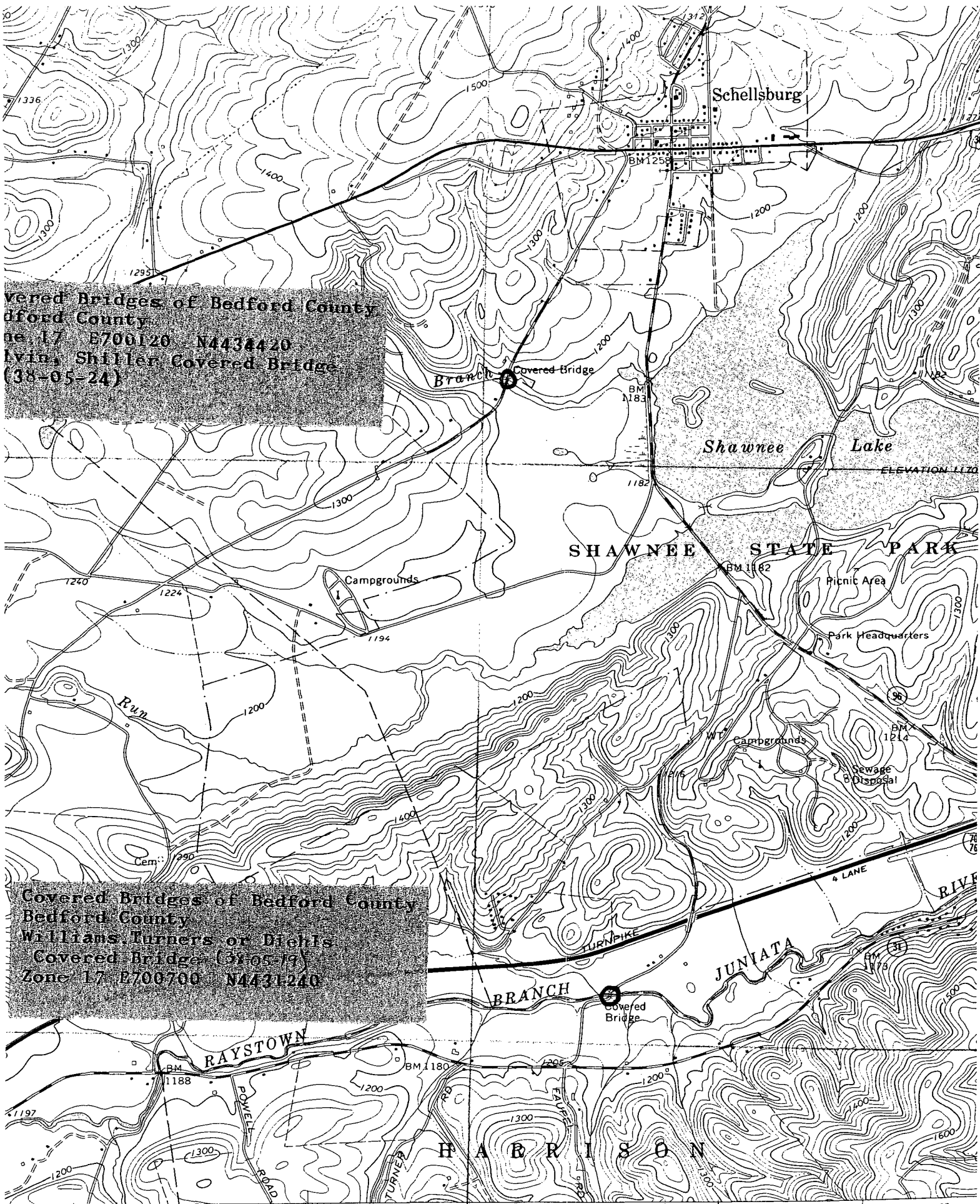
CURACY STANDARDS  
ASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
OLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1971

AMS 5264 II SW—SERIES V831

Covered Bridges of Bedford County  
Bedford County  
Zone 17 E700120 N4434420  
Shiller Covered Bridge  
(38-05-24)

Covered Bridges of Bedford County  
Bedford County  
Williams, Turners or Digh's  
Covered Bridge (38-05-19)  
Zone 17 E700700 N4431240



Part of  
**Bedford County Covered Bridges 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

26  
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received

date entered

1. Name

historic COVERED BRIDGES OF BEDFORD COUNTY

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 14 bridges not for publication

city, town vicinity of congressional district

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Bedford code 009

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"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<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. Bedford County Courthouse

street & number Juliana Street

city, town Bedford state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory  
of Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 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

The remaining Bedford County covered bridges can be broken down into four distinctive visual types, even though only two different trussing systems are employed.

The open side wall type seems to be a regional variation and only known at this point in our survey from this county. The neighboring county of Somerset has approx. 16 covered bridges, some of these may also prove to be of a similar type.

Fifteen historic covered bridges remain today in Bedford County, however, only 14 will be nominated here. The Claycomb or Reynoldsville bridge has been moved and altered in recent years.

Type I Features: Burr arch truss (low to medium)  
Shallow gable roof  
X-bracing of roof  
Low (3 plank) inner walls  
High, vertical plank outer walls  
Truss does not extend above side walls  
(one exception, Ryot)  
Four of the 5 in this category have an extra horizontal beam at eave level

### Bridges of this Type:

Hewitt Covered Bridge	38-05-26	
Ryot Covered Bridge	38-05-17	
Snooks Covered Bridge	38-05-23	
<del>McDaniels Covered Bridge</del>	<del>38-05-20</del>	Removed 10/13/88
Jackson's Mill Covered Bridge	38-05-25	

Type II Features: Burr arch truss (medium)  
Shallow gable roof  
Low (3 plank) inner walls  
Low vertical plank outer walls  
X-bracing of roof  
Horizontal beam bracing at top of burr arch

### Bridges of this type :

Dr. Knisely's Covered Bridge	38-05-16
Diehl's Covered Bridge	38-05-19
Osterburg or Bowser's Covered Bridge	38-05-22

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DATE ENTERED

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Covered Bridges of Bedford County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Type III Features: Burr arch truss (high-eave level)  
 Medium pitched gable roof  
 X-bracing of roof  
 Low (3 plank) inner walls  
 High, vertical plank outer walls (exception,  
 Hall's Mill - no outer walls)

Bridges of this Type:

Felton's Mill Covered Bridge	38-05-03
Claycomb or Reynoldsville Covered Bridge	38-05-12 not nominated
Hall's Mill Covered Bridge	38-05-15
Heirline Covered Bridge	38-05-11

Type IV Features: Kingpost truss

Only two bridges employing the kingpost trussing system are present in Bedford County.

The Fischtner or Polo Alto bridge (38-05-21) has the typical kingpost trussing system. Horizontal beams also tie the trussing system members together as on type one bridges. This bridge also has low side walls.

The Calvin or Calvin Bridge (38-05-24) has a more unusual use of the kingpost system. This bridge has short diagonal braces which only come to the middle of the panel posts. Horizontal beams are tied to the panel posts where the diagonal braces end. A second set of diagonal braces begin above these beams but are tied to the cross-beams of the roof bracing. This is the only bridge of this type in Pennsylvania.

Other

New Paris or Cupperts Covered Bridge (38-05-18) is also an unusual bridge. Its extremely low burr arch is protected by low curving vertical siding leaving the bridge sidewalls open. Horizontal beams tie the end post and panel posts.

# 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)

The covered bridge was once an important part of the transportation system of the county. Today only 15 of these wooden spans remain although records show that at least 5 known others once stood in the county and other accounts put the number as high as 74. This county was settled by numerous Indian trails and an early road forged by General John Forbes in 1758. The iron industry was an important economic venture in the county during the 19th century, however agriculture was and still remains of major importance

Unfortunately pictures of all the early bridges do not exist for comparative study with the remaining bridges. However, some distinctive regional features can be seen. These include the high presence of the use of the burr arch and the open side walls. The remaining bridges are an important survival of a transportation feature once common in Bedford County.

