

DEC 18 1979

38-05-22 **Name:** BOWSER, OSTERBURG
Location: T757, East St. Clair Township
UTM: Zone 17 **N** 4450080 **E** 709320 **Acreage:**
Owner: Bedford County

Stream: Bob's Creek
Truss Type: Burr
Builder:
Year:

End Post to
End Post Length: 90'
Clearance: 11'9"

Road Surface
Width: 9'10" roadbed 12'4"
Load:

Distinguishing
Features:

Open frame work bridge similar to Diehl's covered bridge. Also has unusual bracing by horizontal beams at top level of arch.

Condition:

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street & number 14 bridges not for publication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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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	
McDaniels Covered Bridge	38-05-20	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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

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 presidence 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.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Whisker, Vaughn E. Taleo from the Allegheny Foothills. Bedford Gazette, Bedford. 1975, Vol. 3.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property .68

Quadrangle name See continuation sheet

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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E

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G

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B

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 Zone Easting Northing

D

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F

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Acreege and boundaires are calculated by adding 20 feet to each length and 10 feet to each width to include abutments

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan M. Zacher / Barbara Hufnagel

organization PHMC/Historic Sites Survey date _____

street & number Box 1026 / 203 S. Juliana Street telephone _____

city or town Harrisburg / Bedford 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 _____

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration