

DEC 18 1979

# 38-05-18

**Name:** CUPPERTS OR NEW PARIS COVERED BRIDGE

**Location:** 1 mile north of New Paris, Napier Township

**UTM: Zone** 17 **N** 444460 **E** 701150 **Acreage:**

**Owner:** Alfred Mangus and Charles Cuppert

Both: R. D. #1, New Paris, Pa.

**Stream:** Dunnings Creek

**Truss Type:**

**Builder:** Burr

**Year:**

**End Post to**

**End Post Length:** 60'

**Clearance:**

**Road Surface**

**Width:** 12'

**Load:** Closed to traffic

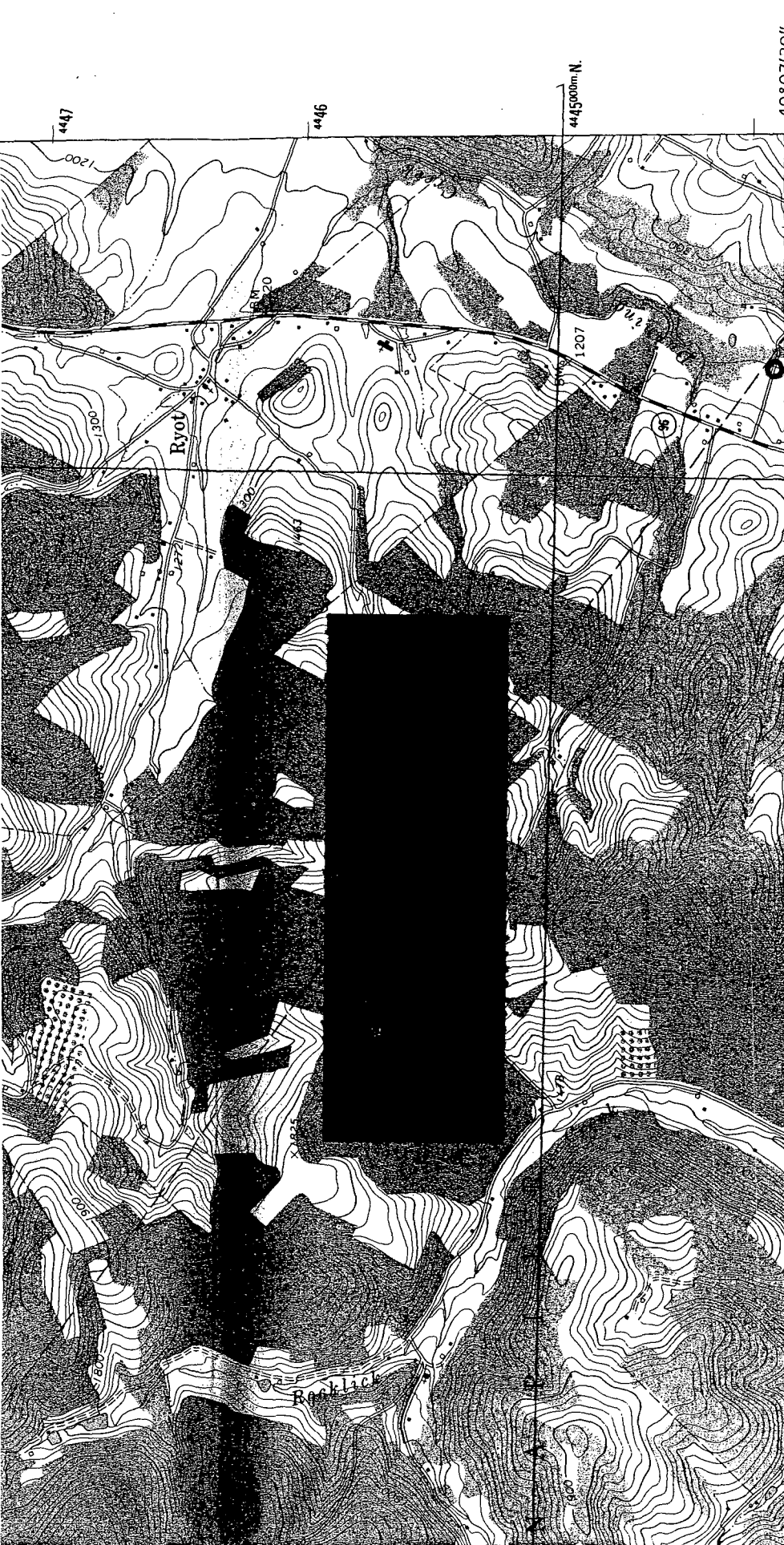
**Distinguishing**

**Features:**

This unusual bridge has a low burr truss with truss level side walls.  
The upper trussing is tied by horizontal rods the length of the bridge.

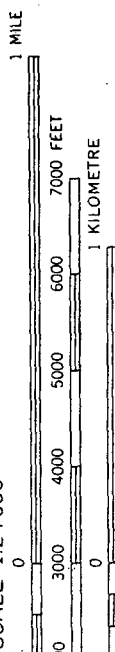
**Condition:**

Poor



(SCHELLSBURG)  
5264 II SW

SCALE 1:24 000



VERTICAL INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DATUM: VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

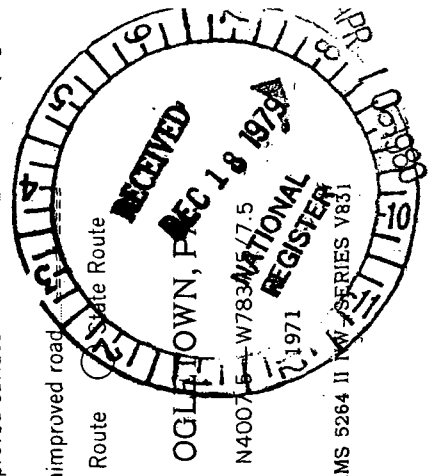


INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1976  
702000m E  
SCHELLSBURG 6 M.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

(BEDFORD)  
5264 II SE



WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
PHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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street & number 14 bridges not for publication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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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	
<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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# 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 Cupperets 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 51 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.

