

38-15-03

Name: Linton Stevens Covered Bridge

Location: T344, ^{Elk}~~Nottingham~~ Township / New London Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4400920 E421810

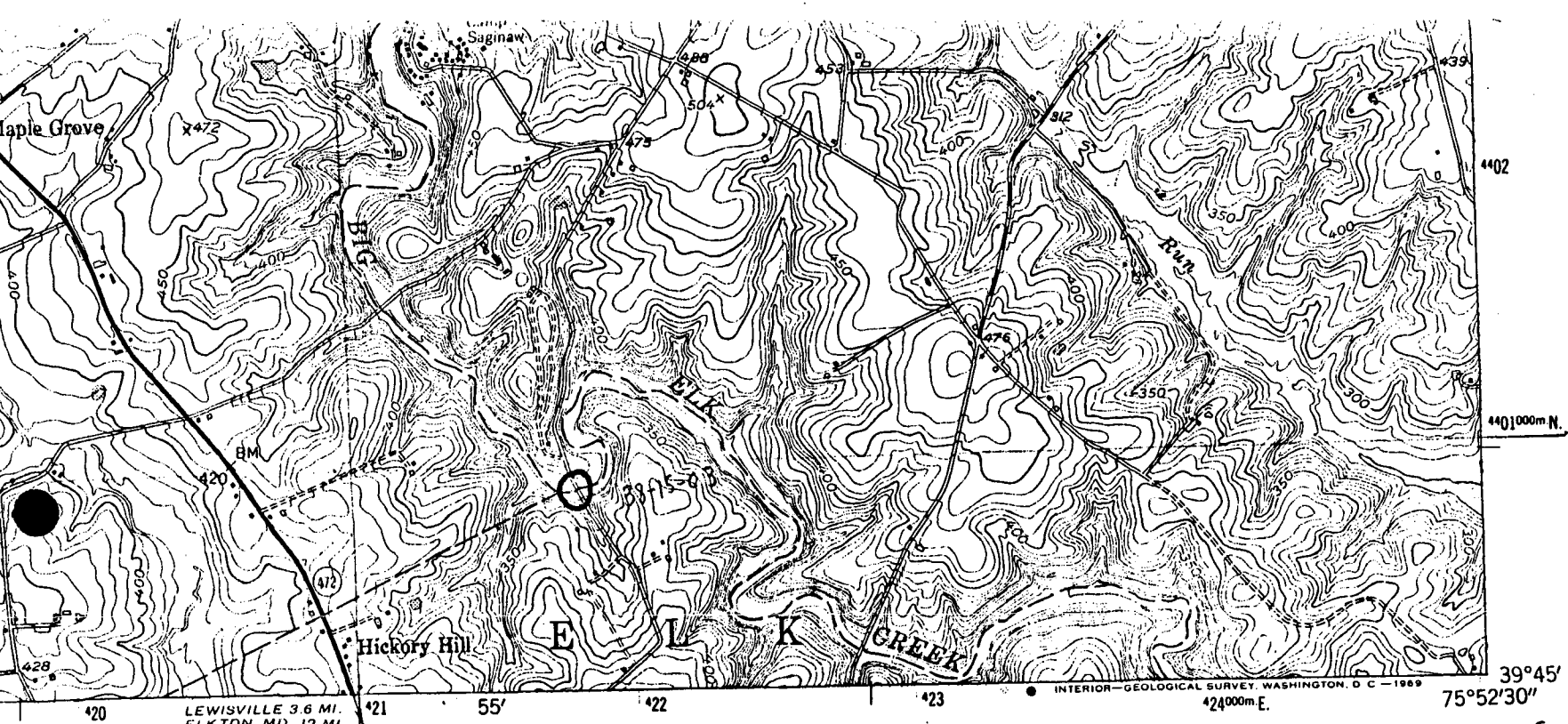
Owner: Chester County

Stream: Big Elk Creek
Truss Type: Burr
Builder: Unknown
Year: 1886

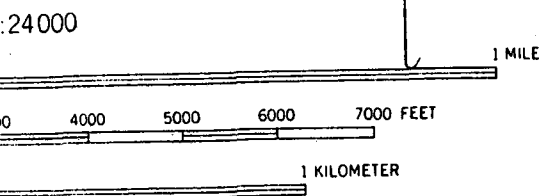
Length: 102'
Width: 15'
Load: 4 tons
Condition: Good

Distinguishing Features:

Named after the local postmaster of Hickory Hill, the Linton Stevens bridge has an unusual history. Originally a foot bridge crossed Big Elk Creek at this site. Later in 1875 an iron bridge was built here by the county. However this bridge was severely damaged by the 1884 flood. It was replaced by the covered bridge present today.



Chester County
 Zone 18 E421810 N4400920
 Linton Stevens Covered Bridge
 (38-15-03)



VERTICAL INTERVAL 10 FEET
 MEAN SEA LEVEL

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————

Medium-duty ————— Unimproved dirt - - - - -

U. S. Route State Route

OXFORD, PA.
 SW/4 COATESVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
 N 3945—W 7552.5/7.5
 1953
 PHOTOREVISED 1968
 AMS 5863 IV SW—SERIES V831

(NEWARK WEST)
 5863 III, NE

Part of
Covered Bridges of Chester County 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**

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street & number _____ not for publication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"/> 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. 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

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved

date 1972, Larkin (38-15-11)

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

Acreeage 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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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

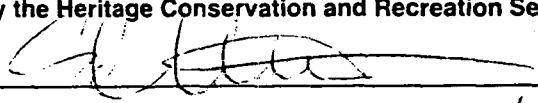
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 11/21/80

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 | 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.