

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Chester
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Donnelly Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Levon Jones Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Levon Township

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42 COUNTY: Chester CODE: 029

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify) _____ Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Chester County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Chester County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
High and Bureau streets

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Levon Jones

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPARTMENT FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY DATE: _____

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The appearance of Kennedy Bridge, when built in 1856, largely coincides with its present appearance. The only alterations made in the bridge have been necessitated by twentieth century traffic loads.

The covered bridge is of wood construction with rough fieldstone abutments. The horizontal wooden sheathing of the side walls is interrupted just below the roofline by openings which permit ventilation of the bridge's interior. The entranceways are topped by rectilinear wooden pediments which project above the nearly level roof. They represent one variation of that type of entranceway most common among covered bridges in the area and period. The bridge, which spans a distance of ninety-six feet across French Creek, has a roadway fourteen feet wide.

Kennedy Bridge is built according to the widely used Burr-truss design. On each side of the roadway is a massive wooden arch belted to a kingpost truss. Together they support the level roadbed. The total load of the span is thus divided between arch and truss, each a strong structural configuration in itself. The use of the Burr-truss allowed construction of spans of unprecedented length.

The bridge was damaged in the flood of 1884 and repaired at that time. In 1956 it was reinforced to permit the passage of heavier loads, but an attempt was made to preserve the original appearance. The reinforcement included an addition of concrete to the fieldstone abutments. In 1960, a new shingle roof was placed over the structure.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

II. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Kennedy Bridge was built in 1856 by Alex Kennedy and Jesse King. The bridge contract was made with the Commissioners of Chester County on July 4, and the bridge was completed on October 1 of the same year.

The bridge is one of the area's earliest covered bridges and one of the most typical in its architectural detail. Its significance as a local landmark was emphasized in the observance of its centennial year in 1956. The bridge was rededicated at that time during a Fourth of July ceremony.

In addition to its local significance, Kennedy Bridge is important as representative of the Burr-truss bridge, an important advance in the history of American bridge construction. The Burr-truss was designed by Theodore Burr in 1806 and patented by him in 1817. From 1812 to 1817, almost all bridges built in Chester County were of this type.

Kennedy Bridge is also significant as a fine representative of the more general wooden covered bridge type, now rapidly disappearing from the United States landscape. Kennedy Bridge is one of sixteen remaining covered bridges among the over one hundred constructed in Chester County.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlas of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Safe Harbor, Pa.: A.R. Witmer, 1873.
 Breou's Original Series of Farm Maps: Chester County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: W. Kirk and Company, 1889.
 Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa. Miscellaneous Papers.
 Allen, Richard Sanders. Covered Bridges of the Middle Atlantic States. Brattleboro, Vt.: Stephen Greene Press, 1959.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40° 08' 25"	75° 34' 36"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Eleanor W. Winsor, Consultant and Harvey Freedenberg, Student

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
 DATE: August, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg
 STATE: Pennsylvania
 CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

Owner of property notified 10/5/72
 As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: William J. Wewer
 Title: Executive Director, Pa. Hist. and Museum Commission
 Date: 11/8/72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



LONGITUDE
 75° 34' 36"
 LATITUDE
 40° 08' 25"

**KENNEDY
 BRIDGE**

(DOWNINGTOWN)
 5664 II SW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

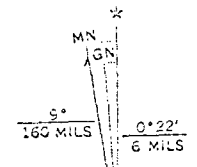
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric
 methods. Aerial photographs taken 1951. Field check 1955

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system,
 south zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 18, shown in blue

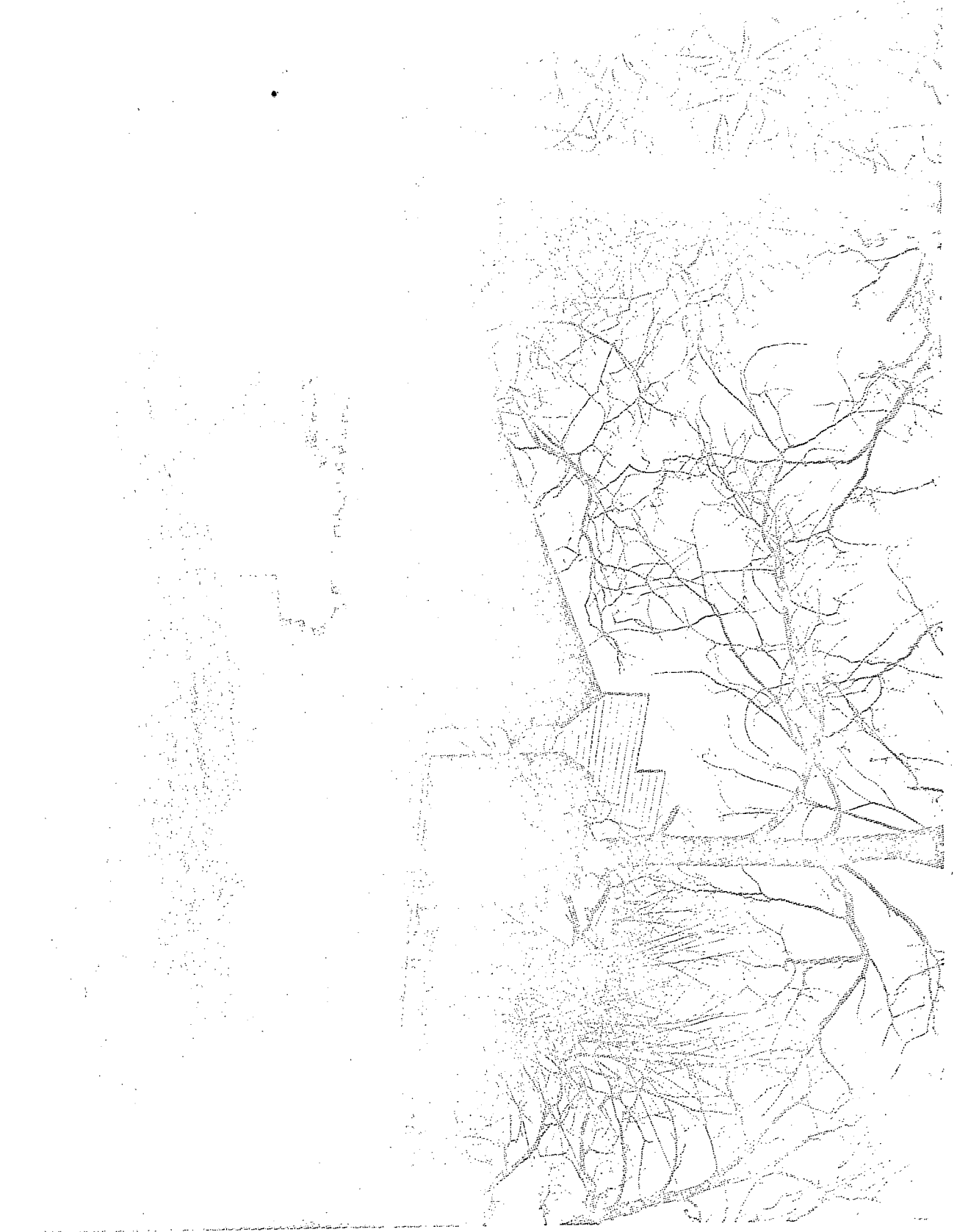
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Buildings shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
 state of Pennsylvania agencies, from aerial photographs
 taken 1965. This information not field checked



UTM GRID AND 1968 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

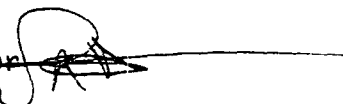
PHOENIXVILLE QUAD.



Sili NR
July 1, 1986

SUBJECT: Replacement for Burned Kennedy Covered Bridge
in Chester County (East Vincent and East Pikeland
Townships across French and Pickering Creek)

TO: The Honorable Thomas D. Larson
Secretary, Department of Transportation

FROM: Larry E. Tise, Executive Director
Historical and Museum Commission 

Representative Samuel Morris, a member of our Commission, and I have recently discussed some means whereby the recently burned Kennedy Bridge in East Vincent and East Pikeland Townships in Chester County could be replaced. The bridge, burned by an arsonist, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and was owned by the county.

It is Mr. Morris, the county's and our desire to seek suitable replacement for the damaged bridge. Since the bridge would be maintained by the county and would not be subject to modern standards of the Department as in the case of replacement bridges, it was our thought that there might be some covered bridge elsewhere in Pennsylvania that could be moved to this location.

To explore this possibility our staff has been in touch with members of your staff. I trust that you will lend your assistance in this matter that might provide a good opportunity to save a bridge elsewhere that must be replaced or cannot currently be maintained.

The dimensions and specifications of the current bridge are below:

Clear span - 98' 8"
Span center to center of bearings-101' 8"
Length of shed and roof - 121' 3"
Width curb to curb - 12' 6"
Width between arches - 13' 6"
Truss width center to center - 15'
Verticle clearance - 13'

Thank you for your assistance.

cc: Honorable Samuel W. Morris
Donna Williams
Dan Deibler ✓

**Pennsylvania Historical
& Museum Commission** **3/1969**
**Register of
Historic Sites & Landmarks**

Please Type or Print

<i>Official Use Only</i>	
NUMBER:	COUNTY:
TYPE OF PROPERTY:	

I. NAME

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY:

Kennedy Bridge

OTHER:

II. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Seven Stars Road

CITY OR TOWN:

East Vincent Township

COUNTY:

Chester

III. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes:
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation Work in Progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			No <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More if Applicable)*

Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>(Comment below)</i>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Additional Comments:

IV. OWNERSHIP

NAME:

Chester County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

COUNTY:

V. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Chester County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

High and Market Streets

CITY OR TOWN:

COUNTY:

West Chester

Chester

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

VIII. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	EXCELLENT <input type="checkbox"/>	GOOD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(Check one)		FAIR <input type="checkbox"/>	DETERIORATED <input type="checkbox"/>	RUINS <input type="checkbox"/>	UNEXPOSED <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check one)		(Check one)					
	ALTERED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNALTERED <input type="checkbox"/>	MOVED <input type="checkbox"/>	ORIGINAL SITE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

VIII. (A) EARLY APPEARANCE (Old prints, old photos, photos of paintings and prints):

Note: Early views are most important since they often show a property before drastic changes were made. Please seek out any old photos, prints or photos of paintings, or prints that show the property. Place these in chronological order and comment upon the date of each view if possible.

The appearance of Kennedy Bridge, when built in 1856, largely coincides with its present appearance. The heavier traffic loads of the twentieth century necessitated the only alterations made.

The covered bridge is of wood construction with random fieldstone abutments. The horizontal wooden sheathing of the side walls is interrupted just below the roofline by openings which permit ventilation of the bridge's interior. The entranceways are topped by rectilinear wooden pediments which project above the nearly level roof. They represent one variation of that type of entranceway most common among covered bridges in the area and period.

The bridge's roadway is fourteen feet wide. It spans a distance of ninety-six feet across French Creek.

Structurally, Kennedy Bridge is built according to the widely used Burr-truss design. On each side of the roadway is a massive wooden arch bolted to a kingpost truss. Together they support the level roadbed. The total load of the span is thus divided between arch and truss, each a strong structural configuration in itself. The use of the Burr-truss allowed construction of spans of unprecedented length.

Kennedy Bridge was damaged in the flood of 1884 and repaired at that time. In 1956, the bridge was reinforced to permit passage of heavier loads, but the bridge's original appearance was largely preserved. The reinforcement included the addition of concrete to the fieldstone abutments. In 1960, a new shingle roof was placed over the structure.

IX. STATEMENT SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

X. FORM PREPARED BY:

NAME AND TITLE:

Natural + Historic Resource Associates, Dearon W. Winsor

ORGANIZATION:

for the French + Ackering Creeks Conservation Trust

DATE:

6/2/72

STREET AND NUMBER:

313 S. 16TH ST.

CITY OR TOWN:

PHILADELPHIA

STATE:

PA. 19102

XI. PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORM TO:

Keeper
Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites & Landmarks
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Box 1026
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108

Kennedy Bridge
East Vincent Township
Chester County
North and West Elevations

Built in 1856, Kennedy Bridge is a covered bridge of wood construction.

Its roof is shingled and its sides are covered with horizontal wood sheathing. Openings in the side walls below the roof line allow ventilation of the bridge's interior.

The original end abutments are of random fieldstone. They have been reinforced with concrete to permit passage of the heavier traffic characteristic of the twentieth-century. Since the bridge is heavily braced from within by an arch-truss configuration, no intermediate abutments are required.

The entranceway facades of the bridge are of a type characteristic of covered bridges in the area. The North entrance, visible in this photograph, is topped by a rectilinear wooden pediment which projects above the roof line.

38-15-13

Name: Kennedy Covered Bridge

Location: T522, East Vincent Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4443270 E450860

Owner: Chester County

Stream: French Creek
Truss Type: Burr
Builder: Alex and Jesse King
Year: 1856

Length:100'
Width:14'
Load:3 tons
Condition:Good

Distinguishing Features:

This 100' bridge carries the inscription "Built for Newton Nichols, Albert Way and William G. Maitland, County Commissioners by Alex King and Jesse King, Contracted July 4th, finished October 1, 1856. Named for Alexander Kennedy, a local farmer, the bridge cost a total of \$2,149 to build and has an unusual portal design.

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 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

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)

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>