

# 38-15-10

Name: Gibson's Covered Bridge

Location: T391, East Bradford Township/West Bradford Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4425120 E441660

Owner: Chester County

Stream: East Branch of Brandywine Creek

Truss Type: Burr

Builder: Edward H. Hall and Thomas E. Schull

Year: 1872

Length: 78'

Width: 14'

Load:

Condition: Good

#### Distinguishing Features:

Also known as Harmony Hill Bridge, this bridge was built in 1872 at Gibson's Ford by Edward H. Hall and Thomas E. Schull for \$2,666. This bridge has horizontal clapboard siding and interesting stepped portals.

UNIONVILLE QUADRANGLE  
PENNSYLVANIA—CHESTER CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5864 II SE  
(MALVERN)

64 II SW  
NINGTOWN

442

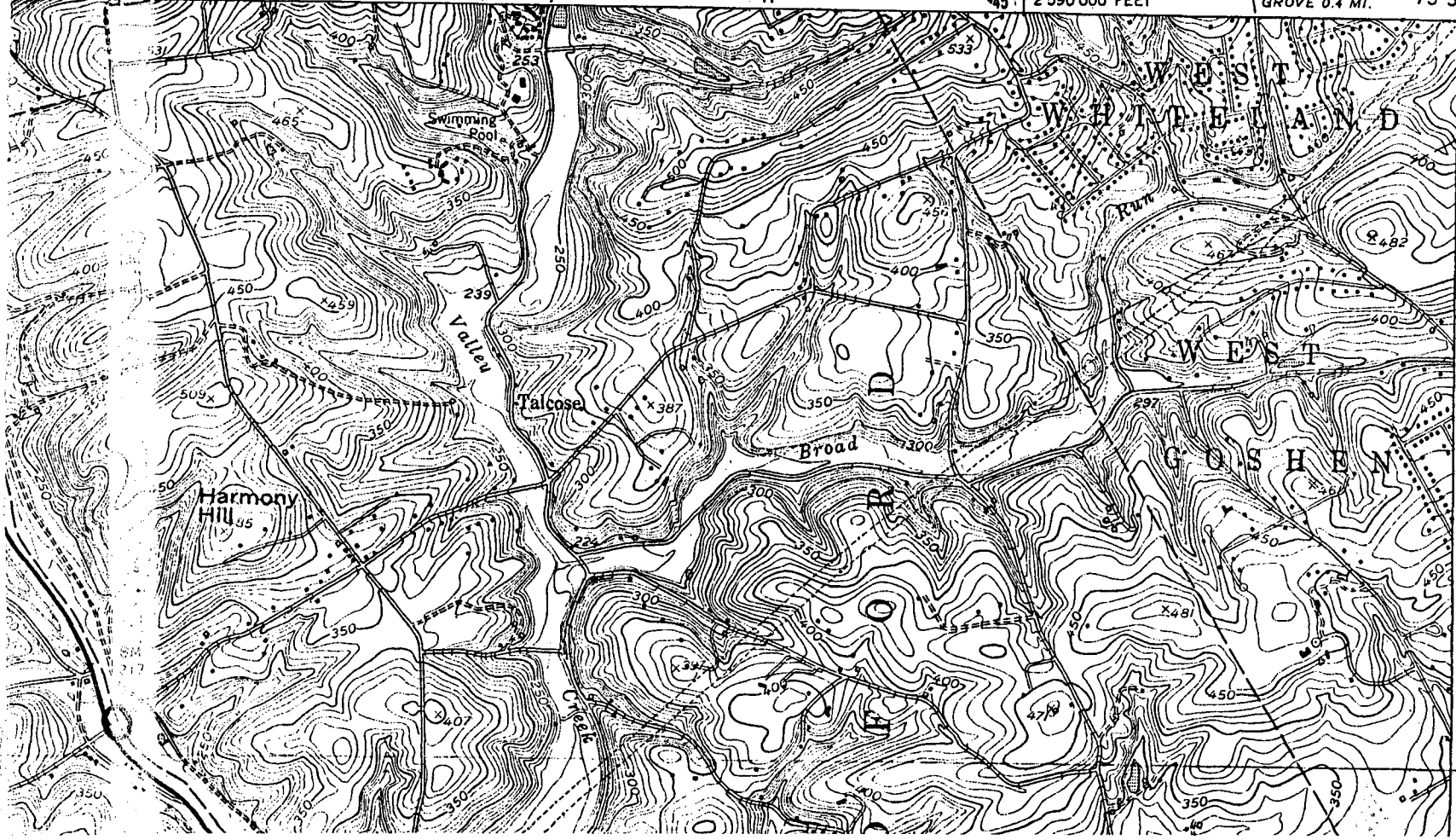
443 40'

1.4 MI. TO U.S. 30

444

445 | 2 590 000 FEET

WHITEFORD 2.2 MI. 75°37'30"  
GROVE 0.4 MI. 40°00'



Covered Bridges of Chester County  
Chester County  
Zone 18 E441660 N4425120  
Gibson's Covered Bridge  
(38-15-10)

**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street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<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     deteriorated  
 good     ruins  
 fair     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 &amp; 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

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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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

# 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 11/2/80

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.

Part of  
Covered Bridges of Chester County TR

Available at the National Park Service website  
<http://www.nr.nps.gov/nrcover.htm>