

Part of

Covered Bridges of Northumberland County TR

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

1. KEEFER STATION COVERED BRIDGE WCB# (38-49-02)
#83 Northumberland County Bridge

Location: T 698 off 283 East of Sunbury
Stream: Shamokin Creek
Truss Type: Burr Arch
Builder: George W. Keefer
Year: 1888
End Post Length: 190'109
Clearance: 10'3"
Width: 14'1"
Load: 3 Ton

Description

This bridge is a single span covered timber truss bridge utilizing a multiple kingpost design with a double Burr arch. This bridge has a clear span of 93'6" between the stone masonry abutments and a total length of 109'. The roadway width inside the structure is 14'1" while the total structure width is 18'5". The floor consists of 3" longitudinal planks of varying widths. A vertical clearance of 12'3" exists at the center of the arched portal while 10'3" is the minimum clearance at the sides. The lowest timber member is 8'5" above the creek. Condition: Overall, Fair Condition.

Significance:

This bridge was built in 1888 by George W. Keefer near the farm of John G. Bright at a total cost of \$882.00. It utilizes a multiple kingpost design with a 2 member Burr arch straddling the timber truss members. This type of combined arch and truss bridge was patented by Theodore Burr in 1817 and was especially used for longer spans. This was the most common type of covered bridge erected in this area.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME

HISTORIC

COVERED BRIDGES OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Northumberland

CODE

097

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT
 thematic

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

 USE THIS COPY
 FOR DUPLICATING
5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Northumberland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Market Square

CITY, TOWN

Sunbury

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

2/23/79

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

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

The covered bridge is a valuable Pennsylvania resource in the development of transportation and the various trussing systems used in bridges today. At one time Pennsylvania had over 1500 covered bridges and as of six years ago still had almost 300. Today the figure is closer to 200 but these remaining wooden bridges are an important link in the transportation history of Pennsylvania. The use of wood for bridges was a practical solution for spanning a waterway in a state where a major natural resource was lumber.

The Northumberland County bridges nominated here are the only remaining covered bridges in the county, in a county which as recent ago as 1972 had fourteen. Those bridges remaining are a fine collection of early bridges in the state, with one bridge considered by many writers to be the earliest remaining in the country. The trussing styles are representatives of all but two styles that were ever used in covered bridges in Pennsylvania,

Records of Northumberland County Bridge Engineers.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .38

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

QUADRANGLE NAME _____
UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			
E			
G			

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			
F			
H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(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
John W. Prosser, P. E.

ORGANIZATION
Northumberland County Bridge Engineers

STREET & NUMBER
2nd and Chestnut Street

CITY OR TOWN
Sunbury

DATE _____

TELEPHONE
717-286-7721 ext. 43

STATE
Pennsylvania 17801

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Ed Weintraub

TITLE ED WEINTRAUB, Director
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE 6-4-79

FOR NPS 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