

Part of

## Covered Bridges of Northumberland County TR

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COVERED BRIDGES

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

4

3. HIMMEL'S CHURCH COVERED BRIDGE  
#58 Northumberland County Bridge  
WCB# (38-49-06)

Location: T-442 off 49010 Northeast of Rebuck  
Stream: Schwaben Creek (Formerly Green Briar Creek)  
Truss Type: Multiple Kingpost  
Builder: Peter Keefer  
Year: 1874  
End Post Length: 44'  
Clearance: 10'10"  
Road Width: 15'  
Load: 3 Ton

Description:

This bridge is a single span covered timber truss bridge utilizing a multiple king post design. The bridge has a clear span of 28'8" between the stone masonry abutments and a total length of 44'. The roadway width inside the structure is 13'6" while the total structure width is 16'. The floor consists of 3" transverse planks of varying widths. A vertical clearance of 10' exists between the floor and the timber frame portal. The lowest timber member is 4'8" above the stream.

Significance:

The bridge was completed in 1874 by Peter Keefer and used only a multiple kingpost design since the span was so short. There are no modifications of the basic design.

Condition: Lower chords on south side were recently repaired.  
Overall, fair condition.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

46  
12  
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NOT FOR PUBLICATION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 DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
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

B [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

D [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

E [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

F [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

G [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

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

DATE

STREET & NUMBER  
2nd and Chestnut Street

TELEPHONE  
717-286-7721 ext. 43

CITY OR TOWN  
Sunbury

STATE  
Pennsylvania 17801

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL X

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

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