

Part of
Covered Bridges of Washington and Greene
Counties TR

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

W: (12)

#38-63-34 Name: Sawhill Covered Bridge
 Location: T426 Blaine Twp.
 UTM: Zone 17 N 4447700 E 549690 Acreage:
 Owner: Washington Co. $(49' + 201) \times (12'6'' + 10'') =$
 Stream: Buffalo Creek $69' \times 22'6'' =$
 Truss Type: Queenpost $69 \times 22.5 = 1552.5 = .03$
 Builder:
 Year: 1915

End Post to Road Surface
 End Post Length: 49' Width: 12'6"
 Clearance: Load:

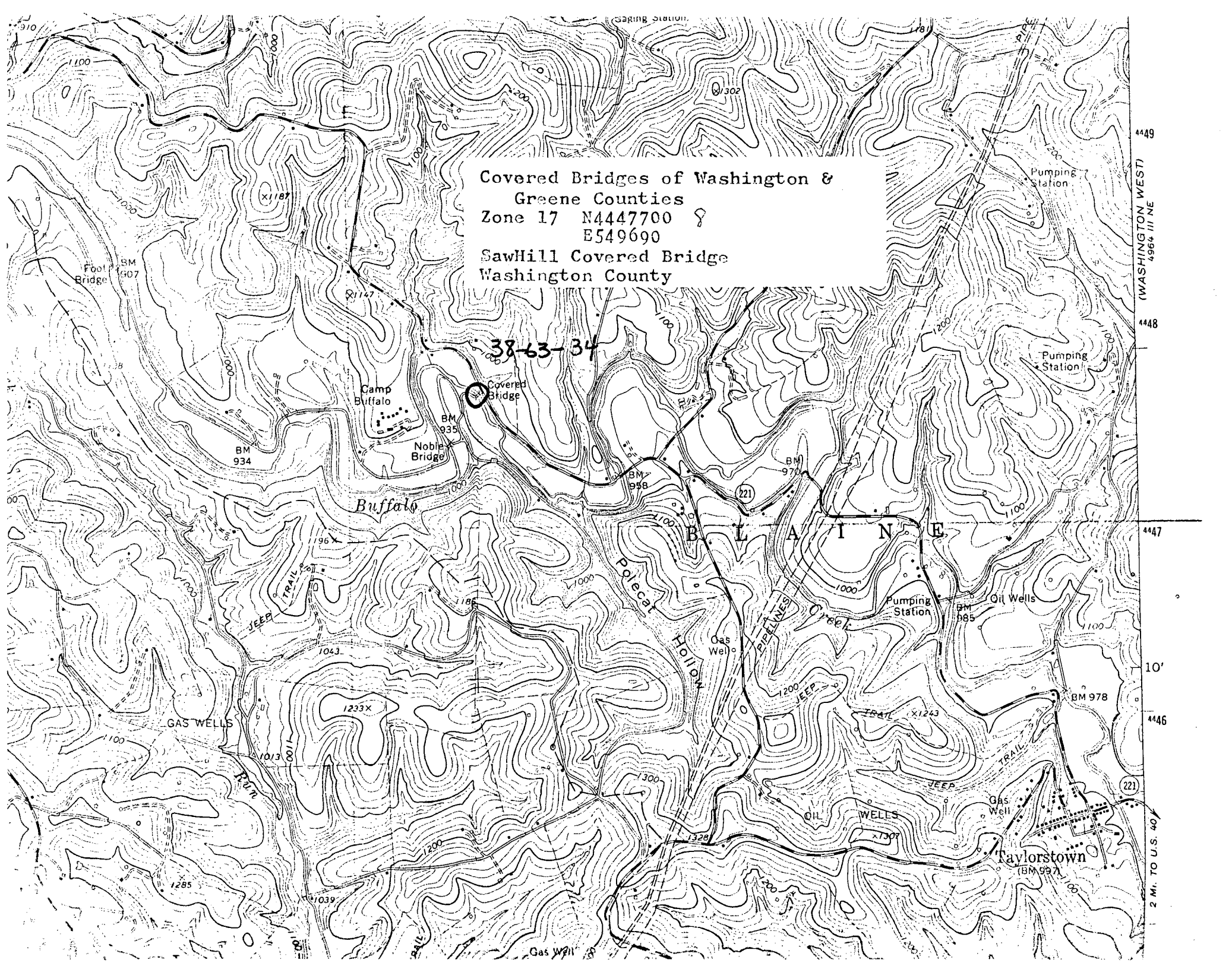
Distinguishing Features: This covered bridge has vertical siding and a raised seem tin covered gable roof.

Condition:

W12. Name: Sawhill Covered Bridge (#38-63-34)
 Stream: Buffalo Creek
 Truss Type: Queenpost
 Year: 1915
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 Road Surface Width: 12'6"
 Distinguishing Features: This covered bridge has vertical siding and a raised seem tin covered gable roof.

Covered Bridges of Washington &
Greene Counties
Zone 17 N4447700 8
E549690
SawHill Covered Bridge
Washington County

38-63-34



4449
WASHINGTON WEST
4964 III NE
4448
4447
10'
4446
2 Mi. TO U.S. 40

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 WASHINGTON AND GREENE COUNTIES

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

22

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Pennsylvania

42

Washington & Green

125/059

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 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 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple (See continuation sheet)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington Co. Courthouse / Greene Co. Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

South Main Street / High Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Washington, PA / Waynesburg, PA

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Harrisburg

Pennsylvania

USE THIS COPY
FOR DUPLICATING

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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COVERED BRIDGES, WASHINGTON & GREENE COUNTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 1

Greene County Covered Bridges #1 to 9: Greene County
Courthouse
High Street
Waynesburg, Pennsylvania

Washington County Covered Bridges #1, 3-7, 9, 11-26:

Washington County
Washington County Courthouse
South Main Street
Washington, Pennsylvania

#2 Pine Bank Covered Bridge:

The Meadowcroft Foundation
Avella, Pennsylvania 15312

#8 Hughes Covered Bridge

Amwell Township

#10 Davis, Horn, Overholtzer Covered Bridge

joint ownership

Washington County Courthouse
South Main Street
Washington, Pennsylvania

and

Greene County Courthouse
High Street
Waynesburg, Pennsylvania

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Washington and Greene Counties are located in the southwest corner of Pennsylvania bordering the states of Ohio and West Virginia. In the nineteenth century Washington and Greene Counties were important agricultural and sheep-raising areas as well as being rich in bituminous coal, natural gas, petroleum, sand, and clay. The eastern borders of these counties are formed by the Monongahela River. Coal mining and steel and glass manufacturing today are the major industrial activities in these counties.

Covered bridges were once plentiful in Pennsylvania, every year more are destroyed and replaced. The Office of Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in conjunction with local historical and governmental groups is currently conducting a survey of the remaining covered bridges in Pennsylvania. This nomination is a development of the survey.

There were originally 35 covered bridges in Greene County and 42 in Washington County. As of October 1978 there are 9 covered bridges remaining in Greene County, 25 in Washington County and one between counties.

The majority of the remaining bridges are Queenpost truss; 6 in Greene County, 15 in Washington County. Kingpost truss are the second most abundant with 2 in Greene County and 9 in Washington County. Greene and Washington Counties each have only one Burr arch truss bridge and share one Burr arch truss bridge.

The majority of the bridges are made of white oak, which was the plentiful and durable lumber during the nineteenth century. None of the bridges remaining have their original split oak shingles. These have been replaced with tin, sheet iron or corrugated iron. Four types of siding were used in the construction of the Washington and Greene County bridges: lap siding, drop siding, double V barn siding and plain sheathing boards. Lap siding is the old type and was used on the older bridges such as Hughes, Washington County. Several have drop siding generally called weatherboarding; others of later construction are double v barn siding but most are covered with vertical sheating. Stripping is used between the boards to seal against the elements.

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 checked="" 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 bridges of Washington and Greene Counties are fine examples of the adaptiveness and resourcefulness of the rural American in the nineteenth century. The development of the covered bridge is historically tied to Europe and as the new world became settled, bridge builders were confronted with the problem of spanning the large rivers of North America where the most plentiful resource was timber.

The first American covered bridge was the Permanent Bridge in Philadelphia built by Timothy Palmer in 1805. It was a three span bridge measuring 550 feet. Following this pretegiuous start the covered bridge boom began. And as the need grew many new types of trussing systems were developed. Pennsylvania was once and possible is still the leader in the number and development of covered bridges in the United States. Records show that Pennsylvania once had over three hundred of these bridges. Many of these bridges are the first example of a trussing type and were built by noted bridge builders such as Timothy Palmer, Louis Wernwag, James Moore and Theodore Burr. But the majority of Pennsylvania's covered bridges were built by local carpenters. This is especially true in the rural counties such as Washington and Greene. Where the simple King and Queen post styles were used the most.

The majority of the remaining bridges in Washington and Greene Counties are Queenpost and Kingpost truss. The simple Kingpost truss is basically a triangle truss with two-timbers slanting down from the center to the ends of the lower chord of the bridge. The kingpost extends down vertically from the center to the lower chord, forming two triangles. This trussing system was used for smaller bridges seldom over 30 to 35 feet.

The Queenpost is a variation of the Kingpost with an added horizontal crosspiece and could be used for spans of 60 to 70 feet.

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COVERED BRIDGES, WASHINGTON & GREENE COUNTIES

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The Burr Arch truss is commonly used for longer spans of 100 feet or more. It is a multiple kingpost with large arches fastened to the sides and tied to the abutments.

The covered bridge is an important historical transportation resource of Pennsylvania. The identification and preservation of all of Pennsylvania's covered bridges is important.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .98

QUADRANGLE NAME SEE CONTINUATION SHEET QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Charlotte K. Lane, Executive Director / Susan M. Zacher

ORGANIZATION
Washington-Greene Co. Tourist Promotion Agency / PHMC

STREET & NUMBER

CITY OR TOWN
Washington, Pa. 15301 / Harrisburg, Pa. 17120

DATE

TELEPHONE
412-222-8130 / 717-787-4363

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X 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

TITLE ED WEINTRAUB, Director
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION