

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Birmingham Bridge

other name/site number: Blair County Bridge #48  
Huntingdon County Bridge #15

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2. Location

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street & number: just off Route 453 at Birmingham

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Warriors Mark Township  
state: PA county: Huntingdon code: 061

vicinity: N/A  
zip code: 16877

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public - Local

Category of Property: Structure (Bridge)

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
1	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Industrial Resources of  
Huntingdon County

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register
other (explain):

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Transportation Sub: Road-Related
Current : Transportation Sub: Road-Related

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other

Other Description: Pratt through truss bridge

Materials: foundation stone roof steel
walls other

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) :

Areas of Significance: 110 Engineering

Period(s) of Significance: 1898

Significant Dates : 1898

Years of Alterations:

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: B Penn Bridge Company

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # PA 061.050

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: county transportation department

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: less than 1 acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	17	736820	4503340	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

The nominated property consists of a 143 feet by 20 feet wide rectangle whose vertices coincide with the outside corners of the bridge's wing walls, and includes only bridge superstructure and substructure.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

The boundaries include the entire nominated structure.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Deborah L. Suci - Historic Preservation Specialist

Organization: PHMC - BHP

Date: September 1989

Street & Number: Box 1026 State Museum

Telephone: (717) 783-5796

City or Town: Harrisburg

State: PA ZIP: 17108-1026

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DESCRIPTION OF APPEARANCE:

Spanning the Little Juniata River near Birmingham, this single-span 137-foot Pratt through-truss steel bridge has a 14.7-foot-wide deck of three-inch-thick plank on steel stringers and beams. The bridge has cut stone abutments and a metal crest with a design of six cut-out quatrefoils on the top chord at both ends of the bridge.

This bridge is the only means of access to two dwellings on the Blair County side of the river. It obviously receives little traffic; thus its five-ton weight limit does not represent a problem. It is a particularly attractive bridge because of its crest and is located on a scenic stretch of the river.

The Birmingham Bridge joins Blair and Huntingdon Counties, with Blair County assuming actual responsibility for maintenance and the two counties sharing the cost equally. The bridge was sandblasted and painted in 1978. A 1987 inspection found the structure in good condition, recommending renailing of the deck and eventual addition of more nailers.

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SIGNIFICANCE:

This Pratt through-truss steel bridge abuts on Route 453, immediately north of the entrance to the town of Birmingham. The bridge was erected in 1898 by the Penn Bridge Company of Beaver Falls, Pa., to replace a wooden bridge constructed in 1852. As built, it included a pedestrian sidewalk on the downstream side, which was later removed.

This is a fine example of one of the county's less than ten remaining pin-connected Pratt through truss bridges built in the late 1800's. The bridge has been well maintained and with the exception of the loss of the pedestrian sidewalk retains its integrity of material, design and setting. The Birmingham Bridge was evaluated on a local level.

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SOURCES:

Gwin, Dobson & Foreman, Inc. Supplementary Inventory Report, Blair County Bridge No. 48, March 1987.

Huntingdon County Bridge Office. Bridge file #15.

Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites, Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service(unpublished, 1988).

Shedd, Nancy S. HAER consultant 1988, President Huntingdon County Historical Society, interviews 1988-1989.

Shedd, Nancy S., and Harshbarger, Jean P. Second Century 1887-1987: A Huntingdon County Bicentennial Album (Huntingdon: Huntingdon County Historical Society, 1987), p. 109. [Color photograph of bridge in 1979]

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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This nomination contains material taken directly from the unpublished report prepared in 1988 for the Historic American Engineering Record (see Bibliographical References).

The author of that report, Nancy Shedd, is a major contributor to the text of this nomination although not the preparer.



