United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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

LAWRENCE COUNTY COVERED BRIDGES THEMATIC RESOURCE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

USE THIS COPY
FOR Duplicating
not for publication

city, town

__ vicinity of ______

congressional district

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Lawrence code 073

3. Classification

Category

_____ district

_____ building(s)

_____ structure

_____ site

_____ object

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

Lawrence County, Lawrence County Commissioners

street & number

Court Street, Lawrence County Courthouse

city, town

New Castle

__ vicinity of ______

state Pennsylvania 16101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Lawrence County Courthouse

street & number

Court Street

city, town

New Castle

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title

Pennsylvania Inventory Of Historic Places

has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date

_____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

city, town

Harrisburg

state Pennsylvania
Lawrence County has only two covered bridges remaining today. Both of these structures are located in the eastern part of the county.

The Bank's Bridge crosses Neshannock Creek in Wilmington Township northeast of New Castle. This bridge was built in 1889 and is the most recent of the two Lawrence County covered bridges. It uses the Burr arch trussing system and has interior portal walls similar to Bucks County covered bridges.

The McConnell's Mill bridge is located in Slippery Rock Township and crosses Slippery Rock Creek. Built in 1874 this bridge uses the Howe truss.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name &amp; Number</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Truss</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McConnell's Mill</td>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Howe</td>
<td>96.5'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank's</td>
<td>1889</td>
<td>Burr</td>
<td>121'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>prehistoric</td>
<td>archeology-prehistoric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400–1499</td>
<td>archeology-historic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500–1599</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600–1699</td>
<td>architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>1700–1799</td>
<td>art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X 1800–1899</td>
<td>commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X 1900–</td>
<td>communications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bank's and McConnell's Mill covered bridges are the sole representatives of a period of American bridge building remaining in Lawrence County. The northwestern section of Pennsylvania during the 19th century was a large producer of lumber but the bridge technology in this area went from primitive log crossings to iron spans and skipped the covered bridge stage most common in the rest of Pennsylvania. This upper Ohio River watershed area even during the height to the covered bridge period probably had no more than 15 or 20 of these wooden spans.

The few covered bridges that were built were notable, however, in the experimental use of the less common truss types. At Irvine, Warren County over the Brokenstraw Creek the little used Long truss developed by Colonel Stephen H. Long was used. The Kidd's Mill Bridge, Mercer County uses the little known Smith truss developed by Robert J. Smith of Ohio. This bridge is fortunately still standing. Indiana County has only 4 covered bridges remaining 3 Town truss and 1 Howe truss bridge.

Lawrence County probably had not more than a handful of covered bridges. The Breakneck bridge crossed the Slippery Rock Creek just south of the McConnell's Mill bridge. A double bridge known as the Black Bridge was once located at New Castle. The only remaining bridges are the Bank's and McConnell's Mill.

The Bank's bridge is a typical Pennsylvania style Burr arch bridge and has interior portal walls similar to the covered bridges of Bucks County.

The McConnell's Mill bridge is another of the less commonly used trussing systems. Built in 1874, the McConnell's Mill bridge used the Howe truss developed and patented by William Howe in 1840. Only four bridges using the Howe truss exist in Pennsylvania today.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name &amp; Number</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McConnell's Mill, Lawrence Co.</td>
<td>1874</td>
<td>96.5'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kintersburg, Indiana Co.</td>
<td>1877</td>
<td>62'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shade Gap, Huntingdon Co.</td>
<td>1889</td>
<td>65'1/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Mill, Philadelphia Co.</td>
<td>1855</td>
<td>78'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 2 remaining Lawrence County covered bridges are rare survivals of the use of wooden truss technology in an area where the wooden truss was a rare and little used bridge building technique.
9. Major Bibliographical References

County Bridge Records, Lawrence County Courthouse.


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name 1

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>9820</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Acreage is calculated by adding 20' to each length and 10' to each width to include abutments.

A: (96.5' + 20') x (15' + 10') = 116.5' x 25' = 2912.5 + 43,560 = .06

B: (121' + 20') x (15' + 10') = 141' x 25' = 3525 + 43,560 = .08

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
<th>code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan M. Zacher

organization PHMC

date December 11, 1979

street & number Box 1026

telephone 717-783-8947

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 Office of Historic Preservation

date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration