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 COVERED BRIDGES OF BERKS COUNTY
and/or common

2. Location

street & number ______ not for publication

city, town ______ vicinity of congressional district

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Berks code 011

3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>______ district</td>
<td>______ public</td>
<td>______ occupied</td>
<td>______ agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______ building(s)</td>
<td>______ private</td>
<td>______ unoccupied</td>
<td>______ commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______ structure</td>
<td>______ both</td>
<td>______ work in progress</td>
<td>______ educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______ site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>______ entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______ object</td>
<td>in process</td>
<td>______ yes: restricted</td>
<td>______ government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______ thematic object</td>
<td>being considered</td>
<td>______ yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>______ industrial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>______ thematic</td>
<td>in process</td>
<td>______ no</td>
<td>______ military</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple

street & number

city, town ______ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Berks County Courthouse

street & number Sixth and Court Street

city, town Reading state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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
Covered Bridges of Berks County

Continuation Sheet

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of Transportation
Transportation & Safety Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Pleasantville Bridge (36-06-01) T916, Oley Township

Berks County
C/O County Commissioners
Berks County Courthouse
6th and Court Streets
Reading, Pennsylvania 19601

Greisemer's Mill Bridge (36-06-03) T479, Oley Township
Kutz's Mill Bridge (36-06-05) T798, Greenwich Township
Dreibelbis Station Bridge (36-06-07) T745, Greenwich Township
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

COVERED BRIDGES OF BERKS COUNTY

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Dreibelbis Station Bridge (36-06-07) T745, Greenwich Township
7. Description

Condition

[ ] excellent
[ ] good
[ ] fair

[ ] deteriorated
[ ] ruins
[ ] unexposed

Check one
[ ] unaltered
[ ] altered

Check one
[ ] original site
[ ] moved
[ ] date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

There are only five covered bridges remaining today in Berks County. All use the Burr arch trussing system and date from the 1850 to 1870 period. Berks County bridges portray some unique regional characteristics; all possess horizontal siding and three have unusual stepped portals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bridge Name &amp; Number</th>
<th>Truss</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pleasantville</td>
<td>Burr</td>
<td>1856</td>
<td>126'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greisemer's Mill</td>
<td>Burr</td>
<td>1868</td>
<td>124'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kutz's Mill</td>
<td>Burr</td>
<td>1854</td>
<td>93'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Wertz's</td>
<td>Burr</td>
<td>1867</td>
<td>165'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dreibelbis Station</td>
<td>Burr</td>
<td>1869</td>
<td>172'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Listed on National Register on 11-17-78.

The Pleasantville bridge has the unusual distinction of being built in two stages because of the shortage of lumber following the Great Flood of 1850.
8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700-1799</td>
<td>— art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X 1800-1899</td>
<td>— commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900-</td>
<td>— communications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Covered Bridges of Berks County are rare survivals of a type of bridge technology which was once common in this county. Thirty-seven covered bridges were built in Berks County between 1818 and 1887, today only 5 remain. These remaining 5 portray some interesting regional portal designs, it is unfortunate not to be able to examine the designs of the original 37 bridges to trace how widespread these regional differences actually were.

One of the original 37 bridges over the Schuylkill River, known as the Stroud's Ferry bridge had the problem of serving a highway and carrying two canal towpaths. It was able to do this with an ingenious system which was the forerunner of the cloverleaf of today's highways. This bridge also had the honor of being the world's longest covered bridge at 238'. It was neglect that finally did in this unusual structure on September 12, 1948. Neglect of these fine examples of wooden technology could well decrease Berks County's remaining 5 bridges as well as Pennsylvania's other covered bridges.
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: 33

Quadrangle name: See Continuation Sheet

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

UMT References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbal boundary description and justification:

See Continuation Sheet

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/Berks County Conservancy

date

street & number: Box 1026 / 960 Old Mill Road

telephone

city or town: Harrisburg/Wyomissing

state: Pennsylvania

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

- national
- state X
- 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 HCRA 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
County Bridge Records

World Guide to Covered Bridges, National Society for Covered Bridges, Inc. 1972, p. 59

Fred J. Moll, Personal Communication (letter), 11-4-79

George M. Meiser IX, Personal Communication 10-24-79

Additional information on the triple set of arches used in the Pleasantville Bridge can be found in the Winter (1979-1980) issue of the Berks County Historical Review.
After a re-examination of the boundaries on the Pleasantville Covered Bridge, it was decided that the usual formula was not adequate to include the long bridge abutments. Therefore, we are increasing the verbal boundary for this bridge to:

Manatawny, Pa. Quadrangle
Pleasantville Bridge (36-06-01)
Zone 18 2437260 N4469870
(126'40')X(16'+20')=5976+ 43,560= .14

Acreage: .14