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 THE DELAWARE RIVER WATERSHED

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

city, town __ vicinity of congressional district 10/11/15/8

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Lehigh & Bucks code 079/025/09

3. Classification

Category __ district __ building(s) structure
___ site __ object Ownership __ public __ private __ both
Public Acquisition __ in process __ being considered

Status X occupied ___ unoccupied ___ work in progress
Accessible
yes: restricted X yes: unrestricted ___ no
Present Use ___ agriculture ___ commercial ___ educational
___ entertainment ___ government ___ industrial
___ military ___ museum ___ park ___ private residence
___ religious ___ scientific ___ transportation

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple

street & number

city, town __ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Multiple: See Continuation Sheet

street & number

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

state

_x_ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania
7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Delaware River watershed extends in Pennsylvania from the foothills of the Catskill Mountains at the New York - Pennsylvania border, Southward to the Pennsylvania border with Delaware. Officially the watershed includes the Delaware River, Lackawaxen River, Lehigh River and Schuylkill River. It includes the following Pennsylvania counties from north to south: Wayne, Pike, Luzerne, Monroe, Carbon, Northampton, Schuylkill, Lehigh, Berks, Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, Philadelphia and Delaware. This nomination of 23 covered bridges involves five counties: Luzerne, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Bucks. The other counties are excluded from this nomination for the following reasons:

Wayne County: no historic covered bridges (one c. 1971 CB)

Pike County: no covered bridges

Monroe County: no historic covered bridges (2 bridges c. 1956)

Schuylkill County: 2 historic covered bridges listed on NR (1-3-78)

Berks County: 5 historic covered bridges - will be nominated when data from survey available

Montgomery County: no historic covered bridges (3 modern CB)

Chester County: 15 historic covered bridges, will be nominated when survey data available

Philadelphia County: 1 historic covered bridge - listed on NR - Fairmount Park (2-7-72)

Delaware County: no historic covered bridges (one 1952 CB)

After the Susquehanna River watershed the Delaware River watershed was the richest in number and types of covered bridges. Today only a third of these wooden spans remain. Of the 26 bridges described below their are:

1 Queenport truss bridge
1 Kingpost truss bridge
10 Burr arch truss bridges
13 Town truss bridge
1 Howe truss bridge

Their ages vary from 1832 to 1888 with the breakdown as follows:

1832 - 3 bridges
1840 - 1 bridge
1841 - 3 bridges
1842 - 1 bridge
1855 - 1 bridge
1858 - 1 bridge
1860 - 3 bridges
1870 - 1 bridge
1871 - 2 bridges
1872 - 1 bridge
1873 - 2 bridges
1874 - 2 bridges
1875 - 1 bridge
1882 - 2 bridges
1888 - 1 bridge
The Delaware River and its watershed area of fourteen counties once had the most and some of the earliest covered bridges in Pennsylvania. At one time the Delaware River itself was crossed by twenty-one interstate covered bridges. All but the railroad bridge at Easton were built originally by companies interested in the tolls that could be collected.

Three top covered bridge architects built across the Delaware River; the 1806 Theodore Burr, bridge between Morrisville and Trenton, second oldest covered bridge in the United States; the 1806 Timothy Palmer bridge at Easton; and the 1814 Lewis Wernwag bridge at New Hope. None of the 21 bridges remain.

The northern watershed area of Wayne, Pike, Luzerne and Monroe Counties had only a handful of covered bridges originally and only one of these, the Bittenbender bridge in Luzerne County still remains.

In the Lehigh River area the covered bridge was more abundant. Carbon County has only two remaining bridges, one of which was saved only by its removal by the Beetzville Dam project area. Lehigh has retained six of its original wooden spans but Northampton only one.

Bucks County today retains 13 of its original 35 or 37 covered bridges. The strict usage of the Town truss within the county is unusual and represents the largest number of Town truss bridges anywhere in the State.

The lower watershed area has seen the greatest disappearance of the covered bridge. Originally six wooden bridges spanned the Wissahickon Creek alone, today only the Thomas Mill bridge remains.

In an area that saw the birth and development of the covered bridge, these rare survivors are the only remaining examples of an important stage in the development of bridge technology and history.
9. Major Bibliographical Reference

County Bridge Records
PHMC Survey of PA Covered Bridges
Allen, Richard S. Covered Bridges of the Middle Atlantic States

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.45
Quadrangle name
UMT References See Continuation Sheets

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Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification
See Continuation Sheets

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

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan M. Zacher
organization PHMC
date
street & number Box 1026
telephone

city or town Harrisburg
state Pennsylvania

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 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:
date

Chief of Registration
Covered Bridges of the Delaware River Watershed

Because of the scarcity of bridges remaining, it is difficult to identify any regional characteristics except in Bucks County. The most common remaining Bucks County Bridge has the following characteristics:

- Town Truss
- Stone abutments (usually capped)
- Gable roof
- Full height vertical outer siding
- Triangular or oval portal openings
- Inner walls in portals

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(* On National Register)
South Perkasie Covered Bridge (38-09-05), Bucks County

Although this bridge no longer crosses water, it sits on the bank just opposite where it used to cross Pleasant Spring Creek. The bridge was scheduled for demolition to be replaced with a modern bridge to handle the heavy traffic on L.R.09118. Only the efforts of the local historical society saved the bridge at all. Today the bridge sits near its original crossing and while on land, possesses integrity of construction and location. It is the oldest covered bridge in the county and is important as the model from which the Town truss bridges of the county were probably designed.

Sheard's Mill Covered Bridge (38-09-06), Bucks County

Although this bridge is in poor condition, it appears to be structurally sound and basically needs the cosmetic replacement of sideward planks to make it whole again. The bridge is typical of Bucks County covered bridges and does still possess those traits which give significance to Bucks County covered bridges. It still crosses the Tohickon Creek at its original crossing and is valuable as one of the few remaining covered bridges in the county.

Twining Ford Covered Bridge (38-09-13), Bucks County

Twining Ford Bridge is also in poor cosmetic condition and like the Sheard's Mill bridge is owned by the state department of transportation. It is hoped that in both of these cases listing on the National Register will help the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation to see the value of these few remaining covered bridges and begin a program of better maintenance. The bridge is located within a state park and could become an important part of the interpretation of the whole area. The bridge does retain integrity of location even though the road crossing the bridge is no longer open to vehicular traffic.

Harrity Covered Bridge (38-13-01), Carbon County

Information and old photographs of this bridge are not available at this time. Please remove this bridge from the nomination so as not to delay the nomination any longer. We will research the Harrity bridge and renominate it as an individual nomination if our research proves its eligibility.
Name: Wehr's Covered Bridge
Location: T507 South Whitehall Township
UTM: Zone 18 N 4497540 E 451780
Owner: Lehigh County

Stream: Jordan Creek
Truss Type: Burr
Builder: Year: 1841

End Post to 3 spans
End Post Length: 117 ft
Clearance: 11 ft 6 in

Road Surface Width: 17 ft
Load: 4 tons

Built in 1841, Wehr's bridge is in excellent condition. This three span bridge has random width horizontal siding, a gable roof and stone abutments and piers. The first few feet of the interior are covered with horizontal siding similar to Bucks County covered bridges. In 1965 the bridge was strengthened by the addition of steel reinforcements by W.R. Schultz, contractor and Fogarasi & Moyer, engineers.

Excellent
Name: Loux Covered Bridge
Location: L.R. 00060 Plumstead Township
UTM: Zone 18 N 4474440 E 489140 Acreage:
Owner: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Stream: Cabin Run Creek
Truss Type: Town
Builder:
Year: 1874

End Post to End Post Length: 60 ft
Clearance: 11 ft 9 in.

Road Surface Width: 15 ft
Load:

Distinguishing Features: The second shortest covered bridge in Bucks County, the Loux bridge has several distinctive features differing it from the typical Bucks County Covered bridge. Instead of a triangular portal opening, the Loux bridge has a oval shaped portal. The inside portal walls are also absent, as are the triangular abutment caps.

Condition: Fair
Name: Knecht's Covered Bridge
Location: T424 Springfield Township
UTM: Zone 18 N 4490800 E 478750 Acreage:
Owner: Bucks County
Stream: Durham Creek
Truss Type: Town
Builder:
Year: 1873
End Post to End Post Length: 110 ft
Clearance:
Road Surface Width: 15 ft
Load:
Distinguishing Features: Built of hemlock and on the route of the Walking Purchase. Knecht's Bridge is identical in style to the Haupt's Mill Bridge.
Condition: Good
# 36-09-04  Name: Erwinna Covered Bridge
Location: 40.04000° Tinicum Township
UTM: Zone 18  N 4483320  E 493660  Acreage:
Owner: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Stream: Lodi Creek
Truss Type: Town
Builder:
Year: 1871

End Post to End Post Length: 56 ft
Clearance: 11 ft

Road Surface Width: 15 ft
Load:

Distinguishing Features: Built in 1871, the Erwinna Bridge is the shortest of the remaining covered bridges in the county. It is built in the typical Bucks County style, with rough horizontal siding and triangular portal openings.

Condition: Good
Name: South Perkasie Covered Bridge
Location: Lenape Park  Perkasie
UTM: Zone 18 N 4468370 E 474920 Acreage:
Owner: Perkasie Historical Society

Stream: once over Pleasant Spring Creek
Truss Type: Town
Builder:
Year: 1832

End Post to End Post Length: 93 ft
Clearance: Road Surface Width: 15 ft

Distinguishing Features: The South Perkasie bridge is the oldest covered bridge in the county. It once spanned Pleasant Spring Creek but was condemned by the county some years ago. The Perkasie Historical Society led a community project which eventually saw the bridge moved to the safety of Lenape Park. It was dedicated as a feature of the park on August 15, 1959 by Congressman Willard S. Curtin. A famous sign on the end of the bridge reads: "$5.00 fine for any person riding or driving over this bridge faster than a walk or smoking a cigar on"

Condition: Good
Name: Van Sant Covered Bridge
Location: T392 Solebury Township
UTM: Zone 18 N 4463840 E 503560
Owner: Bucks County
Stream: Pidcock Creek
Truss Type: Town
Builder:
Year: 1875

End Post to End Post Length: 86 ft
Clearance:

Van Sant Bridge is located near Bowman's Hill and was often called Beaver Dam Bridge and was one of two which once crossed Pidcock Creek. The second, removed in 1937, was the Neely Mill Bridge. In style, the Van Sant bridge is the typical Bucks County type.

Condition: Good
Name: Sheard's Mill Covered Bridge
Location: L.R. 00129 Haycock and East Rockhill Townships
UTM: Zone 18 N4478070 E476350 Acreage:
Owner: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Stream: Tohickon Creek
Truss Type: Town
Builder: 1873
Year:
End Post to
End Post Length: 130 ft
Clearance: 12 ft 1 in
Road Surface
Width: 15 ft
Load:
Distinguishing Features: Sheard's Mill bridge crosses Tohickon Creek near the mill at Thatcher. A typical Bucks County type bridge it unfortunately is in poor condition.
Condition: Poor
Name: Mood's Covered Bridge
Location: L.R. 09118 East Rockhill Township
UTM: Zone 13 N 4469890 E 476900 Acreage:
Owner: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Stream: NE branch of Perkiomen Creek
Truss Type: Town
Builder: 
Year: 1874
End Post to Road Surface
End Post Length: 120 ft Width: 15 ft
Clearance: 12 ft Load:

Distinguishing Features: Mood's bridge is a typical Bucks County bridge
but with wide vertical plank siding and portals. This bridge was repaired in 1962.

Condition: Good
Name: Frankenfield Covered Bridge
Location: T421 N44°03'40" W4915'40"
Owner: Bucks County
Stream: Tinicum Creek
Truss Type: Town
Builder: 
Year: 1832

End Post to 110 ft
End Post Length: 
Clearance: 
Road Surface 
Width: 15 ft
Load: 

Distinguishing Features: Built of oak, the Uhlerstown covered bridge is the only bridge in Bucks County with side windows. Uhlerstown was once known as Mexico, but was later named for Michael Uhler who owned a canal boat building yard and operated a string of canal boats. This bridge crosses the Delaware Canal.

Condition: Good
Name: Cabin Run Covered Bridge
Location: L.R. 09009 Plumstead Township
Owner: Bucks County
Stream: Cabin Run Creek
Truss Type: Town
Year: 1871
End Post to End Post Length: 82 ft.
Clearance: 11 ft 10 in

Road Surface Width: 15 ft

Distinguishing Features: The Cabin Run bridge also has a town truss, gable roof, full outside walls and inside portal walls, as well as capped stone abutments. This bridge is in excellent condition.

Condition: Excellent.
Name: Pine Valley Covered Bridge
Location: T 340 N New Brit n Township
UTM: Zone 18 N 4461440 E 484040
Owner: Bucks County
Stream: Pine Run Creek
Truss Type: Town
Builder: 
Year: 1842
End Post to End Post Length: 81 ft
Clearance: 11 ft 10 in
Road Surface Width: 15 ft
Load:
Distinguishing Features: One of the earliest remaining covered bridges in Bucks County, the Pine Valley bridge is typical in style to the other Bucks county bridges. In 1842 this bridge cost $5553.50 to build. It was repaired in 1917.
Condition: Good
Name: Little Gap Covered Bridge
Location: T376 Lower Towamensing Township south of Little Gap
Owner: Carbon County
Stream: Aquashicola Creek
Truss Type: Burr
Builder: c. 1860
End Post to End Post Length: 73 ft
Clearance: 

Distinguishing Features:

Condition:

This wooden covered truss bridge is an interesting example of early bridge architecture and combines the famous arch-supported "Burr Truss" with elements of the "Howe Truss", incorporating for the first time metal elements in the form of tie rods in bridge construction. Thus, green fresh-cut timbers could be used and the proper tension subsequently maintained by tightening the bolts of the rods. The construction method represents the transition from wooden to metal bridges. The builder must have been a successor of Howe, which makes this bridge approximately 120 to 150 years old.
Name: Bogerts Covered Bridge
Location: L.R.39016 in Little Lehigh Park, Allentown
UTM: Zone 18 N4490800 E457280
Owner: City of Allentown

Stream: Little Lehigh
Truss Type: Burr
Builder: 1841

End Post to End Post Length: 145 ft
Clearance:  

Road Surface Width: 15 ft
Load: 

Distinguishing Features: Constructed in 1841, Bogerts Bridge along with Wehr's are the oldest remaining covered bridges in Lehigh County. Today this bridge is located within a city park and was restored by the Allentown Park Department. It has vertical plank siding, a gable roof and large stone abutments. Two concrete piers were added to help support the bridge.

Condition: Good
Name: Rex's Covered Bridge
Location: T593 North Whitehall Township
UTM: Zone 18 N 4498180 E 448160
Owner: Lehigh County

Stream: Jordan Creek
Truss Type: Burr
Builder:
Year: 1858

End Post to End Post Length: 150 ft
Clearance: 10 ft 8 in

Road Surface Width: 16 ft 7 in
Load: 4 tons

Distinguishing Features: Situated between Kernsville and Weidasville, the Rex's bridge is the longest remaining covered bridge in Lehigh County. It has narrow horizontal siding and a gable roof. Like Wehr's bridge, it has the interior portal siding. It has been strengthened by the addition of steel reinforcements.

Condition: Good
Name: Geiger's Covered Bridge
Location: T6S1 North Whitehall Township

UTM: Zone 18 N 4499460 E 447850 Acreage: 07

Owner: Lehigh County

Stream: Jordan Creek
Truss Type: Burr
Builder: 1860

End Post to Road Surface
End Post Length: 112 ft Width: 16 ft 2 in
Clearance: 10 ft 8 in Load: 4 tons

Distinguishing Features: Also located over Jordan Creek, the Geiger bridge has a burr arch vertical siding and stone abutments. It's unusual portal has stepped, square planks and the portal entry way stretches at least ten feet before the trussing begins. This bridge has also been strengthened by steel reinforcements.

Condition: Good
Name: Kreidersville Covered Bridge
Location: L.R. 48061 Allen Township
UTM: Zone 18 N 45070°0 E 45°360' Acroage: 
Owner: Northampton County
Stream: Hokendaugua Creek
Truss Type: Burr
Builder: 
Year: 1840

End Post to 
End Post Length: 100 ft 
Clearance: 
Road Surface 
Width: 16 ft 8 in 
Load: 1 ton 

Distinguishing Features: Kreidersville bridge is the only remaining covered bridge in Northampton County. It was built in 1840 but has been restored and strengthened by the addition of steel reinforcements. Its narrow horizontal siding reaches to the eaves and it has no windows making the interior very dark. It is presently closed to traffic for its preservation.

Condition: Good
Name: Haupt's Mill Covered Bridge
Location: L.R. 00061 Durham Township
UTM: Zone 18 N 4491610 E 481000 Acreage:
Owner: Bucks County

Stream: Durham Creek
Truss Type: Town
Builder: 1872
Year:

End Post to
End Post Length: 107 ft
Clearance: 11 ft 3 in.
Road Surface
Width: 15 ft
Load:

Distinguishing Features: In 1735, Henry Haupt, a miller from Germany, built his stone gristmill on the banks of Durham Creek, to service his mill a road and bridge were built to cross the creek. The present bridge was built in 1872 and came to known as Haupt's Mill Bridge. Built utilizing the town truss system, this bridge reflects the type of bridge common in Bucks County. Features of this Bucks County type include mortored stone abutments, town truss, gable roof, triangular or curved inner portal openings, inner wall siding in the portal area, and full outer walls.

Condition: Good
# 38-39-03  Name: Manasses Guth Covered Bridge
Location: T602  South Whitehall Township
UTM: Zone 18  N4497440  E453170  Acreage:
Owner: Lehigh County

Stream: Jordan Creek
Truss Type: Burr
Builder:
Year: 1858, rebuilt 1882

End Post to
End Post Length: 108 ft
Clearance: 11 ft 6 in
Road Surface
Width: 17 ft
Load: 4 tons

Distinguishing Features:
Located near Stettlersville, the Manasses Guth Bridge crosses Jorgan Creek. This one span arch bridge has vertical siding and stone abutments. In recent years it has been strengthened by the addition of steel reinforcements.

Condition: Good
Name: Schlicher's Covered Bridge
Location: L.R. 39058 North Whitehall Township
UTM: Zone 18 N 450170 E 445960
Owner: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Stream: Jordan Creek
Truss Type: Burr
Year: 1882

End Post to End Post Length: 108 ft
Clearance: Road Surface Width: 17 ft

Distinguishing Features: Schlicher's bridge is located on L.R. 39058 and is owned and maintained by the state highway department. This is the most recent of the remaining covered bridges in Lehigh County. It has vertical plank siding, a gable roof and stone abutments which have been enclosed in cement. A small square window is located in each of the side walls. Its portal has horizontal planking.

Condition: Good
Name: Twining Ford Covered Bridge
Location: Tyler State Park  Northampton and Newtown Townships
Owner: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Stream: Nechaminy Creek
Truss Type: Town
Builder:
Year:
End Post to Road Surface
End Post Length: 150 ft Width: 17 ft
Clearance: 2 spans
Load:
Distinguishing Features: Built of hemlock, the Twining Ford bridge is located within Tyler State Park and is closed to traffic. This is the longest covered bridge in the county and portrays the typical Bucks County characteristics. This bridge is in poor condition.
Condition:
Harrity Covered Bridge

Location: next to Beltzville Dam Park Office, Franklin Township
UTM: Zone 18 N 4523080 E 446000
Owner: Carbon County

Acres: \( \frac{43,560}{43,560} = 0.04 \)

Stream: not over stream at present

Truss Type: Kingpost
Builder: Paul Buck
Year: 1841

End Post to End Post Length: 66 ft
Clearance: 

Road Surface Width: 13 ft
Load: 

Distinguishing Features: The Harrity bridge was moved by the U.S. Corps of Engineers in 1970 from its original location over Pohopoco Creek where it would have been underwater because of flooding created by the development of the Beltzville Dam. Harrity bridge has narrow horizontal siding only half way up the bridge sides leaving open trussing. Its gable roof is covered by wooden shingles.

Condition: Good
Name: Bittenbender's Covered Bridge
Location: Private property off L.R. 40076, Huntington Township
UTM: Zone 18 N 4559340 E 397260 Acreage:
Owner: Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Bittenbender
        Huntingdon Mills, Pa. 18622
Stream: Huntingdon Creek
Truss Type: Queenpost
Builder: Frank and Monroe and Stephen Harrison Dodson
Year: 1888
End Post to
End Post Length: 68 ft 8 in
Clearance: 11 ft 4 in
Road Surface
Width: 13 ft
Load: 5 tons

Distinguishing Features:

Bittenbenders Bridge located over Huntingdon Creek is the last covered bridge in Luzerne County. This queenpost truss bridge is in fair condition with repairs being made in 1936 by the addition of a center concrete pier and undergirder members and outriggers added in 1974. Its rough vertical plank siding is missing in several places. It has a double layer of oak planking for a floor. In 1927 this bridge was almost burned when the LuKlux Klan burned two Bittenbender barns and tried to burn this bridge with gas-soaked straw.

Condition: Fair