<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description of View</th>
<th>Direction of Camera</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>length of east side of bridge</td>
<td>west</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>parapets rebuilt in concrete</td>
<td>east</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>west side of bridge with banks of creek</td>
<td>east</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>south side of bridge, concrete capstones</td>
<td>north</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>entrance to north side of bridge</td>
<td>south</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>tie rod on east side of bridge</td>
<td>west</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Photographer Name:** Karen Samuels  
**Date:** 3/1/07  
**Negative Location:** Karen Samuels, 1545 Saucon Valley Road, Bethlehem, PA 18015
48721003769015
Meadows Road Bridge (TR 376)
Northampton 095
Lower Saucon Township
60
4872100 3769015
Meadows Road Bridge (TR 376)
Northampton 095
Lower Saucon Township 5
Meadows Road Bridge (TR 376)
Northampton 095
Lower Saucon Township 3
48721 00376 9015
Meadows Road Bridge (TR 376)
Northampton 095
Lower Saucon Township
4
48721003769015
Meadows Road Bridge (TR 376)
Northampton 095
Lower Saucon Township 2
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Survey Code: 48721003769015 Tax Parcel/Other No.: County Bridge #15

County: 1. Northampton 095
Municipality: 1. Lower Saucon Township

Street/Road: Meadows Road
Crossing Over: Saucon Creek
Historic Name: N/A
Other Name:

Owner Name/Address: Northampton County, Department of Public Works, 669 Washington Street, Easton, PA 18042

Owner Category: Private X Public-local-county ___ Public-local-municipal ___ Public-state ___ Public-federal

USGS Quad: 1. Hellertown

UTM References: A. B.

HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Historic Function Category: Subcategory: Code:
A. transportation _road related_ 16D
B. _________________________________ ______________

Current Function Category: Subcategory: Code:
A. transportation _road related_ 16D
B. _________________________________ ______________

Particular Type: _bridge__________________________

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: A. no style 01
B. Other:

# of Spans 4 Overall Length 120' Predominant Material: ashlar fieldstone, rubble coursed fieldstone

# of Main Spans 4

Main Span Materials: 1. ashlar fieldstone 2. rubble coursed fieldstone Length:
15', 21', 21', 15'  
Span Type: closed spandrel  
Design Type: deck  
Structural Feature: 1.  2.  

Secondary Span 1  
Materials: 1.  2.  Length:  Span Type:  
Design Type:  Structural Feature:  

Secondary Span 2  
Materials: 1.  2.  Length:  Span Type:  
Design Type:  Structural Feature:  

Secondary Span 3  
Materials: 1.  2.  Length:  Span Type:  
Design Type:  Structural Feature:  

Substructure  
Materials: 1. ashlar fieldstone  2. rubble fieldstone  Structural Feature  
Configuration  

HISTORICAL INFORMATION  
Year Built: 1858  Additions/Alterations Dates: none  
Basis for Dating: Documentary  Physical X  
Explain: plaque on bridge  

Associated Individuals: 1.  2.  
Associated Events: 1.  2.  
Architects/Engineers: 1.  2.  
Builders: 1.  2.  

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES  
Fritts, Peter. History of Northampton County. 1. Philadelphia: Peter Fritts, 1877.  
"Mining, Quarrying and Kindred and Dependent Industries of North America." The Mine, Quarry and Metallurgical Record. 1897.  

PREVIOUS SURVEY, DETERMINATIONS  
EVALUATION (Survey Director/Consultants Only)  
Individual NR Potential:  Yes  No  Context(s):  
Contributes to Potential District  Yes  No  District Name/Status:  
Enter:  
SURVEYOR INFORMATION  
Surveyor Name/Title:
The Meadows Road Bridge (TR 376) is a stone closed spandrel arch bridge, built in 1858, which spans the Saucon Creek. It is a 4-span, 102'-long bridge laid up in rubble coursed fieldstone and matched ring stones. It is a camelback type bridge as both ends slope upward. Nearby are a 178 year old former Moyer’s mill and miller’s house along with Johannes Wagner’s 167 year old barn. Moyer’s mill, Wagner’s farm and Heller’s limestone quarry were in full operation when the bridge was built in 1858.

Northampton County’s most recent inspection (November 2005) of the bridge required the repair of a separated ring arch. Sections of the parapets have been rebuilt in concrete, not stone. The roadway faces of the parapets are coated with concrete, and the cap stones are concrete. There are three tie rods through the spandrel walls giving additional lateral support to the bridge. The bridge has been repaired several times by Northampton County Public Works.

The bridge requires regular inspections and is being threatened by the heavier quantity of traffic as well periodic flooding of the Saucon Creek.
HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:
The Meadows Road Bridge (TR 376), built in 1858, spans the Saucon Creek. It is one of only two examples of a four span stone arch bridge, built between 1826 and 1921, that exist today in Northampton County. This technology predates the covered bridge. Early stone arch bridges represented the only technology available to the early settlers for longer and permanent spans prior to the introduction of metal truss bridge technology.

By authorizing a sum of $899.47 in 1857 for the construction of the Meadows Road Bridge the Northampton County Commissioners recognized the need of the local farmers to transport their grain to the Levi S. Moyer grist mill. Northampton County tax records for 1860 show Levi S. Moyer to be the wealthy owner of this grist mill. The handsome stone mill was built in 1829, continued operation as a mill for 110 years and still stands today. Farmers utilized the King’s Highway (known as PA Rt. 412 today and was the original “walking purchase trail”) then crossed the Saucon Creek over the bridge and traveled another 300 yards to the mill. Also operating in the immediate area, when the bridge was built, was the Stevers Mine. It was an open pit limestone quarry mined by J.D. Heller. Dr. Heller used horse and cart to transport the limestone to the local farmers.

Today the bridge is the oldest bridge in Lower Saucon Township and one of the oldest stone bridges in Northampton County. By the 1860’s Northampton County switch to building primarily iron span bridges. The bridge is currently 9th in line for planned replacement by Northampton County. Back in 1976, when the county announced plans to replace the bridge, several local citizen groups wrote letters requesting that the bridge be saved. At that time, the county withdrew its plans for replacement.

The Meadows Road Bridge has been the focus of many local artists over the years, such as Fred Bees, Walter E. Baum and early 1900 post cards.
BMS #: 48721003769015  DIST: 5  UTM:
OLD BMS #:
CTY: NORTHAMPTON  OWNER: NORTHAMPTON COUNTY
MUNICIPALITY: LOWER SAUCON  LOCATION: 0.1 MILE WEST OF PA 412
FACILITY CARRIED: TR 376 (MEADOWS ROAD)
NAME/FEATURE INTERSECTED: TR 376 (MEADOWS ROAD) OVER SAUCON CREEK
TYPE: CLOSED SPANDREL ARCH  DESIGN: DECK
MATERIAL: STONE
#SPANS: 4  LENGTH: 102 (31.1 m)  WIDTH: 22 (6.7 m)
YR BUILT: 1858  ALTERATION: UNKNOWN  SOURCE: INSP FILE
DESIGNER/BUILDER:

SETTING/CONTEXT:
The bridge carries a 2 lane road over a stream in a mixed use setting that includes a large modern restaurant and modern houses. Beyond the northwest quadrant is a handsome 19th century stone mill. The setting is not a potential historic district although the mill may well be individually significant.

CURRENT NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS: Previously Not Evaluated
SURVEY NR RECOMMENDATION: Not Eligible

SUMMARY:
The 4 span, 102'-long stone arch bridge laid up in rubble coursed fieldstone and matched ring stones has been rebuilt several times. It is dated 1858, but it has been poorly pointed, and there are sections of the parapets that have been rebuilt in concrete, not stone. The roadway faces of the parapets are coated with concrete, and the cap stones are concrete. There are tie rods through the spandrel walls. The bridge is not a good example of period workmanship. Its setting does not maintain its historic character. Neither the bridge nor its setting are historically or technologically significant.

PHOTO INDEX (DATE): 141:16-19  REVIEWED BY/DATE: MEM (7/99)
Sources: PennDOT District 5-0 Bridge Inspection File.

Physical Description: The 4-span, 102'-long stone arch bridge laid up in rubble coursed fieldstone and matched ring stones has been rebuilt several times. It has been poorly pointed, and there are several sections of the parapets that have been rebuilt in concrete, not stone. The roadway faces of the parapets are coated with concrete, and the cap stones are concrete. There are tie rods through the spandrel walls.

Historical and Technological Significance: The 4-span stone arch bridge dated 1858 has been rebuilt several times, and it is not a good example of period workmanship. Its setting does not maintain its historic character. There are modern houses and a large restaurant. Neither the bridge nor its setting are historically or technologically significant. The bridge is one of 13 stone arch bridges built between 1826 and 1921 in Northampton County.

The stone arch bridge is the earliest extant bridge type in Pennsylvania with over 350 examples. This was the technology that settlers brought to this country, and it is well represented in the state. Early stone arch bridges represent first-generation technology and the only technology available for longer and permanent spans prior to the introduction of metal truss bridge technology in the 1850s. The earliest stone arch bridge in the state is documented to 1697 with five more dating to the end of the 18th century. Extremely common in the southeastern part of the state, there are over 350 stone arch bridges surviving with about a third of them dating from the 20th century. Many examples are multi span and most are finished with stone parapets that match the spandrel walls.

The earliest stone arches are laid up in rubble coursed fieldstone and finished with parapets that match the spandrel walls. Toward the end of the 18th and into the 19th century, the ring stones were matched and gauged, and in the 19th century, the spandrel walls are often laid up in both coursed and random ashlar (cut rectangular blocks). The arch rings themselves could be of several geometric shapes from semicircular to segmental, but regardless of the shape, the principle behind the masonry arch is the same.

141:17. Elevation.
141:18. Elevation.

141:19. Though view.
June 15, 2007

Mr. Jack Callahan, Township Manager
Township Council of Lower Saucon Township
3700 Old Philadelphia Pike
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Re: Meadows Road Bridge, Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County, Key #137084

Dear Mr. Callahan:

Your completed Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form has been reviewed by the Bureau for Historic Preservation. It is our opinion that the resource is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The above-referenced property was documented as part of a survey of all historic PennDOT-owned bridges in 1999. The property was subsequently determined not eligible by an expert panel on September 12, 2000. See the enclosed review sheet for information on why the bridge was determined not eligible.

We will add the information to the Bureau's Historic Resource Inventory for permanent record.

If additional information which could change your property's eligibility becomes available, please contact our office for re-evaluation.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. MacDonald, Chief
Division of Preservation Services

Enclosure
ALM/kh
June 8, 2007

Carol Lee, Historic Preservation Supervisor
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Re: Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form
Meadows Road Bridge
Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania

Dear Ms. Lee:

The Council of Lower Saucon Township is very pleased to forward to your Bureau the completed Historic Resource Survey Form on the Meadows Road Bridge located in Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. The research for this project was completed by Karen Samuels of the Lower Saucon Township Historic Committee. For additional information, Ms. Samuels can be reached at (610) 866-9855 or via email at: karensamuels@verizon.net.

Sincerely,

Jack Cahalan
Township Manager

cc: Council
Sandra Yerger, Township Historian
Karen Samuels, Historical Society
May 31, 2007

Hi Jack,

Here is the completed PHMS resource survey form for the Meadows Road bridge. I received this form from Carol Lee of PHMC so I know it is correct. She is in the process of changing all the survey forms. Sandy wants council to look at the survey before it is sent out. Also we need a cover letter. Sandy thought it should come from the township otherwise I would be happy to write one. The survey should be sent to:

Carol Lee  
Historic Preservation Supervisor  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
Bureau of Historic Preservation  
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd floor  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Let me know if you need anything else.

Karen  
610-866-9855  
karensamuels@verizon.net