

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

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

USE THIS COPY
FOR DUPLICATING
not for publication

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Lawrence code 073

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> 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

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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.

<u>Name & Number</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Truss</u>	<u>Length</u>
McConnell's Mill 36-37-01	1874	Howe	96.5'
Bank's 36-37-02	1889	Burr	121'

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

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.

<u>Name & Number</u>		<u>Year</u>	<u>Length</u>
McConnell's Mill, Lawrence Co.	36-37-01	1874	96.5'
Kintersburg, Indiana Co.	36-32-05	1877	62'
Shade Gap, Huntingdon Co.	36-31-01	1889	65'4"
Thomas Mill, Philadelphia Co.	36-51-01	1855	78'

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.

Allen, Richard Sanders. Covered Bridges of the Middle Atlantic States. Brattleboro, VT: Stephen Greene Press, 1959, p. 73-79.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .14

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

McConnell's Mill, Portersville, Pa. Bank's, New Castle North, Pa. Quad

A

1	7	5	6	9	8	2	0	4	5	3	3	6	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	7	5	5	9	9	6	0	4	5	4	8	8	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification Acreeage is calculated by adding 20' to each length and 10' to each width to include abutments.

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

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

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

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 17120

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
 title 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