

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Covered Bridges of Chester County Thematic Resources

and/or common

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Chester code 029

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"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chester County Courthouse

street & number Market & High Street

city, town West Chester state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title of Historic Places Pennsylvania Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition
 excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one
 unaltered altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date 1972, Larkin (38-15-11)

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Only 15 of the original 85 Chester County covered bridges remain today, two of the remaining bridges are shared with Lancaster County and one with Delaware County. Four of the bridges are already listed on the National Register (3 individually, 1 as part of Valley Forge National Military Park), they will be mentioned here for comparison.

<u>Bridge Name & Number</u>	<u>Truss</u>	<u>Year</u>
Rudolph & Arthur (38-15-01)	Burr	1880
Glen Hope (38-15-02)	Burr	1889
Linton Stevens (38-15-03)	Burr	1886
Speakman #1 (38-15-05)	Burr	1881
Speakman #2, Mary Ann Pyle (38-15-06)	Queenpost	1881
Hayes Clark (38-15-07)	Kingpost	1971 not being nominated
Gibson's (38-15-10)	Burr	1872
Larkin (38-15-11)	Burr	1881
Hall's, Sheeder (38-15-12)	Burr	1850 (NR 4-23-73)
Kennedy (38-15-13)	Burr	1856 (NR 1-21-74)
Rapp's (38-15-14)	Burr	1866 (NR 6-18-73)
Knox (38-15-15)	Burr	1865 (NHL 1-20-61)
Mercer's Mill (38-15-15, 38-36-38)	Burr	1880 (share w/Lancaster Co.)
Pine Grove (38-15-21, 38-36-40)	Burr	1884 (share w/Lancaster Co.)
Bartram's (38-15-17, 38-23-02)	Burr	1860 (share w/Lancaster Co.)

38-15-07

Name: Hayes Clark Covered Bridge

Location: T371, East Fallowfield Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4419000 E431730

Owner: Private

Stream: Doe Run

Truss Type: Kingpost

Builder: Buck and Doe Run Valley Farms

Year: 1971

Length: 75'

Width: 16'

Load:

Condition: Excellent

Distinguishing Features:

The present Hayes Clark bridge was constructed in 1971 following the burning of a covered bridge on the site from 1884 to 1963. The 1884 bridge was a burr arch built by Meander Wood and Denithorne and Pallitt of Phoenixville for a total cost of \$2,526. Two earlier bridges upstream once bore the name Hayes Clark but both were destroyed by floods. Hayes Clark once operated a 208 acre farm in the area.

38-15-12

Name: Hall's, Sheeder Covered Bridge

Location: L.R. 15194, West Vincent Township/East Vincent Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4444100 E447100

Owner: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Stream: French Creek

Truss Type: Burr

Builder: Robert Russell and Jacob Fox

Year: 1850

Length: 2 spans, 100'

Width: 15'

Load:

Condition: Good

Distinguishing Features:

Bridging East and West Vincent Townships the Hall's, Sheeder Bridge is the oldest covered bridge still standing in Chester County. Its stepped portals and horizontal clapboard siding is similar to the Wertz's or Red Covered Bridge of Berks County. Built by Robert Russell and Jacob Fox the entire two span bridge cost \$1,564 to build.

38-15-13 Name: Kennedy Covered Bridge

Location: T522, East Vincent Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4443270 E450860

Owner: Chester County

Stream: French Creek
Truss Type: Burr
Builder: Alex and Jesse King
Year: 1856

Length: 100'
Width: 14'
Load: 3 tons
Condition: Good

Distinguishing Features:

This 100' bridge carries the inscription "Built for Newton Nichols, Albert Way and William G. Maitland, County Commissioners by Alex King and Jesse King, Contracted July 4th, finished October 1, 1856. Named for Alexander Kennedy, a local farmer, the bridge cost a total of \$2,149 to build and has an unusual portal design.

38-15-14

Name: Rapp's Covered Bridge

Location: T⁴63, East Pikeland Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4443150 E453740

Owner: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Stream: French Creek

Truss Type: Burr

Builder: Benjamin F. Hartman

Year: 1866

Length: 105'

Width: 14'

Load:

Condition: Good

Distinguishing Features:

The Rapp's bridge was built just north of the saw and grist mills of George Rapp and his sons. This burr arch bridge has horizontal siding and its portals are embellished with boxed cornices with returns. A local carpenter built this \$3,595.50 bridge.

38-15-15 Name: Knox Covered Bridge

Location: L.R. 15098, Tredyffrin Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4437320 E461070

Owner: National Park Service, Department of the Interior

Stream: Valley Creek
Truss Type: Burr
Builder: Robert Russell
Year: 1865

Length: 65'
Width: 13'
Load:
Condition: Good

Distinguishing Features:

The Knox bridge is the second to be built at the site. The first bridge, built in 1851 by Ferdinand Wood, was destroyed by flood in 1865. This unusual bridge has horizontal siding pierced by mid-wall windows. The origin of its name are disputed, credit being given both to Philander C. Knox, (1853-1921) a U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania and General Henry Knox (1750-1806) an officer quartered at nearby Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-1778.

38-15-01

Name: Rudolph & Arthur Covered Bridge

Location: 307, New London Township/Elk Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4399700 E424380

Owner: Chester County

Stream: Big Elk Creek

Truss Type: Burr

Builder: Meanander Wood and Richard T. Meredith

Year: 1880

Length: 80'

Width: 15'

Load: 3 tons

Condition: Good

Distinguishing Features:

Built in 1880, the Rudolph and Arthur bridge has vertical plank siding with eave level window openings. This bridge was named for the paper firm of the families Rudolph and Arthur which was located just above the bridge on the east bank of the creek. The woodwork for the bridge was built by Meanander Wood for \$1,440 and the stonework was completed by Richard T. Meredith for the sum of \$890.

38-15-02

Name: Glen Hope Covered Bridge

Location: T344, Elk Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4397630 E422200

Owner: Chester County

Stream: Little Elk Creek

Truss Type: Burr

Builder: Menander Wood and George E. Jones

Year: 1889

Length: 65'

Width: 16'

Load:

Condition: Good

Distinguishing Features:

The Glen Hope bridge was built at a total cost of \$1,767. Menander Wood received \$994 for the woodwork and George Jones, \$773 for the stone work. Jones was a skilled marble and granite cutter. Located only one-half mile from the Maryland-Pennsylvania border, the Glen Hope Bridge is located at Anderson's Ford, named for a local farmer John Anderson.

38-15-03

Name: Linton Stevens Covered Bridge

Location: T344, Nottingham Township / New London Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4400920 E421810

Owner: Chester County

Stream: Big Elk Creek

Truss Type: Burr

Builder: Unknown

Year: 1886

Length: 102'

Width: 15'

Load: 4 tons

Condition: Good

Distinguishing Features:

Named after the local postmaster of Hickory Hill, the Linton Stevens bridge has an unusual history. Originally a foot bridge crossed Big Elk Creek at this site. Later in 1875 an iron bridge was built here by the county. However this bridge was severely damaged by the 1884 flood. It was replaced by the covered bridge present today.

38-15-05

Name: Speakman No. 1

Location: L.R. 15068, East Fallowfield Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4420030 E429680

Owner: Chester County

Stream: Buck Run

Truss Type: Burr

Builder: Meanander and Ferdinand Wood

Year: 1881

Length: 75'

Width: 14'

Load:

Condition: Good

Distinguishing Features:

This burr arch bridge is located in a remote valley but once served the Jonathan Speakman grist Mill. A mill converted from a papermill to a grist mill in 1870. Built at a total cost of \$2,000 it is located only just $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Speakman No. 2 bridge.

38-15-06

Name: Speakman No. 2, Mary Ann Pyle Bridge

Location: Off T371, East Fallowfield Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4419180 E431610

Owner: Private

Stream: Buck Run

Truss Type: Queenpost

Builder: Meanander and Ferdinand Wood

Year: 1881

Length: 75'

Width: 15'

Load:

Condition: Good

Distinguishing Features:

One of the "twin bridges" as this and the Hayes-Clark Bridge, only one fourth of a mile away, this bridge was named for the daughter of James B. Pyle, a local land owner. The cost of this bridge was \$1,183 for woodwork and \$755 for stonework. Located on private land this bridge and the Hayes Clark Bridge are closed to traffic.

38-15-10

Name: Gibson's Covered Bridge

Location: T391, East Bradford Township/West Bradford Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4425120 E441660

Owner: Chester County

Stream: East Branch of Brandywine Creek

Truss Type: Burr

Builder: Edward H. Hall and Thomas E. Schull

Year: 1872

Length: 78'

Width: 14'

Load:

Condition: Good

Distinguishing Features:

Also known as Harmony Hill Bridge, this bridge was built in 1872 at Gibson's Ford by Edward H. Hall and Thomas E. Schull for \$2,666. This bridge has horizontal clapboard siding and interesting stepped portals.

38-15-11

Name: Larkin Covered Bridge

Location: Marsh Creek State Park, Upper Uwchlan Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4435670 E438540

Owner: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Bureau of State Parks

Stream: Branch of Marsh Creek

Truss Type: Burr

Builder: Menander and Ferdinand Wood

Year: 1881

Length: 60'

Width: 14.5'

Load:

Condition: Poor

Clearance: 12.5'

Distinguishing Features:

The Larkin Bridge today is located over a branch of Marsh Creek within the Marsh Creek State Park. It was moved to its present location and sits on concrete abutments following the creation of the Marsh Creek dam in 1972. The original site on Marsh Creek near the Larkin grist mill (formerly the Richard Bicking papermill) is now under 60' of water. This is the second Larkin bridge. The first bridge, built in 1854, was rebuilt in 1881 by the Wood brothers.

38-23-02
38-15-17

Name: Bartram's Covered Bridge

Location: L.R. 15098, Willistown Township, Chester County and Newtown
Township, Delaware County

UTM: Zone 18 N4426510 E462640

Owner: Chester and Delaware Counties

Stream: Crum Creek

Truss Type: Burr

Builder: Ferdinand Wood

Year: 1860

Length: 60'

Width: 13'

Load:

Condition: Good

Distinguishing Features:

The Bartram bridge has unique slanted plank portals, the only bridge in Pennsylvania with this unusual design. This bridge is also the only bridge remaining partially in Delaware County, a county which once had 30 covered bridges. This bridge was closed to traffic in 1941 and preserved and restored in 1970 by a local historical society and concerned citizens.

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 type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

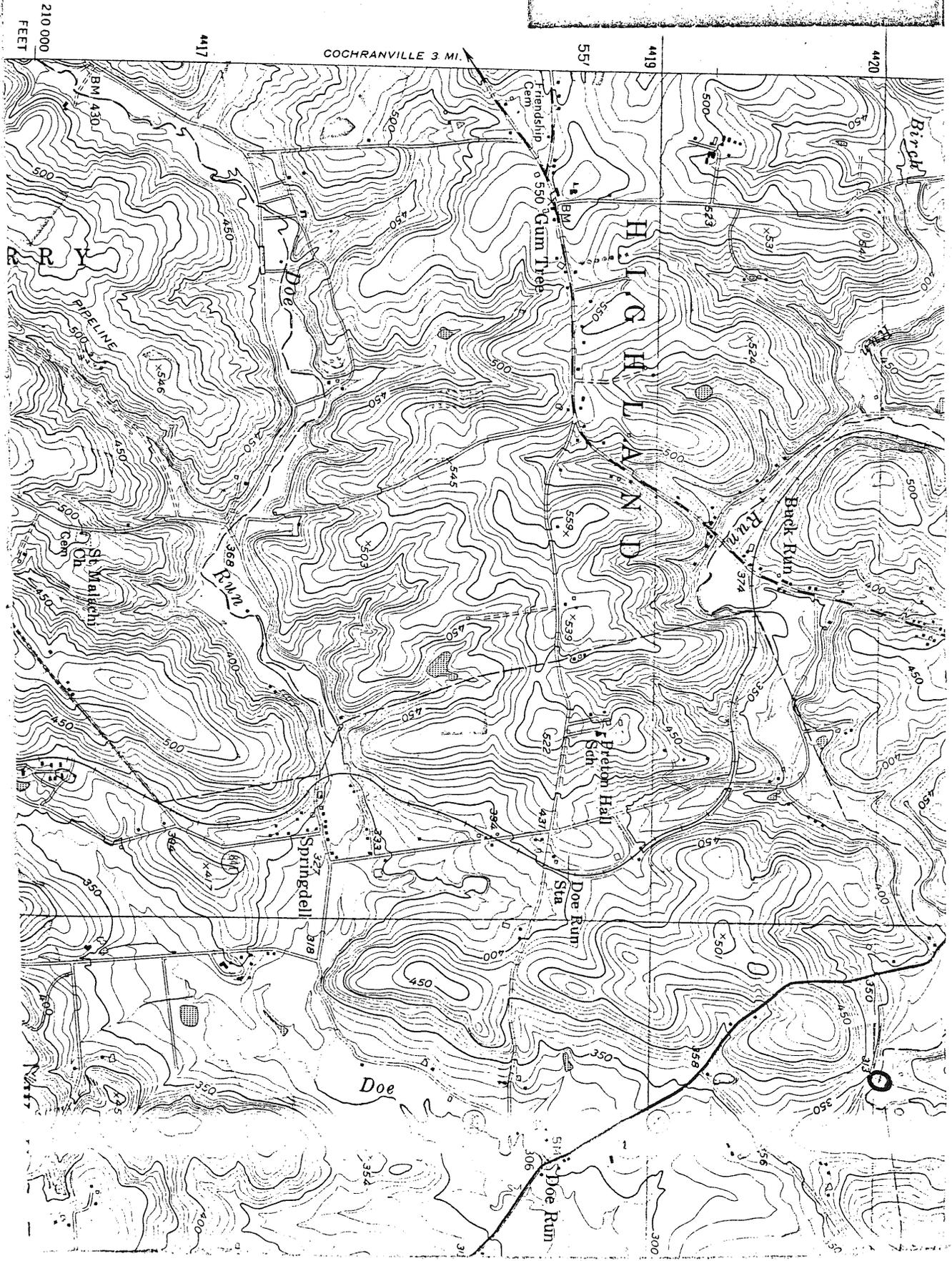
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

According to county records, Chester County once had 85 covered bridges, 21 of which were shared with other counties. The earliest recorded covered bridge in Chester County was built in 1807 and the most recent in 1899. Only 15 covered bridges remain today, the oldest being the Hall's, Sheeder Bridge built in 1850. The covered bridge played an important part in the transportation system of the County throughout the 19th century. Many of the bridges were built to serve local mills and the transportation of agricultural produce to market.

Because Chester's bridges were built under the control of the county very good records of the builders and the cost of construction exist. Before a bridge could be built petitions and competitive bidding were required as well as the overseeing of bridge construction were conducted by the County.

The covered bridge was an important transportation resource in Chester County, the remaining bridges are fine examples of this period in Pennsylvania Bridge technology.

Covered Bridges of Chester Co
Chester County
Zone 18 E429680 N4420030
Speakman No. 1 Bridge
(38-15-05)





UNIONVILLE 0.8 MI.
KENNETT SQUARE 4.7 MI.

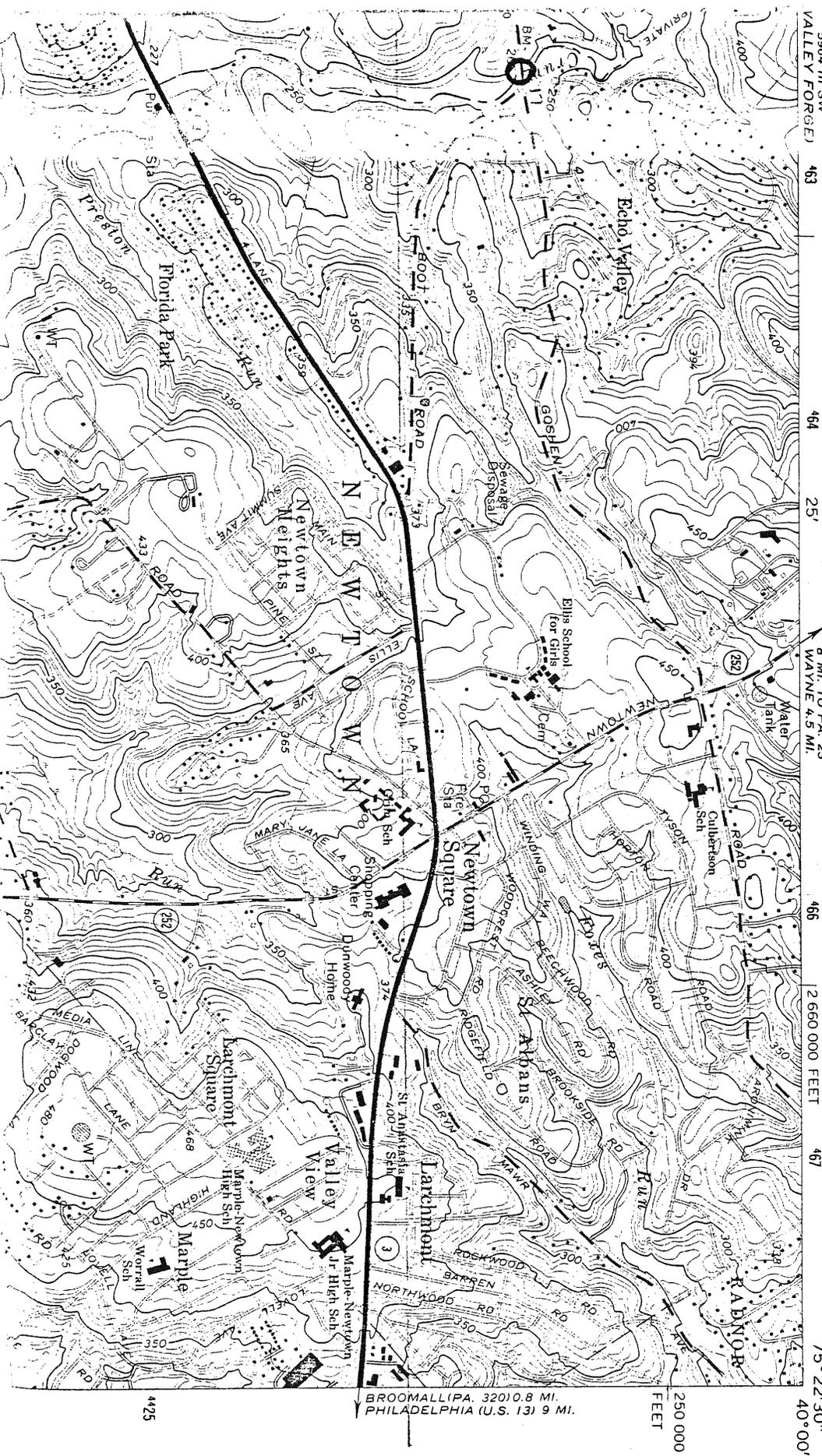
Covered Bridges of Chester County
Chester County
Zone 18 E431730 N4419000
Hayes-Clark Bridge
(38-15-07)

Spahn
#2

Irfrom's Bridge

**MEDIA QUADRANGLE
PENNSYLVANIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)**

5964 III SE
(NORRISTOWN)

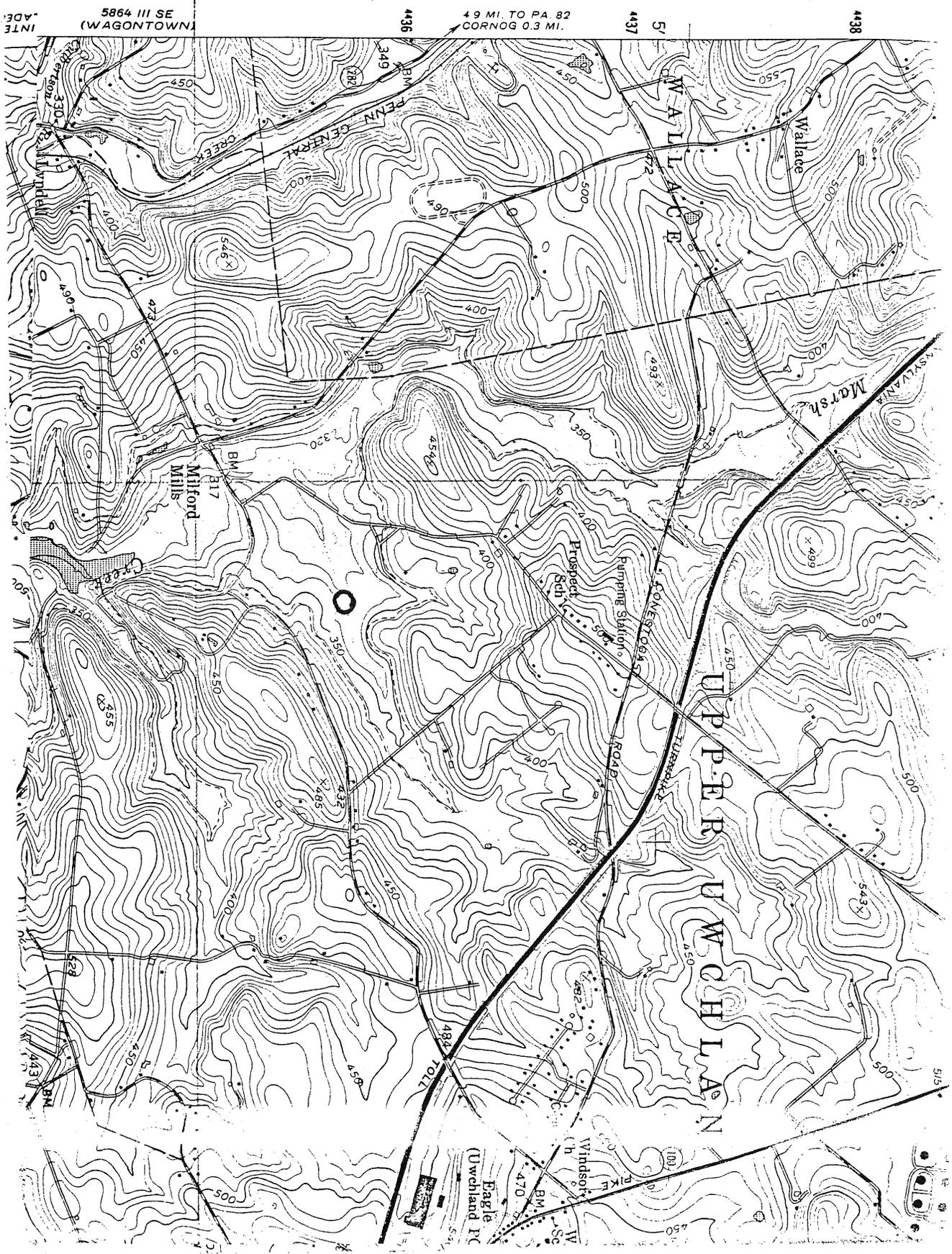


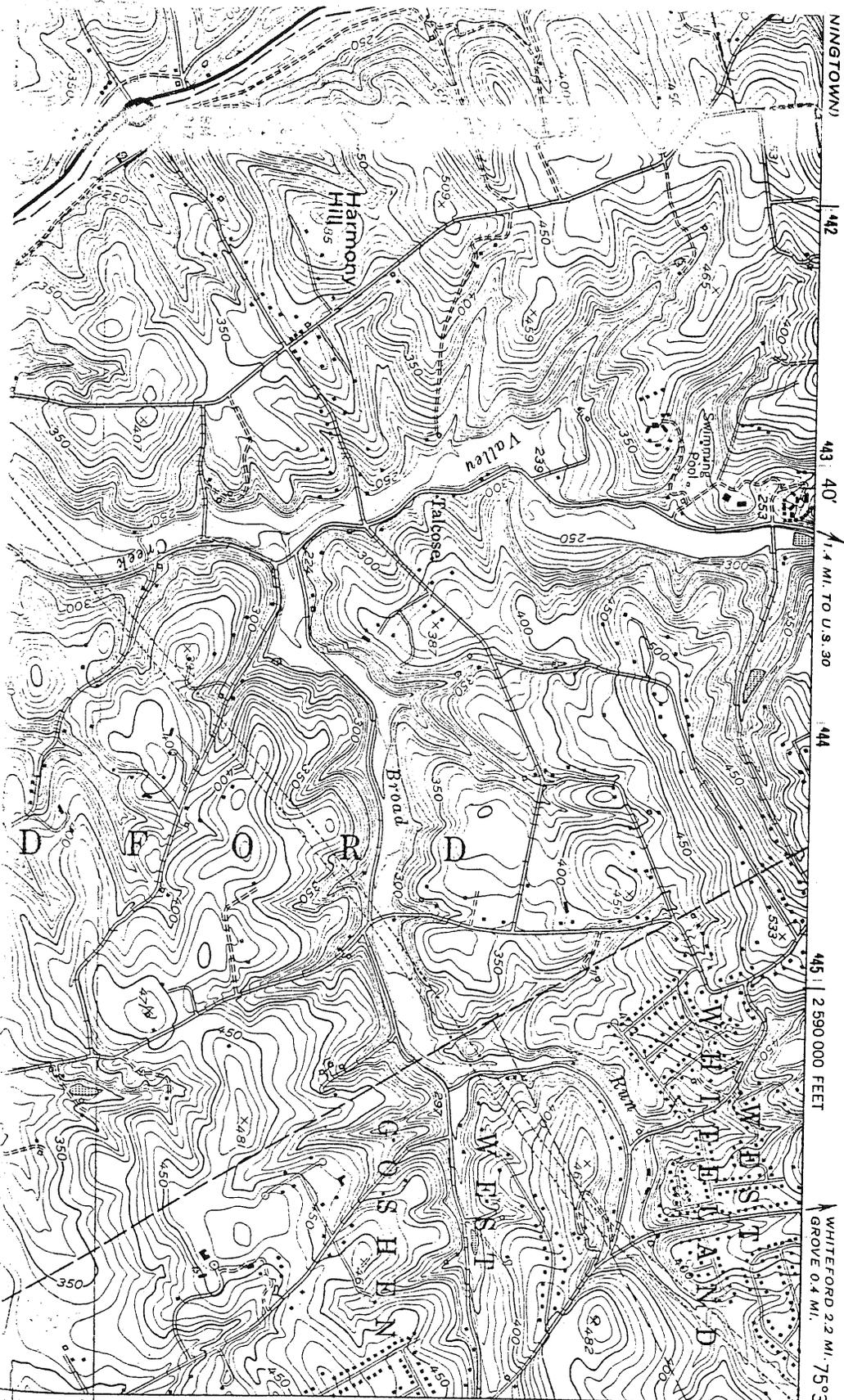
5964 III SW VALLEY FOREST 463 464 25' 465 466 2 660 000 FEET 467 75° 22' 30" 40° 00'

BROOMALL (PA. 320) 0.8 MI.
PHILADELPHIA (U.S. 13) 9 MI.

250 000
FEET

Covered Bridges of Chester County
Chester County
Zone 18 N4435670 E438540
Larkin Covered Bridge
(38-15-11)

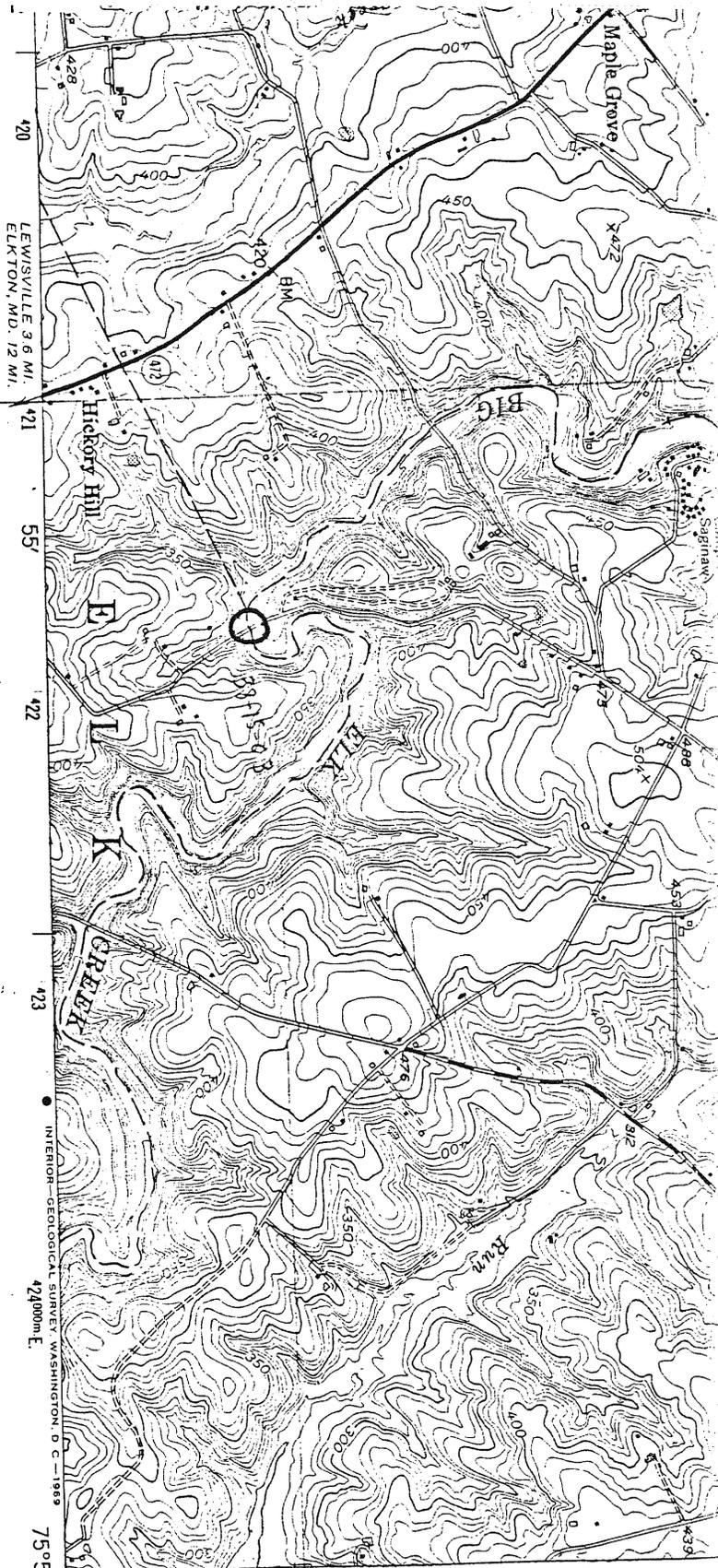




UNIONVILLE QUADRANGLE
 PENNSYLVANIA—CHESTER CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

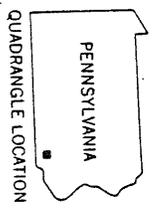
5864 11 SE
 (WALVERN)

Covered Bridges of Chester County
 Chester County
 Zone 18 E441660 N4425120
 Gibson's Covered Bridge
 (38-15-10)



1:24000
 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
 1 KILOMETER
 1 MILE
 INTERVAL 10 FEET
 MEAN SEA LEVEL

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty ————
- Medium-duty - - - - -
- Light-duty ······
- Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- U.S. Route
- State Route

OXFORD, PA.
 SW 1/4 COATESVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3945—W7552.5/7.5
 1953
 PHOTOREVISED 1968
 AMS 5863 IV SW—SERIES V831

(NEWARK WEST)
 5863 III NE

Chester County
 Zone 18 E421810 N4400920
 Linton Stevens Covered Bridge
 (38-15-03)

