

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

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

For HCERS 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 BRADFORD, SULLIVAN AND LYCOMING COUNTIES

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 10/11/17

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Bradford/Sullivan /Lycoming code 015/113/081

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<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. Bradford/Sullivan/Lycoming County Courthouses

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Towanda/Laporte/Williamsport state Pennsylvania

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state Pennsylvania

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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**

There are seven remaining covered bridges in the counties of Bradford, Sullivan and Lycoming.

Bridge	County	Truss	Year	Length
Knapp's	Bradford	Burr	1853	95'
Forksville	Sullivan	Burr	1850	146'
Hillsgrove*	Sullivan	Burr	c.1850	171'
Sonestown	Sullivan	Burr	c.1850	99'
Buttonwood	Lycoming	Burr	1898	63'6"
Cogan House	Lycoming	Burr	1877	93'
Lairdsville	Lycoming	Burr	1888	77'10"

\*Listed on NR  
on 7-2-73

All burr arch trusses, the seven bridges range from 63'6" to 171'. A variety of siding, flooring portal types make comparison on a regional basis difficult. It is also hard to compare the small number remaining with once present in the three counties. However, the remaining bridges are fine examples of the wooden bridge in Pennsylvania.

## 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 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)

Located in the Susquehanna River watershed, these north central Pennsylvania Counties have never been heavily populated with agriculture and lumbering the most important economic basis today, as well as in the past. The use of lumber as a building resource was not only evident in their bridges but their buildings as well. While never rich in the number of covered bridges historically, there is significant difference between what was present 75 years ago and what is present today.

In 1890, Sullivan County had 30 covered bridges, today they only have 3. Bradford County had a least two with the possibility of many others not recorded, today only one remains. This remaining bridge is the highest-above-water covered bridge in Pennsylvania. Lycoming also has been reduced in number to only three.

These remaining examples of the covered bridge are an important link and record of the transportation histories in each county.

## 9. Major Bibliographical Reference

County Bridge Records  
PHMC Survey of Pennsylvania Covered Bridges  
Allen, Richard S. Covered Bridges of the Middle Atlantic States  
Brattleboro, VT: Stephen Greene Press, 1959, p. 61-72.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property .49

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References See Continuation Sheet

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Verbal boundary description is calculated by adding 20 feet to each length and 10 feet to each width to include the abutments.

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

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan M. Zacher

organization PHMC

date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number P. O. Box 1026

telephone 717-787-4363

city or town Harrisburg

state PA 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

#38-08-01 **Name:** Knapp's (Luther's Mills) Covered Bridge

**Location:** T554 Burlington Township

**UTM: Zone 18 N 4626960 E 370900 Acreage:**

**Owner:** Bradford County

$$(.95' + 20') \times (14' + 10') = 115' \times 24' = 2760$$

$$\div 43,560 = .06$$

**Stream:** Brown's Creek

**Truss Type:** Burr

**Builder:**

**Year:** 1853

**End Post to**

**End Post Length:** 95 ft

**Clearance:**

**Road Surface**

**Width:** 14 ft

**Load:**

**Distinguishing Features:**

Bradford County's only covered bridge dates from 1853 and is excellent condition due to its excellent maintenance. In 1963, the bridge flooring, roof and abutments were repaired. This burr arch truss bridge spans Brown's Creek and is one of the highest covered bridges in Pennsylvania, the drop from the bridge to the water is over 30 feet. It has vertical plank siding which covers only to the middle of the sidewalls, similar to Bedford County bridges. Because it is the only covered bridge left in the county it is hard to assess its regional characteristics.

**Condition:**

Excellent

#38-57-01 **Name:** Forksville Covered Bridge

**Location:** L.R.56007 Spur Forks Township

**UTM: Zone** 18 **N**4594000 **E**366420 **Acreage:**

**Owner:**

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

$$(146' + 20') \times (15' + 10') =$$

$$166' \times 25' = 4150$$

$$\div 43,560 = .09$$

**Stream:** Loyalstock Creek

**Truss Type:** Burr

**Builder:** Sadler Rogers

**Year:** 1850

**End Post to**

**End Post Length:** 146 ft

**Clearance:**

**Road Surface**

**Width:** (15 ft)

**Load:**

**Distinguishing  
Features:**

This large one span bridge crosses Loyalstock Creek and serves the small community of Forksville.

Built in 1850 by Sadler Rogers, who also built the Hillsgrove bridge, this structure is only one of three covered bridges left in Sullivan County.

It has vertical plank siding sheaths the walls almost to eave level. Its flooring is made up of very narrow wooden strips laid across the width of the bridge.

**Condition:**

Good

#38-57-02      **Name:** Hillsgrove Covered Bridge  
**Location:** T357    Elkland Township  
**UTM: Zone** 18    **N**4591040      **E**360440    **Acreage:**  
**Owner:** Sullivan County

$$(17' + 20') \times (18' + 10') = 19' \times 28' = 5348$$

**Stream:** Loyalstock Creek  
**Truss Type:** Burr  
**Builder:** Sadler Rogers  
**Year:** c.1850

$$\div 43,560 = .12$$

**End Post to**  
**End Post Length:** 171 ft  
**Clearance:**

**Road Surface**  
**Width:** 18 ft  
**Load:**

**Distinguishing Features:** Hillsgrove bridge crosses Loyalstock Creek south of the Forksville bridge.. These two structures are similar in design and style, and were built by the same person. Set against the hillside, the Hillsgrove bridge has vertical plank siding and narrow width-laid flooring.

**Condition:** Good

# 38-57-03

Name: Sonestown Covered Bridge

Location: T310 Davidson Township

UTM: Zone 18 N 4578160 E 369880 Acreage:

Owner:

Sullivan County

$$(99' + 20') \times (15' + 10') = 119' \times 25' = 2975$$

Stream: Muncy Creek

Truss Type: Burr

Builder:

Year: c.1850

$$\div 43,560 = .06$$

End Post to

End Post Length: 99 ft

Clearance:

Road Surface

Width: (15 ft)

Load: 3 tons

Distinguishing Features:

Sonestown bridge crosses Muncy Creek in eastern Sullivan County. Built to reach Johnny Hazen's gristmill, the Sonestown bridge is only one of three left in the county. It has vertical plank siding open near the eaves to admit light. Its flooring is wide planks laid widthwise with vertically laid planks for wheel tracks.

Condition:

Good

# 38-41-01      **Name:** Buttonwood Covered Bridge

**Location:** T816 Jackson Township

**UTM:** Zone 18    N 4597320      E 322200      **Acreage:**

**Owner:** Lycoming County

$$(63.5' + 20') \times (14.43 + 10') = 83.5' \times 24.43 \\ = 2039.9 \div 43,560 = .04$$

**Stream:** Block House Creek

**Truss Type:** Burr

**Builder:**

**Year:** 1898

**End Post to**

**End Post Length:** 63 ft 6 in

**Clearance:** 10 ft 8 in

**Road Surface**

**Width:** 14 ft 5 in

**Load:** 3 tons

**Distinguishing Features:** Located just north of the community of Buttonwood in the broad valley, the Buttonwood Bridge serves several small farms. This Burr arch bridge is in very good condition. Its high Burr arch reaches to the eaves and can be viewed because its vertical plank siding only covers three-fourths of the sidewalls.

**Condition:**

Good

# 38-41-02

Name: Cogan House Covered Bridge

Location: T784 Cogan House Township

UTM: Zone 18 N 4585080 E 316000 Acreage:

Owner: Lycoming County  $(93' + 20') \times (19.58' + 10') = 113' \times 29.58' = 3342.54$

$$\div 43,560 = .07$$

Stream: Larry's Creek

Truss Type: Burr

Builder:

Year: 1877

End Post to

End Post Length: 93ft

Clearance: 10 ft 6 in

Road Surface

Width: 19 ft 7 in

Load: 4 tons

**Distinguishing Features:** Located in a remote valley, the Cogan House bridge services township route 816, a dirt road serving private land and state game land. Its rough horizontal siding and wooden shingles help this small bridge blend into the surrounding forest.

**Condition:** Good

# 38-41-03

Name: Lairdsville, Frazier Covered Bridge

Location: T664 Moreland Township

UTM: Zone 18 N4562840 E 362830 Acreage:

Owner:

Lycoming County

$$(77.83' + 20') \times (15.08' + 10') = 97.83' \times 25.08' =$$

$$2453.57 \div 43,560 = .05$$

Stream: Little Muncy Creek

Truss Type: Burr

Builder:

Year: 1888

End Post to

End Post Length: 77 ft 10 in

Clearance: 10ft 6 in

Road Surface

Width: 15 ft 1 in

Load: 3 tons

**Distinguishing Features:** Located in a broad valley the Lairdsville serves several farms on township route 664, a dirt road. Stone abutments support this Burr arch structure. Its gable roof is tin covered and horizontal siding covers three-fourths of its sides leaving a open panel under the eaves for light.

**Condition:**

Fair