

JACKSON'S MILL COVERED BRIDGE  
Spanning Brush Creek on TR 412  
Breezewood vicinity  
Bedford County  
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-352

HAER  
PA  
5-BREZW.V,  
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HAER  
PA  
5-BREZW  
4-

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

JACKSON'S MILL COVERED BRIDGE  
HAER No. PA-352

Location: Spanning Brush Creek on TR 412  
Breezewood (vic.)  
Bedford County  
Pennsylvania

Date of Construction: 1889

Present Owner: Bedford County

Present Use: Vehicular Bridge

Significance: Jackson's Mill Covered Bridge employs typical Burr truss arch construction, a wood roof, and wood siding. It was substantially rebuilt in 1992.

Historian: Elaine J. Will, 1991; Kim E. Wallace, 1994

Project Information: The results of the study of Bedford County were published in 1994: Kim E. Wallace (ed), Bedford County and Fulton County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service). The contents of the publication were transmitted to the Library of Congress as individual reports. Research notes, field photos and copies of historic photos collected during the project were transmitted to the AIHP Collection, Special Collections, Stapleton Library, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA 15705.

This covered bridge contains a Burr arch truss and measures 91' x 15'. The wood siding extends up about 3' below the roof line, exposing the upper one-fifth of the arch truss. The bridge also contains a king post approach span on the north end of the bridge. Originally the bridge rested on stone piers and abutments; however, it was recently substantially reconstructed (see below) and concrete piers with stone facing were added.

Builders of covered bridges are usually unrecorded, but Jackson's Mill bridge is known to have been built by Karns and Rohm in 1886, reportedly for \$675. During the May 1889 flood it was dislodged and washed about 300 yards downstream towards M. J. Jackson's grist and saw mill. The bridge was repaired and set in place at its present site adjacent to Jackson's Mill. A short kingpost truss "grasshopper" or approach span was added at the new site to reach the north end of the bridge. In August 1991 the bridge was leaning severely and the grasshopper span was also in need of repair. It was closed to traffic about 1986.

In 1991 plans were developed for a pilot project to restore the bridge using funds allocated from the state's liquid fuel tax. The bridge was rehabilitated in the spring of 1992 with new steel girders supporting the superstructure new wood members installed in place of deteriorated ones. New concrete piers were faced with stone from the original piers. A steel arch encased in wood was placed at each approach to prevent oversized vehicles from damaging the bridge. It was reopened to traffic November 17, 1992. The Jackson's Mill bridge was the first of Bedford County's fourteen covered bridges--all on the National Register--to be reconstructed. Others were scheduled for similar state-funded projects.

Sources:

- Bedford County Office of Economic Development. Map-Guide: Covered Bridges in Bedford County. Bedford, Pa.: n.d.
- "Bedford County Guide To Covered Bridges." Supplement to the Bedford County Shoppers Guide. September 10, 1989.
- Bedford County Travel Promotion Agency. "Covered Bridges of Bedford County." Bedford, Pa.: n.d.
- Cholodofsky, Rich. "County Adds Funds to Covered Bridge." Bedford Gazette. July 26, 1991.
- "Restored Jackson's Mill Covered Bridge formally re-opens Tuesday." The Shoppers Guide. [Bedford County] November 15, 1992, A3.
- Skillington, Lyn. "Historic Brush Creek property is a remnant of a long-lost era." Bedford Gazette. Sunday, July 21, 1991. Special section, 1.

JACKSON'S MILL COVERED BRIDGE

HAER No. PA-352

(Page 3)

Storey, Brad. "Covered bridge costs, construction woes a-  
building." Bedford County Shoppers Guide. May 10, 1992, C3.  
Zacher, Susan M. The Covered Bridges of Pennsylvania: A Guide.  
Harrisburg, Pa.: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum  
Commission, 1989.

ADDENDUM TO:  
JACKSON'S MILL COVERED BRIDGE  
Spanning Brush Creek on Township Route 412  
Breezewood vicinity  
Bedford County  
Pennsylvania

HAER PA-352  
*HAER PA,5-BREZW.V,4-*

COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001