

Ralph Stover State Park - Boxed Pony Bridge

(GPS N40° 26.07" W75° 05.58")
(#PA-09-P1)

Located on Stover Park Road, in Ralph Stover State Park, Plumstead Township.

This novel and unique bridge is the only one of its kind in Pennsylvania. Used for foot traffic only, it has no roof. The entire truss structure is closed with vertical boards and battens. The truss is less than full height. The deck has open crosswise planking, and the entire structure rests on high stone and mortar abutments and has a center pier. It is 179 ft 9 in long and 14 ft and 6 in wide. The bridge crosses Tohickon Creek.

Directions: From Stump Rd turn right at State Park Rd. Take the 1st left onto Stover Park Rd and the destination will be on right.



South Perkasie Covered Bridge

(GPS N40° 22.08" W75° 17.72")
(#PA-09-05)

Located on Walnut Street in Lenape Park, Perkasie PA. Built in 1832 of pine and oak the bridge at one time crossed the Pleasant Spring Creek. The heavily used bridge was condemned to traffic. Perkasie Historical Society saved the bridge from demolition. In August of 1959, the bridge was moved to Lenape Park, 0.8 mile away and placed on dry land. The relocation received national media coverage. The bridge is 93 ft long and 15 ft wide with a Town Truss and has one span. The entire bridge is painted red and over the portal is the famous sign – “\$5 Fine for Any Person Riding or Driving Over This Bridge Faster Than a Walk or Smoking Segars On.” [sic]

Directions: From Rt 313 (Swamp Rd) and 5th St, go west on 5th St 3.2 mi. Turn onto Walnut St and go 0.3 mi. Turn right into Lenape Park, the bridge is on the left.



Uhlerstown Covered Bridge

(GPS N40° 31.52" W75° 04.39")
(# PA-09-08)

Located on Uhlerstown Road, in Tincum Township. Painted red, with white entry portal and window on both sides, this oak bridge is the only one that crosses the Delaware Canal (lock 8). The bridge was erected in 1832, constructed with the Town Truss and has one span. Uhlerstown was once named “Mexico” but was renamed for Michael Uhler, the first postmaster. He owned a line of canal boats, limekilns, coal yards and a country store at this location.

Be careful driving thru this bridge, the road makes a sharp curve on the other side.
Directions: From River Road (Rt. 32) go west 0.3 mi. on Uhlerstown Road.



Van Sant Covered Bridge

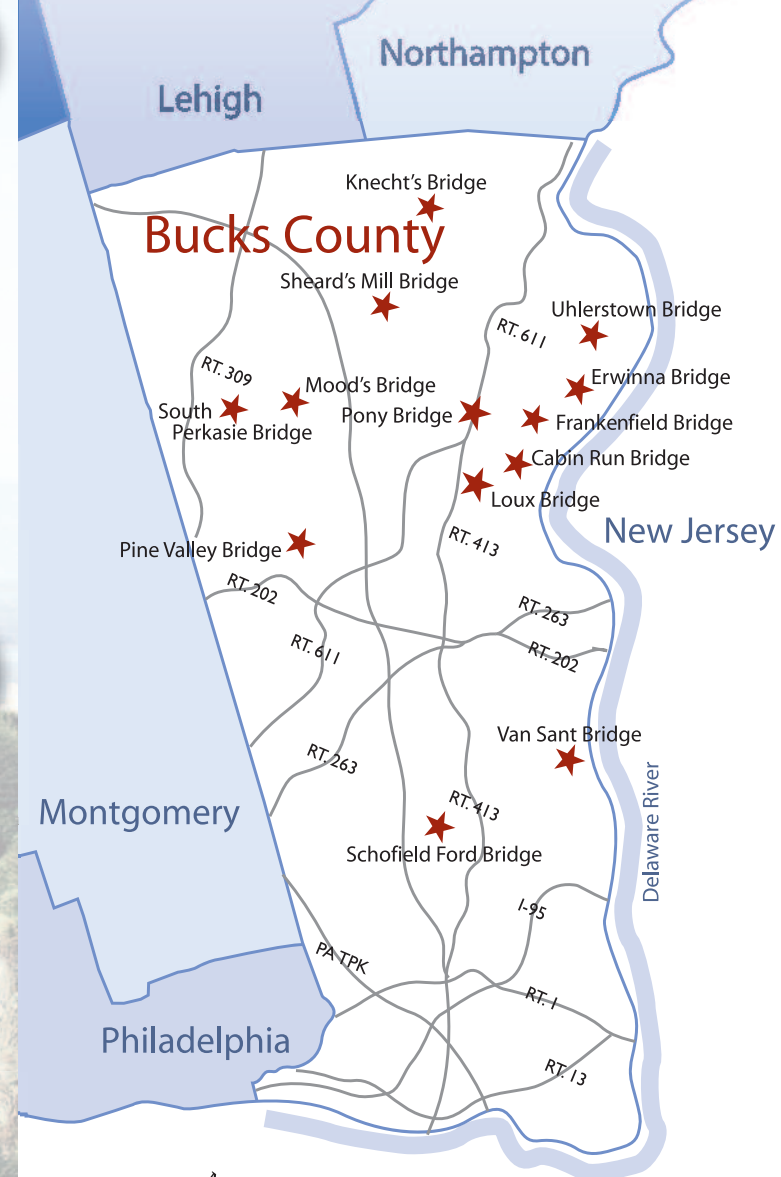
(GPS N40° 19.59" W74° 57.46")
(#PA-09-03)

Located in a very rural setting, on Covered Bridge Road, crossing the Pidcock Creek, in Solebury Township. This bridge is south of New Hope near Washington’s Crossing Historical Park. It was built in 1875 by G. Arndt and P. S. Naylor. They used the Town Truss construction. The bridge is 86 ft long and 15 ft wide and has one span. A hallmark of Bucks County bridges, it is red with white entry portals.

Directions: From Rt.32 (River Rd) (just north of the Thomas Neeley House) go west onto Aquetong Rd 0.4 mi. Turn left onto Covered Bridge Rd go 1.0 mi to bridge. Note: Covered Bridge Rd becomes Van Sant Rd on the other side of the bridge.

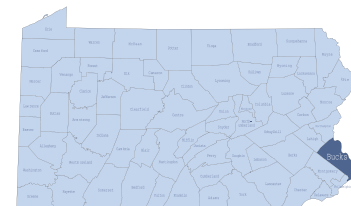


Covered Bridges of Bucks County, Pennsylvania



Not to scale

★ Name of Bridge



VISIT THE HISTORIC
COVERED

Bridges

of Bucks County, Pennsylvania

It is important to be aware that many of the covered bridges and roads can not accommodate the height and weight of full-size motor coaches. Please respect the surrounding private property adjacent to the bridges.

For those with limited time, directions are provided for each bridge. A guide to tour all of the county’s bridges is on a separate card.

For additional information:

Pennsylvania’s Covered Bridges: A Complete Guide
By Benjamin D. Evans and June R. Evans

Bucks County Covered Bridges -
Bucks County Covered Bridge Society -
www.buckscountycbs.org

PA Covered Bridges Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society -
www.tbcbpspa.com

For additional places to see and things to do, visit the Bucks County Conference and Visitors Bureau Website.

You can also download bridge tour maps to your GPS from – www.visitbuckscounty.com

Photos by Ben and June Evans and Doris Taylor

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Pictured here: Knecht’s Bridge

Covered bridges found their way into Europe, during the Middle Ages, from travelers who had seen highly ornate, covered structures in the far East. Some of these structures from the 1400's can still be found in Europe.

The first covered bridge in the United States appeared around 1805. This bridge, was called the Permanent Bridge; located on Market Street, it crossed the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. Timothy Palmer, a bridge builder from New England, was hired to erect the lengthy structure. Judge Richard Peters, chairman of the bridge committee insisted that it be covered to protect the two essential features: **trusses**, which support the entire structure and the **deck or floor** that carries the live load. His insistence paid off, because covering the bridge extended its life. Unfortunately, the bridge was destroyed by fire in 1875.

There have been at least twenty different truss systems used by covered bridge builders across the United States. The one truss system that was used in twelve of the remaining Bucks County Bridges was common in the northeastern states. The **Town's Lattice Truss** was created and patented by an American architect, **Ithiel Town** from New England. An exception is the unusual Boxed Pony Truss Bridge, in Ralph Stover State Park, it was built using the **Howe Truss design**.

At one time, over fifty of these covered bridges stood in Bucks County, many of them spanning the Delaware River crossing into New Jersey. Bucks County can boast thirteen of these lovely, authentic, historic spans still in existence today. Ten of the covered bridges still carry vehicles.

Just the sight of a covered bridge brings to mind thoughts of old charm and romance. Sometimes referred to as "kissing bridges" because kisses were stolen while people went through them. In Bucks County, one can still find the tell-tale remains of these romances in the shape of a carved heart on the heavy bridge timbers, with an inscription, "Johnny loves Mary." There are remnants of old advertisements from local merchants, who used the inside of the bridge as a billboard. Look on the portal for one of the vernacular sayings, like "\$5 Fine for Any Person Riding or Driving Over This Bridge Faster Than a Walk or Smoking Segars On". [sic]

Covered Bridges hold a special appeal for artists, poets, authors, engineers, and craftsmen. Many tourists have been fascinated by their very existence. Since the mid 1950s, organizations have sprung up on the local, county, state, and even the national level concerned about covered bridge maintenance, preservation, and rehabilitation. The Bucks County Covered Bridge Society is doing everything possible to protect, preserve, and promote these historic structures.

Thousands of travelers across North America have become part of the committed and often passionate group of covered bridge enthusiasts that have been nicknamed, "**Bridgers**". You're invited to take a day, or even more, to use this brochure to become a **Bridger** and locate all of the cherished thirteen spans.

A bridge number is assigned to each bridge and recorded in the World Guide to Covered Bridges. The numbers listed on this brochure have been modified by the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Enjoy Bucks County and its historic, bucolic, county roads and scenery on your visit to the treasured Covered Bridges of Bucks County.

Cabin Run Covered Bridge

(GPS N40° 25.91" W75° 06.79")
(#PA-09-10)

Located on Covered Bridge Road between Stump Road and Dark Hollow Road, near Ralph Stover State Park in Plumstead Twp. It crosses Cabin Creek, downstream from the Loux Covered Bridge. Built by David Sutton in 1871, the bridge has a length of 82 ft and is 15 ft wide. It has vertical board siding on the sides, portals and interior walls. The decking is on a diagonal. The sides having no widows, makes it quite dark inside.

The creek's name was derived from the log cabins and small stone houses that were built along the creek. During the Revolutionary War, this area was frequented by the Doane Boys notorious Tory outlaws, who lived nearby.

Directions: From Stump Rd and Wismer Rd, go east onto Stump Rd 0.4 mi. Turn left onto Schletz Hill Rd: 0.7 mi to bridge. Continue onto Covered Bridge Rd 0.2 mi. Note: Stover-Myers Mill County Park and parking are within 0.6 mi on Covered Bridge Road on the other side of the bridge.



Knecht's Covered Bridge

(GPS N40° 32.29" W75° 16.67")
(#PA-09-02)

Knecht's bridge (also known as Slifer's Bridge) is located just off Slifer Valley Rd on Knecht's Rd in Springfield Township, south of Springtown. Crossing Cooks (Durham) Creek. It was built of hemlock in 1873 and uses the Town Truss with one span. The 110 - ft by 15 - ft bridge is painted the traditional red with white entry portals.

Slifer Valley was named for the early German settlers who resided here prior to 1750. Their descendants is still farmed the area. Be sure to look for the Slifer log cabin, sitting just off Slifer Valley Road near the bridge. This bucolic area is dotted with stone Bucks County farm houses.

Nearby is the route of history's "Walking Purchase" of 1737.

Directions: From Rt. 412 and Slifer Valley Rd, go west on Slifer Valley Rd 1.8 mi, and the bridge is on the left.



Pine Valley Covered Bridge

(GPS N40° 18.33" W75° 11.25")
(#PA-09-12)

Located on Old Iron Hill Road in New Britain. Built with native hemlock and pine, the bridge crosses Pine Run Creek, which was named for a stand of nearby pine trees. Built in 1842 by David Sutton, it utilizes the Town Truss design and has one span. The length of the bridge is 81 ft and the width is 15 ft. It is painted the traditional red with white entry portals. A very heavily used bridge, so one should take caution if venturing across it on foot or taking photos.

Directions: From Rt 313 (Swamp Rd) and Ferry Road, go west onto Ferry Rd 3.2 mi. Turn left on to Old Iron Hill Rd and go 0.5 mi to the bridge. You can park in the small park on the other side of the bridge.



Erwinna Covered Bridge

(GPS N40° 30.15" W75° 04.48")
(#PA-09-04)

Located on Geigel Hill Road, NW of Erwinna in Tinticum Twp. The National Register lists the construction date as 1871, the county records suggest it was actually built in 1832. Utilizing the Town Truss it crosses the Lodi (Swamp Creek). Only 56 ft long and 15 ft wide, Erwinna is the shortest bridge in the county. It is painted the traditional red with a white entry portals.

Directions: From River Rd, Rt 32 and Headquarters Rd go west onto Headquarters Rd (Headquarters Rd becomes Geigel Hill Rd) 0.5 mi to the bridge.



Loux Covered Bridge

(GPS N40° 25.36" W75° 07.67")
(#PA-09-11)

Located on Wismer Rd between Stump Rd and Dark Hollow Rd near Hinkletown in Plumstead Twp. This is one of two covered bridges crossing Cabin Run Creek. Because Cabin Run Creek was so dangerous to cross, the local residents petitioned for a bridge in 1872. Constructed in 1874 by David Sutton using the Town Truss design, it has one span and is built of hemlock. The 60 ft long and 15 ft wide, Loux Covered Bridge is the second shortest bridge in the county and the only bridge painted white. A stone marker on the bridge that identifies it as "Cabin Run Bridge", is quite curious since there is another bridge known as Cabin Run that was built in 1871.

Directions: From Rt. 413 (Durham Rd) and Stump Rd, go east onto Stump Road (follow signs for Ralph Stover State Park) for 0.9 mi. Turn left onto Wismer Rd for 1.0 mi to bridge. Note: Carversville Rd becomes Wismer Rd in this area.



Frankenfield Covered Bridge

(GPS N40° 28.53" W75° 05.96")
(#PA-09-09)

Located at Hollow Horn and Cafferty Rd in Tinticum Twp. The two span structure was built in 1872 by David Sutton utilizing the Town Truss and is painted red. It is 130 ft long and 12 ft wide, making it the longest of the used bridges, in the county. There is a small nameplate on the bridge listing its date of construction, length and height. The bridge crosses the Tinticum Creek only two miles upstream from where the creek flows into the Delaware River. This area had been known for its abundance of turtles. Stories are told that leeches were collected here in Colonial times and sold to Philadelphia doctors for blood-letting.

Directions: From River Rd (Rt. 32) and Dark Hollow Rd (Dark Hollow Rd is 0.6 mi north of Smithtown Rd) go west on Dark Hollow Rd 1.6 mi. Turn right on Cafferty Rd (just pass the school) go 0.6 mi to the bridge.



Mood's Covered Bridge

(GPS N40° 22.88" W75° 16.300")
(#PA-09-07 #2)

Located on Blooming Glen Road, East Rockhill Township. Built in 1874, it, utilizes the Town Truss design and has 120 foot span. It crosses the Perkiomen Creek, one of the major watersheds in the northeast portion of Bucks County. As a heavily used bridge, Mood's had sustained much damage and repairs over the years. The biggest blow came in 2004 when it was totally destroyed by arson. Through the efforts of the local community, the bridge was reconstructed by Penn DOT and rededicated in 2008. The traffic pattern has been changed and it is now only one way, from Branch Road to 5th St.

Directions: From 313 (Swamp Rd) turn onto Branch Rd. After 1.9 mi, turn left onto Blooming Glen Rd to Covered Bridge. There is parking on the other side of the bridge.



Sheard's Mill Covered Bridge

(GPS N40° 27.30" W75° 16.71")
(#PA-09-06)

Located on Covered Bridge Rd, between Haycock and East Rockhill Townships. Constructed in 1873, by unknown builders. Sheard's Mill Bridge spans Tohickon Creek. One of Bucks County longer bridges, it is 130 ft long and 15 ft wide. The one span bridge uses the Town Truss and is painted the traditional red with a white entry, or portal.

Many covered bridges were built near mills for the convenience of farmers. In this situation, the mill was built by David Sheard in 1835 and is still standing. During the 20th century, John Clymer owned the mill and continued to grind grain for feed and apples for cider until 1965. The mill, is on the National Register and currently part of the Tohickon Valley Campgrounds.

Directions: From Rt 313 and Rt 563 (Mountain View Dr, which runs on the north side of Lake Nockamixon), go east for 0.9 mi. Turn left onto Sterner Rd. Go 325 ft and take the first right onto Richlandown Rd and go 1.2 mi. Take the first right onto Covered Bridge Rd 0.5 mi.

