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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Covered Bridge Historic District

other names/site number Opdycke/Sergeant Mill

2. Location

street & number Route 604; Upper Creek, Lower Creek, Pine Hill Rds. N/A not for publication

city or town Delaware Township vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Hunterdon code 019 zip code 08557

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 1/15/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
3/5/99

Covered Bridge HD
Name of Property

Hunterdon, NJ
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7	7	buildings
3		sites
2	1	structures
		objects
12	8	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single family
Transportation/road related
Education/school
Agricultural/storage
Industry/manufacturing facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single family
Transportation/road related
Agricultural/storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Georgian
Other: I-house

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls stone
weatherboard
roof synthetic
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Continuation Sheet****Covered Bridge Historic District
Hunterdon County, NJ**Section number 7 Page 1

The Covered Bridge Historic District is located in the Piedmont physiographic province of northern New Jersey in southwestern Hunterdon County on Wickecheoke Creek several miles upstream from its confluence with the Delaware River where the creek and its small tributary Cold Run cut through the uplands at the southern edge of the Hunterdon Plateau. The district comprises a mill hamlet/farmstead clustered around the landmark covered bridge carrying County Route 604 over Wickecheoke Creek and the intersection of three township roads running along the creek, bridge and water power sites certainly in use by the time of the Revolutionary War, and probably as early as the 1750s. The district is heavily wooded along the two streams with open farmland occupying much of the upland in its southeastern quarter. The surrounding landscape presents a similar mix of wooded and open land with scattered farmsteads and modern single family dwellings.

The Covered Bridge district contains five dwellings with outbuildings, three bridges, a large barn complex, and two mill sites. An inventory of the all the district's resources forms part of this section, and individual resources have been categorized as "contributing" or "non-contributing" to the district's historical significance. The contributing resources include three 18th-century houses (site #s 4, 5, and 7), two 19th-century bridges (site #s 2 and 6), one 19th-century school house which has been converted into a dwelling (site #11), one 19th-century barn site (site #9), two 18/19th-century mill sites (site #s1 and 8), and several 19th-century outbuilding. Non-contributing resources are limited to a bridge (site #3), a house (site #10), a barn (site #9), and several outbuildings, all dating to the 20th century. One resource, the covered bridge (site #2), is individually listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.

The district's historic buildings are stone or frame, gable-roofed, vernacular structures of moderate size, that date to the 18th or first three quarters of the 19th century and exhibit simple detailing typical of that era. Most have been enlarged or refurbished over the years. Modern improvements, while resulting in the loss or obscuring of early fabric and detailing in some cases, have been neither numerous nor disfiguring enough to mar the historic architectural character of the district. The buildings, with the notable exception of one ruinous small barn (site #4), are generally in good condition and well maintained. District buildings have a scattered distribution and, for the most part, are situated on large lots, but have the fairly short setbacks from the road. A

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picket fence delineates the doorvard of one house (site #7).

The district's architecture is representative of the region's vernacular construction practices and building types during the 18th and early 19th-century period. The three historic houses (site #s 4, 5, and 7) and "Sergeant's" or School District #95 schoolhouse (site #11) are of traditional course rubble stone construction utilizing argillite, the fine-grain sedimentary rock known locally as "blue jingler," and either pointed or stuccoed. The masonry of Opdycke-Sergeant House (site #7, photo #s 8 - 10) exhibits attempted refinements distinguishing it from that of other district buildings: the ashlar patterning of roughly squared blocks laid in fairly regular courses on the front wall (in contrast to the coursed rubble stonework of the other elevations), the water table at the first story level, and the flat lintels of rough-cut, splayed stones spanning the first-story windows and entries. Of particular note is the date stone set over the front entry bearing the clumsily carved inscription "M/I O 1754" for the initials of John and Margaret Opdycke and construction date of the house. The Opdycke-Sergeant House and the Opdycke-Sergeant Miller's House (site #5, photo #5) are also good examples of the traditional house-type known as the "I-type," a 2-story, gable-roofed dwelling with single-pile-plan and gable-end chimneys, popular throughout the Delaware Valley in the 18th and 19th centuries. The original portions of both houses are two-room-plan versions of the type, and both evidence the lateral expansion through extension of the original unit which is characteristic of the region's early domestic architecture. While the facade of the miller's house has a two-over-three bay fenestration more reflective of folk practices, the symmetrical 3-bay facade of the Opdycke-Sergeant House reveals the influence of the Georgian style, as do the classically derived moldings of dwelling's large box cornice and architrave window trim. The district's other historic dwelling, the Sergeant-Reading Tenant House (site #4, photo #2), is representative of the traditional 1 and 1/2-story house types popular at an early date, and features an irregular fenestration and a gable-end lean-to. The exterior of district buildings exhibits little in the way of decorative embellishment, except for the Georgian-derived detailing of the Opdycke-Sergeant House and the modest Colonial Revival style trim added to the others in this century (site #s 4, 5, and 11).

The School District #95 schoolhouse is the district's one institutional resource (site #11, photo #15). Built in 1830 and enlarged in 1874, the stone, 1-story, gable-roofed building, is

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representative of the modest school houses erected to serve the rural region throughout the 19th century.

Outbuildings are found at several district sites. They include three modest frame 19th-century structures: a small, partially collapsed English barn (site #4, photo # 2), a 2-story, wagon shed/barn with stone ground story (site #5, photo #6), and a 1 and 1/2-story wagon house with gable-end entries (site #7, photo #11). The site of the 19th-century barns appurtenant to the Oydycke-Sergeant House is occupied by a complex of 20th-century farm buildings (site #9, photo #s 12 and 14) whose principal element is the frame barn erected in 1929 shortly after its predecessor was destroyed by fire, possibly incorporating portions of the foundations of the earlier barn. While the construction date of the replacement barn falls outside of the district's period of significance, its form and detailing reflect that of barns erected some years earlier. The adjoining double crib/wagon shed, which apparently dates to around the same time, even more clearly mimics a distinctive 19th-century outbuilding type.

The district also contains two transportation-related resources, the New Jersey and National Register-listed covered bridge, popularly known as Green Sergeant's bridge after the proprietor of the community at the time of its construction in 1872, and the 1849 stone arched bridge carrying Pine Hill Road over Cold Run. The only surviving example of its type in the state, the covered bridge (site #2, photo #s 1 and 4) is a heavy timber, modified Warren truss with a gable roof and board-and-batten siding. It was disassembled and rebuilt in 1961 on steel girders, at which time its stone abutments, which may have survived from the earlier bridge on the site, were rebuilt and reinforced with concrete and steel rods. A new steel and concrete span with stone parapets (site #3) was erected beside the old bridge for west bound traffic. A good example of the region's traditional stone bridge construction, Cold Run bridge (site #6, photo #7) is a single-arch span of coursed rubble stone construction whose barrel vault has arch rings at both ends outlined with cut-stone voussoirs. Its most distinctive features are the shallow, square-cornered insets in the masonry framing the arch rings and articulating their spandrels. A plaque set into the outside upstream parapet is inscribed with the date 1849 and the name of "mason, P. Dyke," presumably chief builder, as well as the initials of five other individuals who probably participated in its construction.

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The sites of grist and saw mills constitute the district's industrial resources. The site of the 18th/19th-century Opdycke-Sergeant grist mill (site #8), located on Cold Run just upstream from Pine Hill Road, encompasses the level site of the mill (no above-grade foundation remains are evident of the building which was demolished in the 1930s) and portions of its hydrosystem including remnants of the tail race and the mill pond dam. The Sergeant saw mill site (site #1) is located on the east bank of Wickecheoke Creek downstream from the covered bridge and evidently dates to the early/mid 19th century. A large, low rectangular mound of stones located in the narrow strip of land between the creek and Lower Creek Road appears to be foundation remnants of the mill.

An inventory of all structures and sites within the district has been prepared as part of this description. Each principal structure and site is identified by a number which locates it on the accompanying district map. All entries have been categorized as "contributing" or "non-contributing" to the significance of the district. All outbuildings, other than small modern shed, are identified as contributing or non-contributing with the designations (C) and (NC) and are included in the resource counts.

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Covered Bridge District Inventory

- 1 Sergeant Saw Mill Site. A large, low rectangular mound of stones located in the narrow strip of land between the road and the creek constitutes the foundation remnants of the saw mill operated by the Sergeant family during the middle decades of the 19th century which may have been established much earlier. No trace of its hydrosystem is evident.

Style: none

Date: early/mid 19th century. Depicted on the 1860 map, the saw mill presumably was extant by 1838, since the road return of that year for the survey of Lower Creek Road begins at the "butments of the bridge over the creek near Green Sergeants Mills at a stake between the race and the creek" (Hunterdon County Road File 20-4-5). A raceway at that location would not have been necessary for mill operations at the grist mill site upstream (site # 8) but could have served as the saw mill head race.

Contributing B31/L1

- 2 Hunterdon County Bridge # D-304A, Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge, (listed on the NJ and National Registers in 1974). Wooden truss bridge constructed of heavy timber trusses (modified Warren truss), refurbished and reset in 1961 on steel brackets which project from the steel girders supporting the trusses and the wooden road deck beams and planking, with board and batten siding and a gable roof clad with wooden shingles. The stone abutments were rebuilt and reinforced with concrete and steel rods in 1961.

Style: none

Date: erected 1872, on earlier, possibly 18th-century stone abutments; disassembled and rebuilt in 1961. According to the 1974 NR nomination, Charles Ogden Holcombe of Lambertville designed the bridge and served as the chief carpenter; he was assisted by Peter Sibley and masons Ely and Charles Everitt. By the late 18th century

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there was a wooden bridge supported by stone abutments and piers on the site which was extensively repaired in 1787 and 1797 (Hunterdon County Freeholder Minutes, Vol. I, pp. 131-33, 243, and 246-47).

Description: In addition to the trusses, 90% of the roof rafters, 60% of the siding, and some deck planking of the old bridge are said to have been incorporated into the rebuilt span; the louvered side windows were introduced in 1961 (Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge, NR nomination, 1974). Wrought iron tension eye bars and hanging rods noted in the 1937 HABS survey evidently were removed in the 1961 work (HABS-NJ-442, data sheets, page 1).

Contributing

- 3 Hunterdon County Bridge # D-304B. Single-span, concrete-deck bridge with steel girders, stone-faced parapet walls, and stone-faced concrete abutments. Midway on the downstream parapet is set a bronze dedication plaque inscribed with the 1961 construction date and the names of the local officials involved in the project.

Style: none

Date: 1961

Non-Contributing

- 4 Sergeant/Reading Tenant House. Stuccoed-stone, 1 and 1/2-story, gable-roofed, 3-bay, probably single-pile-plan dwelling with a west-gable-end interior chimney (stuccoed stack) and shed-roofed appendage and a modern, exterior, east-gable-end stone chimney; a long, low, stuccoed-stone hyphen at the east end of the rear elevation connects to a slightly higher and wider frame addition with a shed appendage.

Style: Colonial Revival embellishment

Date: 18th or early 19th century; remodeled mid 20th. In his 1833 will Charles Sergeant' devised this property, "the lot whereon Joseph Slack now lives," to his daughter Elizabeth Reading, during her widowhood, and thereafter to

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her son Charles (Hunterdon County Wills, book 6, page 43).

Description: Early exterior features include boxed overhanging eaves, shed rear dormer, multi-pane sash windows with batten shutters, a west end-bay front entry with Colonial Revival surround and door. The frame rear appendage with clapboard siding and stone foundation probably is of 19th-century provenance. The fenestration of the front elevation may have been reworked, as suggested by the different window sizes and unusual end-bay location of the entry relative to the gable-end chimney placement. The oversized window of the off-center front middle bay possibly replaces the original entry, and the present entry concurrently may have been inserted in the west end-bay window. If such is the case, the house would have had an off-center front entry and flanking windows, a fenestration more typical of the region's early architecture.

Outbuildings: (1) small, frame, gable-roofed 1-story shed (c. 1998, or earlier and rebuilt) on block piers and with unpainted clapboard siding; (2) across the road on block 31/lot 1 is the collapsing, roofless frame of a 2-bay, English barn (early/mid 19th) which retains vertical siding on its front. The frame incorporates mostly hewn timber, and strap hinge pintles survive from the removed doors on the west bay wagon entry which has been obscured by a modern shed appendage (C).

Contributing B19/L1 and B31/L1

5

Opdycke/Sergeant Miller's House. Partially stuccoed, coursed rubble, 2-story, gable-roofed, single-pile-plan dwelling, built in two parts, consisting of a 2-over-3-bay, two-room-plan original block with interior west-gable-end chimney (brick stack) and a 2-bay, east extension with interior east-gable-end chimney (brick stack).

Style: Colonial Revival embellishment

Date: 18th or early 19th century. While the original portion of the miller's house might be as early as 1740, the undocumented construction date given by the HABS surveyor in 1937 (NJ-455, data sheets 1 and 2) on the ques-

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tionable assumption that the simple house must be earlier than the more elaborate 1754 Opdyke house (site #8), a later construction date is just as possible on the basis of its construction and detailing.

Description: The exterior features wood shingle roof, simple box cornices, flush raking eaves, 6/6 sash windows with plain trim on the original portion and architrave trim on the extension, timber lintels above the first-story windows, paneled shutters with S-shaped shutter dogs on the front windows (mid 20th), and two recessed front entries with simple trim, board-lined reveals and batten and panel doors, either reworked earlier doors or replacements.

Outbuildings: Across the road on block 18/lot 16 is (1) is a small, 2-bay barn/wagon house (19th century, re-modeled mid 20th) of frame construction above the stone ground story and featuring a wagon entry with batten doors, board-and-batten siding, and paneled shutters on the two upper story windows (obviously a 20th-century embellishment); the L-shaped stone wall extending from the west end probably survives from an early appendage (C).

Contributing B34/L22 & B18/L16

6

Hunterdon County Bridge # D-329. Single-arch, stone bridge of coursed rubble stone construction whose barrel vault features arch rings of cut-stone voussoirs at both ends. Shallow, square-cornered insets in the masonry frame the arch rings and articulate their spandrels. The parapet walls, capped with irregularly shaped flat stones, appear to have been repaired, and the road bed has been raised making them seem low.

Style: none

Date: 1849; a plaque set in the outside upstream parapet is inscribed with the date 1849 and the name of "mason, P. Dyke," presumably its chief builder, as well as presumably the initials of five other individuals, "J. S. + W. S., W. E., N. M. + C. M." who probably participated in its construction. While Pine Hill Road was surveyed in 1849

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(Hunterdon County Road File 20-9-5), the Board of Chosen Freeholder Minutes of 1849 and 1850 include no mention of the construction of the bridge.

Contributing

- 7 Opdycke/Sergeant House. Stone, 2-story, gable-roofed, single-pile-plan dwelling, built in two parts, consisting of a 3-bay, two-room-plan original block with interior gable-end chimneys (brick stacks) and a 2-bay, east extension with interior east-gable-end chimney (brick stack).

Style: Georgian influences

Date: 1754; a rectangular stone set over the front door of the original block bears the somewhat crudely carved inscription "M/I O 1754" which has long been interpreted as the initials of John Opdycke and his wife Margaret and commemorating Opdycke's construction of the house (Op Dyke Genealogy, page 262).

Description: In contrast to the coursed rubble stonework of the other elevations, the masonry of the front wall of the original house exhibits an ashlar patterning of roughly squared blocks laid in fairly regular courses. The stonework is also distinguished by a water table at the first story level and flat lintels of cut, splayed stones spanning the first-story windows and entries. Other early features include the large box cornice with robust crown molding and the architrave window trim of the east extension windows. While the east gable cornice returns may be early fabric, the returns and overhanging raking eaves of the west gable are a post-1887 alteration (the photograph of the house in the 1888 Op Dyke Genealogy, page 262a, evidently was taken in the previous year). The 2/2 sash windows also are post-1887 replacements (multi-pane windows can be barely seen in the c. 1887 photograph), as are the frames of the west windows. The central front entry of the original block has an outer surround with a large ovolo molding, board-lined reveals, and a glass-and-panel replacement door. The shed-roofed rear porch with a stone base and square piers is a 20th-century addition.

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Outbuildings: (1) Frame, 1 and 1/2-story, wagon house (mid-19th century) constructed of both hewn and saw-cut timber and with vertical siding, overhanging eaves, and batten sliding doors (C); (2) frame shed or privy. The c. 1887 photograph of the house reveals that there was a long, low, possibly stone shed to the northwest of the house and two small frame sheds at the northwest corner of the wagon house. The small front yard is enclosed along the road edge by a picket fence which extends to the west towards the Pine Hill Road corner. The barn complex associated with the house (site #9) is located on the south side of the road, and a grist mill (site #8) once stood a short distance north of the house; a mill stone lying in the front yard probably is from the mill.

Contributing B21/L7

- 8 Opdycke/Sergeant Grist Mill Site. A level area on the south side of Cold Run about 100 feet east of Pine Hill Road was the mill site. Although no foundation remnants are evident (the site is heavily overgrown with brush), documentary sources indicate that it stood with its gable ends roughly parallel to the creek and that the short row of stones near the northwest corner of the site probably is a remnant of its tail race (Op Dyke Genealogy, c. 1887 photo, page 262a; Hunterdon County Road File 20-9-30, survey map). Remnants of the mill pond dam, including stones and earth berm fragments, are located about 300 feet upstream from Pine Hill Road on block 21/lot 6, where the constriction of the stream valley provided a natural place for its construction, and the 1851 county map indicates that the pond extended upstream as far as what is now Reading Road. Both the 1851 and 1860 maps also depict a building on the north side of the creek, opposite or slightly east of the grist mill site; there are, however, no remains evident.

Style: none

Date: 18th century, possibly c. 1754 and contemporary with the house. One secondary source gives 1745 as its construction date but provides no supporting documentary evidence (J. M. Hoppock, "Sergeant Mansion and Mill,"

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Democratic-Advertiser, December 5, 1901). The earliest known documentary reference to a mill at this location dates to 1773 (Hunterdon County Mortgages, Book 1, page 200). The mill ceased operation between 1901 and 1905 (1901 Hoppock article and J. M. Hoppock, "The Old Sergeant Mill," Democratic-Advertiser, July 20, 1905). The deteriorated structure was demolished in the 1930s, and its foundation stone sold to construct a swimming pool on the nearby Rosemont farm of Paul Whiteman (Marfy Goodspeed, The Miller's House, page 29).

Description: The documentary sources mentioned above provide other information about the appearance of the mill and its hydrosystem. The mill had an embanked stone ground story, totally below grade on the south end, and a frame. 1 and 1/2-story, gable-roofed upper level with roof ridge perpendicular to the stream. The frame portion was entered at grade on the south gable end which had a hoist overhang at the gable peak above the attic loft entry. An overshot wheel was located on the west side (the wheel extant in 1905 is said to have measured 22 feet in diameter, its predecessor measuring 24 feet; Hoppock, 1905). A wooden fume running to the southwest corner of the mill from the bank behind the house carried water to the wheel. Unless, the fume had a right angled bend, which is highly unlikely, its south end must have intersected with a head race running along the bank from the mill pond; no trace of any head race, however, has survived.

Contributing B21/L7

- 9 Sergeant Barn Site/Johnson Barns. Long, frame, 2-story, gable-roofed barn (consisting of at least two laterally joined sections) with a shed extension at the east end of the north side, a smaller shed appendage to its west with a concrete block milk house at its west end, and a concrete silo at the northwest corner.

Style: noneDate: rebuilt in 1929 after fire destroyed its 19th-century predecessor and evidently incorporating part of the earlier barn foundations.

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Description: It has novelty siding, overhanging eaves, gable-end loft doors, and hoist overhang at the west gable peak, multi-pane sash windows, and batten sliding doors.

Outbuildings: (1) Frame double-crib/wagon shed (early 20th) with canted side walls, vertical siding, and batten sliding doors (NC); (2) two frame equipment sheds (mid 20th) (NC); and (3) frame pole barn (c. 1970s) (NC).

Contributing (site) B34/L21
Non-contributing (barn)

- 10 Lawrence Johnson House. Frame, 1 and 1/2-story, gable-roofed, 3-bay dwelling with an exterior, stone, west-gable-end chimney and a 1-bay garage attached to the east end by an enclosed porch..

Style: Colonial Revival influences

Date: 1949 (October, 1998 interview with Lawrence Johnson)

Non-contributing B21/L6

- 11 District School #95, Sergeant's School. Stone, 1-story, gable-roofed, 5-bay former schoolhouse (now converted into a dwelling) built in two sections (a 3-bay unit and 2-bay extension) and with a frame 2-bay west appendage.

Style: Colonial Revival embellishment

Date: 1830, enlarged 1872 (Snell, page 378)

Exterior features include boxed overhanging eaves, 6/6 sash windows with timber lintels and louvered shutters, and a west-inner-bay entry with a transom and simple Colonial Revival surround. The projection of the window lintels suggests that the building was originally stuccoed; the double east-gable-end window appears to be alteration.

Outbuildings: (1) frame, 2-bay garage (mid 20th) (NC).

Contributing B22/L29

Covered Bridge HD
Name of Property

Hunterdon, NJ
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Settlement
- Architecture
- Transportation

Period of Significance

1754-1901

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Covered Bridge HD
Name of Property

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 97 acres

Stockton, NJ Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	118	502720	4477960
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	118	502920	4477620

3	18	502860	4477220
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	18	503440	4477140

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis N. Bertland
organization Dennis Bertland Associates date October, 1998
street & number P.O. Box 11 telephone (908) 689-6356
city or town Port Murray state NJ zip code 07865

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

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The Covered Bridge Historic District possesses significance under Criteria A and C in the areas of settlement pattern, transportation, and architecture. The hamlet, known as Opdycke's and subsequently Sergeant's Mill after its 18th and 19th-century proprietors, exemplifies the smallest of the agglomerate settlements that proliferated throughout the region in the 18th and 19th centuries to serve its dispersed agricultural population but, isolated from the path of 19th-century transportation improvements, never grew beyond their formative stage. The district's architectural significance stems from its modest, early stone dwellings whose construction, form, detailing, and spatial organization are representative of the rural region's domestic architecture in the 18th/early 19th-century era. It possesses significance in the area of transportation because of its landmark 1872 covered bridge, which is individually listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places and the only surviving example of its type in the state, and the 1849 Cold Run bridge, a good example of Hunterdon County's 19th-century stone arch bridges, whose inset arch ring/spandrel walls are a distinctive regional construction feature. In addition, archaeological resources may be present at the district's two mill sites, as well as in the environs of district buildings, which potentially could yield significant information about the small-scaled water-powered industry once characteristic of the region and its 18th and 19th-century material culture.

While a farmstead and probably a grist mill were established at what is now the covered bridge crossing of Wickecheoke Creek by the 1750s, perhaps some years earlier, and a hamlet had coalesced there by the end of the 18th century, the settlement experienced little growth during the 19th century, except for a saw mill and district school, but continued as a stable, limited service community throughout the period. Such mill hamlets, often owned by one individual or family and consisting of little more than the farmstead and mills of the proprietor, as well as a few tenant houses, (and perhaps commercial, institutional, or other industrial components such as a store, school, or artisan shop), constituted a distinctive feature of the region's early settlement pattern. Access was a critical factor influencing the growth of these communities. Sergeant's Mill was over a mile off the main road leading from Flemington, the county seat, to the important Delaware River crossing at Howell's Ferry (present day Stockton) where a toll bridge was erected in 1812-14, and neighborhood enterprises gravitated to a nearby crossroads on that route where the village of Sergeantsville subsequently developed.¹ Both Sergeant's Mill and

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Sergeantsville were bypassed during the 19th-century canal and railroad building booms when business activity in western Hunterdon County was attracted to the Delaware River towns with those transportation connections. Sergeant's grist mill ceased operation in the early 1900s, and except for the loss of its industrial buildings, the Wickecheoke Creek hamlet has changed relatively little since that time.²

Although scattered residential development has occurred throughout the surrounding area in recent decades, the Covered Bridge Historic District has managed to preserve much of its 19th-century character. A majority of the district's buildings date to the 18th and 19th centuries, as do its roads and bridges, and the distinctive historical character of the hamlet results from the survival of these elements in a generally good state of preservation, their scattered spatial organization with buildings typically having a short setback from the road, and the integrity of the landscape setting. Of the district's historic buildings, however, it is the early stone dwellings which establish its architectural significance. In their form, construction, detailing, and siting, they provide a representative illustration of the rural region's early domestic architecture, its roots in traditional building practices, as well as the impact of formal stylistic influences. The Opdycke-Sergeant Miller's House (site #5, photo #5) and the Opdycke-Sergeant House (site #7, photo #s 8 - 10), for example, are good examples of the traditional house-type -ubiquitous in the Delaware Valley- known as the "I-type," as is the Sergeant-Reading Tenant House (site #4, photo #2) of the traditional 1 and 1/2-story house types also popular regionally at an early date. While the informal window and door arrangement on the front of the tenant and miller's houses reflects folk practice, the symmetrical fenestration pattern of the Opdycke-Sergeant House's front elevation reveals the influence of the Georgian style, as does its robustly molded cornice, one of the few decorative details evidenced by these dwellings. Perhaps their most important feature, however, is their pointed and stuccoed, coursed rubble stonework, a notable expression of the region's traditional masonry construction. The stonework of the Opdycke-Sergeant House also is distinguished by attempts at refinement which make it the district's most architecturally ambitious dwelling, including the crude ashlar patterning of the front wall, the flat-arched, splayed stone window and door lintels, and, not least of all, the stone above the front door bearing the clumsily carved inscription "M/I O 1754" which has long been interpreted as the initials of John

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Opdycke and his wife Margaret and commemorating Opdycke's construction of the house.³

Traditional stone construction techniques were also employed for the 1849 Cold Run Bridge (site #6, photo #7), a good example of the stone arch bridges built in Hunterdon County between about 1820 and 1900. According to the recent Hunterdon County stone arch bridge survey these bridges resulted

almost exclusively...from the response of a local agricultural community to the need for better roads for the support of agriculture...[and were] built in a native craft tradition, showing only minor refinements, and untouched by the technological improvements of stone bridge construction of the late 19th century.⁴

The inset arch ring/spandrel walls of the Cold Run Bridge are one such refinement and a feature exhibited by a number of bridges in southern Hunterdon County (but never by the more crudely built spans found mostly in the northern part of the county), as well as some in Bucks County, Pa. This feature is thought to have been a way to make a

visible transition between the arch and associated spandrel wall, and the curved, battered, or flared wing walls, without involving the builder in complicated stone cutting....It is likely that the arch ring and the spandrel wall were constructed first, followed by the construction of the wingwalls and the parapets. In this case, building the wingwalls and parapet on a different plane than the arch ring eases the task of completing the transition.⁵

Although the chain-of-title for the farm and mill property encompassed by the Covered Bridge Historic District can be traced back without break only to the early 1800s when it passed from the Opdyckes to the Sergeant family, something of its 18th-century history can be established from a number of primary and secondary sources. The portion of the district located roughly south of Route 604 formed the northwestern corner of 437-acre tract surveyed in 1712 for Dorothy Medcalf "in right of her daughters," her late husband, Mathew Medcalf of Gloucester County, New Jersey, having by his 1710 will devised to them his right to unappropriated property in western New Jersey which he had acquired through the colony's

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system of proprietary landholding.⁶ The Medcalf tract formed part of the 150,000-acre "Lotting Purchase" acquired for the West Jersey Proprietors from its native American owners in 1702.⁷ While there is no record of the Medcalfs divesting themselves of the property, a 1742 mortgage for an adjoining parcel refers to it as the "land formerly surveyed to Medcalf now Edward Milner," establishing that the latter was its owner by that time.⁸ A resident of Bucks County, Pa., Edward Milner evidently had moved to "Amwell, New Jersey" (the large Hunterdon County township which then include the district site) by 1738 and may have acquired title to the Medcalf tract around that time.⁹ In 1743 Milner mortgaged the property (less 111 acres at its southwest corner sold by him to John Quick) to the Hunterdon County Loan Office, which obligation he discharged between 1744 and 1750.¹⁰ Little is known about the early history of the portion of the district to the north of Milner tract, other than that it formed the southwest corner of a 2,700-acre property belonging to Nathan Allen.¹¹

Although it can not be documented by any recorded instrument, John Opdycke evidently acquired title to the land straddling the boundary between the Milner and Allen tracts later owned by his descendants sometime before 1754, the date accompanying his initials and those of his wife on the stone set in the front wall of the main house there. Of Dutch descent, he was born in 1710 in Maidenhead (Lawrenceville), New Jersey, and married Margaret Green, daughter of Samuel Green, about 1737, by which time he was the owner of a 450-acre, Amwell Township tract located a few miles east of Wickecheoke Creek in the vicinity of where the mill hamlet of Headquarters subsequently developed, and adjoining lands belonging to his father-in-law and brother-in-law. Opdycke may have received the property from Samuel Green, a prominent land surveyor and Hunterdon County official, who had extensive landholdings in northwestern New Jersey including considerable property in the Headquarters neighborhood.¹² Opdycke presumably was an Amwell Township resident by 1738, in which year he was registered as a voter there.¹³ Family traditions recorded in the late 19th century maintain that John Opdycke "first built and lived in the stone house on his farm...near Headquarters" and subsequently built and occupied "Headquarters House," a large stone center-hall dwelling with 1758 date stone. Family informants also recounted that he not only was the proprietor of a thriving settlement at Headquarters encompassing his farm, grist mill, store, and tavern, but built and gave a mill and house to three of his sons, the farm and mill at the confluence of Cold Run and Wickecheoke Creek going to his son

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Samuel.¹⁴ The 1754 date stone bearing his initials is good evidence that John Opdycke owned and was actively engaged in developing the Wickecheoke Creek property at that time; he may well have lived there for some years and occupied the 1754 stone house before his larger and more architecturally sophisticated house at Headquarters was erected. The date stone also provides the earliest documentation of any settlement on the property. European settlement of southern Hunterdon County began in the first decades of the 18th century, however, and it is not unlikely that pioneer agriculturalist occupied some portion of the Milner and Allen tracts long before 1754.¹⁵ While the mill on Cold Run may well have been built by John Opdycke around the same time as house, as claimed by his descendants, the earliest known documentary reference to a mill there is a 1773 mortgage for property in the vicinity which describes present day Route 604 as the "Great Road from Tyson's Mill to Opdycke's Mill."¹⁶

John Opdycke died in 1777, and his will, written and probated in that year, designates his son Samuel "of the township of Amwell", as one of his two executors, and bequeaths to him

one Negro man Robbin by name, one Cow, one wind mill to clean corn together also with all necessary tools and Utensils belonging to the Grist Mill.¹⁷

Samuel Opdycke was twenty-one years old in 1770, and the farm and mill property must have passed from father to son sometime that year and the father's death.¹⁸ On the 1778 Amwell Township tax role, the earliest one surviving for the municipality, Samuel Opdycke was assessed for 193 acres of improved land, 33 acres unimproved, 4 horses, 6 head of cattle, 8 hogs, "1 old slave," a grist mill, and two stills, and he was listed with much the same taxable property on the 1780, 1786, and 1790 township tax roles.¹⁹

On June 18, 1787 the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders met "at Samuel Oppdyke's....[and] proceeded to examine the propriety of Repairing a bridge on Whichicoke Creek near Samuel Obdike's mill." No doubt concerned with ensuring good access to his mill, Opdycke agreed to keep "the pillars and buttments of the aforesaid bridge in good repair...at his own expense" for a period of 50 years, and the Freeholders appropriated 10 pounds for repairs to the wooden bridge itself.²⁰ Ten years later the bridge again was in need of repair, and the Freeholders authorized Samuel Opdycke and John Arwine to undertake the necessary work as specified

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at a cost of \$200.²¹ His proprietary interest in the bridge is perhaps reflected in the reference to it as "Samuel Opdycke's bridge" in a 1795 road petition for a new road down the creek.²² According to the family history, Opdycke also held the local township offices of Overseer of Roads and Constable in 1779, and the first named post again in 1781 and 1789.²³

Opdycke became involved in a number of law suits in the 1790s and began to experience financial difficulties which resulted on one occasion with the court ordering the county sheriff to levy on certain of his goods and property.²⁴ He mortgaged his farm and mill property to Jacob Holcombe in 1796 for 300 pounds and again in 1798 for 500 pounds. The second mortgage, which gives Opdycke's occupation as "miller," refers to the property as "according to the several purchases thereof made and now in the possession of Samuel Opdycke containing in the whole 207 acres"²⁵ Opdycke was again in court in 1799, and it must have been around that time, although no deed was recorded, that he conveyed the property to his late wife Susannah's father Joseph Robeson, possibly as a means to protect his children's inheritance from potential creditors. This would explain why it was that the heirs of Joseph Robeson and not those of Samuel Opdycke sold the land after the death of both men in 1801.²⁶

In 1804 John Opdycke, Samuel Opdycke's son, gained title to the 207-acre farm and mill property, purchasing the shares belonging to three of his sisters and co-heirs of their grandfather Robeson for \$3,000.²⁷ On the day of that conveyance, he gave mortgages of \$1,000 each to his one unmarried sister and the husbands of the other two. The mortgage given to his brother-in-law David LaTourette describes the property as

the homestead place of his father Samuel Opdycke and the same on which his grandfather Joseph Robeson lived and owned at the time of his death.²⁸

In the interim between the 1801 death of Joseph Robeson and the 1804 sale of the property, David LaTourette may have lived there and operated the mill since on the 1803 Amwell Township tax role he was assessed for 130 acres of land and a grist mill.²⁹

John Opdycke retained ownership of the family homestead for little more than a year, selling it on April 1, 1805 to Charles Sergeant for 2,500 pounds, reduced in size to 130 acres by the

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subdivision of several lots form its north end.³⁰ Charles Sergeant owned and presumably resided on the property until his death in 1833. Born in 1760, the son of Joseph and Mary Sergeant, he married Sarah Green in 1788, a union which produced five children who lived to adulthood.³¹ The 1830 census lists the households of Charles Sergeant, his son Richard Green Sergeant, and one Joseph Slack in consecutive order. Since Charles Sergeant's 1833 will establishes that Joseph Slack was his tenant living in the stone house on the west side of the creek (site #4), if Charles lived in the main house (site #7), then his son Green Sergeant must have been residing in the dwelling in between, the so called miller's house (site #5). Green probably was operating the farm and/or the mill for his elderly father at the time of the census, possibly with the assistance of tenant Joseph Slack.³² The hamlet also acquired one notable addition in 1830, when Charles Sergeant allowed a stone schoolhouse (site #11) to be erected on the east side of his farm along the road to Sergeantsville.³³ Charles Sergeant's 1833 inventory provides some information about the grist mill (site #8) and its operation, indicating that it had a lower story where casks were stored and that corn, buckwheat, oats, and rye were stored, and presumably processed, there.³⁴

Upon Charles Sergeant's death the 130-acre property passed to his son Green, except for the 9-acre lot on the west side of the creek occupied by Joseph Slack which he left to his daughter Elizabeth Reading during her widowhood, and thereafter to her son Charles Reading.³⁵ Born in 1795 and married to Margaret Besson in 1825, Green Sergeant, like his father, owned and apparently occupied the property until his death in 1878.³⁶ The saw mill (site #1) on Lower Creek Road may have been established by him in the 1830s. It probably was extant by 1838 since the road return of that year for the survey of Lower Creek Road begins at the "butments of the bridge over the creek near Green Sergeants Mills at a stake between the race and the creek."³⁷ A raceway at that location would not have been necessary for mill operations at the grist mill on Cold Run but could have served as the head race for the saw mill.

Throughout the middle decades of the 19th century, the hamlet at Sergeant's Mill experienced limited development. The road network was expanded with the opening of Lower Creek Road in 1838, Pine Hill Road in 1849, and Reading Road in 1878; the original extension of the latter down Cold Run to Pine Hill Road was abandoned in 1879, replaced by the present connection to Route 604. A

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stone arch bridge (site #6) was constructed over Cold Run upon the opening of Pine Hill Road in 1849, and in 1872 the bridge over the Wickecheoke was replaced by the covered bridge (site #2).³⁶ The Schoolhouse was enlarged in 1874. In addition to the saw mill, Green Sergeant had expanded his milling operations by 1850 to include a carding machine.³⁹

The 1850 industrial census indicates that the production of Green Sergeant's grist and saw mills were valued at \$500 and \$250 respectively, while that of the carding machine was worth only \$150. The census lists one employee for each operation, but given the small scale of production the work must have been part time, perhaps handled by one individual. In fact, the household just before that of Green Sergeant in the 1850 census of population was headed by David Jackson, a 36 year-old "miller" who did not own any real estate. While the saw mill is depicted on the 1860 county map, only the grist mill is listed in the industrial census of that year. As in 1850, it did custom work exclusively; the reported production, however, was much greater in 1860 than in 1850: 6,000 bushels of wheat were ground worth \$6,000, 2,000 bushels of corn worth \$1,700, and 3,000 bushels of corn and oats worth \$1,700. Reflecting this larger volume of work, Sergeant seems to have employed two millers in 1860. Although the 1860 industrial census states that he had only one employee, the population census of that year lists the brothers John and George Harden two houses before his, giving both their occupations as millers. The household between Sergeant and the Hardens is that of Austin (?) Servis, a harness maker, which suggests that the hamlet was the residence of an artisan at that time. Although Green Sergeant operated the grist mill with hired millers in 1850 and 1860, by 1870 he appears to have rented it out. The 1870 industrial census records that E. G. Philips, who probably rented the mill in that year, did all custom work which after grinding yielded a profit of \$1,600. The saw mill is identified in the 1873 county atlas, but must have become a marginal enterprise, as it does not appear in the 1870 industrial census.⁴⁰ According to the 1881 county history "there [was] still a custom grist- and saw-mill" at Sergeant's Mill.⁴¹ The saw mill evidently was abandoned by 1894, in which year the state geologist surveyed the grist mill, noting that it operated with a fall of 25 feet and 12 horse power net. The grist mill ceased operations sometime between 1901 and 1905, after which no use was made of the waterpower.⁴²

Green Sergeant died in 1878, leaving his property to his

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children. but directing his executor to pay the children of his deceased son Charles one third of the income generated by the property until they reached the age of twenty-one.⁴³ George Johnson, husband of Green Sergeant's daughter Sarah, evidently farmed the property during this period. He and his family were living with his wife's aged parents at the time of the 1870 census, which gives his occupation as farmer, and after the parents' deaths apparently continued to reside on the premises. His household probably occupied the main house in 1880, and the mill and the miller's house rented to Edward G. Philips. George Johnson is listed in the 1880 census as a farmer, and the entry following his is that of miller Edward G. Philips.⁴⁴ The school house was conveyed to the school trustees in 1888, and in 1893, Green Sergeant's executor sold the remainder of his property to his grandson Richard Green Johnson, George Johnson's son.⁴⁵

The property still remains in the hands of Richard Green Johnson's descendants, except for some acreage subdivided from its perimeter and the miller's house which was sold to graphic artist William Cotton in the 1930s. Although the barns were rebuilt after their destruction by fire in 1929 and the abandoned mill was demolished in the 1930s, when the covered bridge was threatened with demolition in 1959 public sentiment for its preservation prevailed.⁴⁶ The landmark wooden bridge was carefully disassembled and restored, and a new bridge of sympathetic design erected alongside to accommodate one lane of traffic, work which was completed in 1961.⁴⁷ With Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge as its centerpiece, the former mill hamlet exists today as a residential and agricultural community whose 19th-century rural character and setting survive substantially intact. Local landowners and conservationists are currently engaged in establishing a Greenway along Wickecheoke Creek, and the nomination of the Covered Bridge Historic District to the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places complements those efforts.

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¹ Hubert G. Schmidt, Rural Hunterdon, New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1945, page 169; James P. Snell, (ed.) History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Everts & Peck, 1881, page 3760; Samuel C. Cornell, Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Philadelphia, S. C. Cornell and Lloyd Vanderveer, 1851.

² J. M. Hoppock, "Sergeant Mansion and Mill," Democratic-Advertiser, December 5, 1901; J. M. Hoppock, "The Old Sergeant Mill," Democratic-Advertiser, July 20, 1905.

³ D. Charles Wilson Opdyke, The Op Dyck Genealogy, Containing the Opdyck - Opdycke - Opdyke - Updike American Descendants of the Wesel and Holland Families. New York: Charles W. Opdyke, Leonard E. Opdyke and William S. Opdyke, 1889, page 262.

⁴ Thomas E. Boothby, et al., Stone Arch Bridge Survey, Phase II, Draft submitted to the Hunterdon County Planning Board, September 30, 1998, page i; A. G. Lichtenstein & Associates, Inc., The New Jersey Historic Bridge Survey, Draft prepared for the New Jersey Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. September, 1994, form #D-329.

⁵ Boothby, page 38.

⁶ West Jersey Proprietary Deeds, Book A, page 128; D. Stanton Hammond, "Hunterdon County, New Jersey." Map Series # 4, Sheet F. Genealogical Society of New Jersey, 1965.

⁷ Marfy Goodspeed, The Miller's House,. Prepared for Donald and Beverly Jones, 1993, pp. 4-5; Hammond, Sheet F.

⁸ Hunterdon County Loan Office Mortgages, Vol. III, #164.

⁹ Goodspeed, page 7.

¹⁰ Hunterdon County Loan Office Mortgages, Vol. III, #s 170 and 171.

¹¹ Goodspeed, pp. 11-12; Hammond, Sheet F.

¹² Goodspeed, pp. 9-11; Hammond, Sheet F.

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¹³ Snell, pp. 192-93.

¹⁴ Opdyke, pp. 218-20.

¹⁵ Schmidt, pp. 22-23; Peter Wacker, Land and People. A Cultural Geography of Pre-industrial New Jersey: Origins and Settlement Pattern, New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1975, p. 127.

¹⁶ Hunterdon County Mortgages, Book 1, page 200; Goodspeed, page 12..

¹⁷ Opdyke, page 223.

¹⁸ Ibid., page 261.

¹⁹ Amwell Township Tax Ratable Lists, 1778, 1780, 1786 & 1790.

²⁰ Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders Minutes, Vol. I, pp. 131-33.

²¹ Ibid., pp. 246-47.

²² Hunterdon County Road File # 18-7-40.

²³ Opdyke, page 263.

²⁴ Goodspeed, page 17.

²⁵ Hunterdon County Mortgages, Book 2, pages 173 and 300.

²⁶ Goodspeed, page 18.

²⁷ Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 10, page 126.

²⁸ Hunterdon County Mortgages, Book 3, pp. 209, 223 & 254.

²⁹ Amwell Township Tax Ratable Lists, 1803. At this time taxes were levied on the actual occupant of the property.

³⁰ Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 11, page 154.

³¹ Goodspeed, pages 35-36.

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¹³ Snell, pp. 192-93.

¹⁴ Opdyke, pp. 218-20.

¹⁵ Schmidt, pp. 22-23; Peter Wacker, Land and People. A Cultural Geography of Pre-industrial New Jersey: Origins and Settlement Pattern, New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1975, p. 127.

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³⁰ Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 11, page 154.

³¹ Goodspeed, pages 35-36.

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³² United States Census, Population Schedules, Amwell Township, 1830.

³³ Snell, page 378.

³⁴ Hunterdon County Inventories, Book 8, page 28.

³⁵ Hunterdon County Wills, Book 6, page 43.

³⁶ Goodspeed, page 35.

³⁷ Hunterdon County Road File # 20-4-5,

³⁸ Hunterdon County Road Files #s 20-4-5, 20-9-5, 20-9-30, and 20-9-31; Hunterdon County Bridge Records, D-304A and D-329.

³⁹ Snell, page 378; United States Census, Industrial Schedules, Delaware, Township, 1850.

⁴⁰ United States Census, Industrial and Population Schedules, Delaware Township, 1850, 1860, and 1870; S. N. Beers and D.J. Lake, Map of the Vicinity of Philadelphia and Trenton, Philadelphia, C. K. Stone and A. Pomeroy, 1860; F. W. Beers, County Atlas of Hunterdon, New Jersey, New York, F. W. Beers & Co., 1873, pp. 64-65.

⁴¹ Snell, page 386.

⁴² Cornelius Clarkson Vermule, Report of Water Supply, Water Power, the Flow of Streams, and Attendant Phenomena, Geological Survey of New Jersey, Final Report of the State Geologist, Vol. III, Trenton: John L. Murphy Publishing Company, 1894, page 13; J. M. Hoppock, "Sergeant Mansion and Mill," Democratic-Advertiser, December 5, 1901; J. M. Hoppock, "The Old Sergeant Mill," Democratic-Advertiser, July 20, 1905.

⁴³ Goodspeed, pages 27-28.

⁴⁴ United States Census, Population Schedules, Delaware Township, 1870 and 1880.

⁴⁵ Hunterdon County Deeds, Book 237, page 159, Book 263, page 194, and Book 374, page 441.

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⁴⁶ Goodspeed, page 29; Interview with Lawrence Johnson, October 16, 1998.

⁴⁷ Sergeants Cover Bridge National Register nomination, 1974.

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Snell, James P. (ed.) History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties, New Jersey. Philadelphia: Everts & Peck, 1881.

Vermule, Cornelius Clarkson. Report of Water Supply, Water Power, the Flow of Streams, and Attendant Phenomena. Geological Survey of New Jersey, Final Report of the State Geologist, Vol. III, Trenton: John L. Murphy Publishing Company, 1894.

Wacker, Peter. Land and People. A Cultural Geography of Pre-industrial New Jersey: Origins and Settlement Patterns. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1975.

Whitehead, William A. et al. (eds.). Documents Relating to the Colonial, Revolutionary, and Post Revolutionary History of the State of New Jersey. First Series, 42 volumes, Various places: State of New Jersey, 1800-1949.

Interviews:

Lawrence Johnson, October 16, 1998.

Maps and Atlases:

Beers, F. W. County Atlas of Hunterdon, New Jersey. New York: F. W. Beers & Co., 1873.

Beers, S. N. and D. J. Lake. Map of the Vicinity of Philadelphia and Trenton. Philadelphia: C. K. Stone and A. Pomeroy, 1860.

Cornell, Samuel C. Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Philadelphia: S. C. Cornell and Lloyd Vanderveer, 1851.

Hammond, D. Stanton. "Hunterdon County, New Jersey." Map Series # 4. Genealogical Society of New Jersey, 1965.

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Covered Bridge Historic District
Hunterdon County, NJ

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Periodicals and Unpublished Materials:

The Democratic Advertiser. Flemington, NJ.

Public Records:

Hunterdon County Court House, Flemington, NJ.

- Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholder Minutes
- Hunterdon County Deed Books
- Hunterdon County Mortgage Books
- Hunterdon County Road Files
- Hunterdon County Will Books

Hunterdon County Engineer's Office

- Hunterdon County Bridge Files

New Jersey Archives, State Library, Trenton, NJ

- Amwell Township Tax Ratables, 1778-1803
- Deeds of the West Jersey Proprietors
- Hunterdon County Loan Office Mortgages
- New Jersey Colonial Conveyances
- The Historic American Building Survey

United States Census

- Agricultural Schedules, Delaware Township, 1860
- Population Schedules, Amwell Township, 1830, and Delaware Township, 1840-1880
- Industrial Schedules, Delaware, Township, 1850-1880

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Covered Bridge Historic District are delineated on the attached map entitled "Covered Bridge Historic District Site Location and Boundary Map", and is verbally described and justified in the following paragraphs. The site and boundary map was assembled from current municipal tax maps of Delaware Township, sheets 5, 6, 10 and 11 which were originally drawn by Franklin Bohren, C. S., in 1961 and last updated in 1993.

The boundary of the district begins on the south side of Route 604 at the northeast corner of block 34, lot 21 and proceeds south and west along the east and south sides of that lot to its southwest corner, also the northwest corner of block 34, lot 21.01, and Lower Creek Road. From there the boundary runs south along the east side of Lower Creek Road and west side of lot 21.01 to the southwest corner of that lot. Turning west across Lower Creek Road to the southeast corner of block 32, lot 1, the boundary continues west along the south sides of block 32, lots 1 and 36 across Wickecheoke Creek to the southwest corner of lot 36, then north along the west side of lot 36 to the northwest corner of that lot and Route 604, and, crossing Route 604 to the southwest corner of block 31, lot 1, still north along the west side of the latter lot to its northwest corner on the south side of Sanford Road.

The district boundary proceeds east along the south side of Sanford Road and the north side of block 31, lot 1 to the northeast corner of that lot and the intersection of Sanford Road with Upper Creek Road. The boundary continues east across Upper Creek Road to the northwest corner of block 18, lot 17 and runs still east along the north side of lot 17 to Wickecheoke Creek and the northeast corner of lot 17, which point is also on the west side of block 18, lot 15. From there the boundary runs north along the creek and the west side of block 18, lot 15 to a corner of block 18, lot 14, from where it continues north and east along the west and north sides of lot 15 to the northeast corner of that lot and Pine Hill Road.

The boundary then turns south along the west side of Pine Hill Road and the east side of block 18, lot 15 to the point where the straight continuation of the north side of block 21, lot 7 across Pine Hill Road intersects the east side of block 18, lot 15. From there the boundary cuts east in a straight line across Pine Hill Road to the northwest corner of block 21, lot 7, and proceeds east and south along the north and east sides of lot 7 to the northwest

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corner of block 21, lot 6. It continues east and south along the north and east sides of block 21, lot 6 to a southeast corner of that lot and Reading Road. The boundary proceeds south across Reading Road to the northeast corner of block 22, lot 29, continues still south along the east side of lot 29 to the southeast corner of that lot and Route 604, and crosses Route 604 in a straight line to the northeast corner of block 34, lot 21 and the place of beginning.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Covered Bridge Historic District are delineated to include the resources and property associated with the farmstead/mill hamlet, with not only the fewest non-contributing resources but also to protect the district's historic rural setting.

Between Upper Creek and Pine Hill Roads, for example, the district boundary jogs northward to encompass the property along Wickecheoke Creek which historically formed part of the farmstead/mill property and still does today. East of Pine Hill Road the boundary was drawn to exclude modern low density residential development occurring on land subdivided from the farmstead/mill property and to include the remnants of the mill hydrosystem on Cold Run, the site of the mill being on block 21, lot 6, and the "Sergeant" schoolhouse which was erected on part of the farmstead/mill property. South of Route 604 to the east of Wickecheoke Creek, the district boundary follows the historic farmstead/mill property boundary, except for a jog to exclude the modern dwelling on block 34, lot 21.01, which lot also was subdivided from the farm. East of the creek and south of Sanford Road, the district boundary also follows the historic property boundaries and includes the stone house and lot subdivided from the farmstead/mill property in accordance with the will of Charles Sergeant in the 1830s.

UTM References (continued)

- 5 - 18 50 3460 4476700
- 6 - 18 50 3280 4476560
- 7 - 18 50 2800 4476540
- 8 - 18 50 2720 4476920
- 9 - 18 50 2700 4477400

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Hunterdon County, NJ

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Photographic Identification:

The following information is the same for all of the photographs submitted with the nomination:

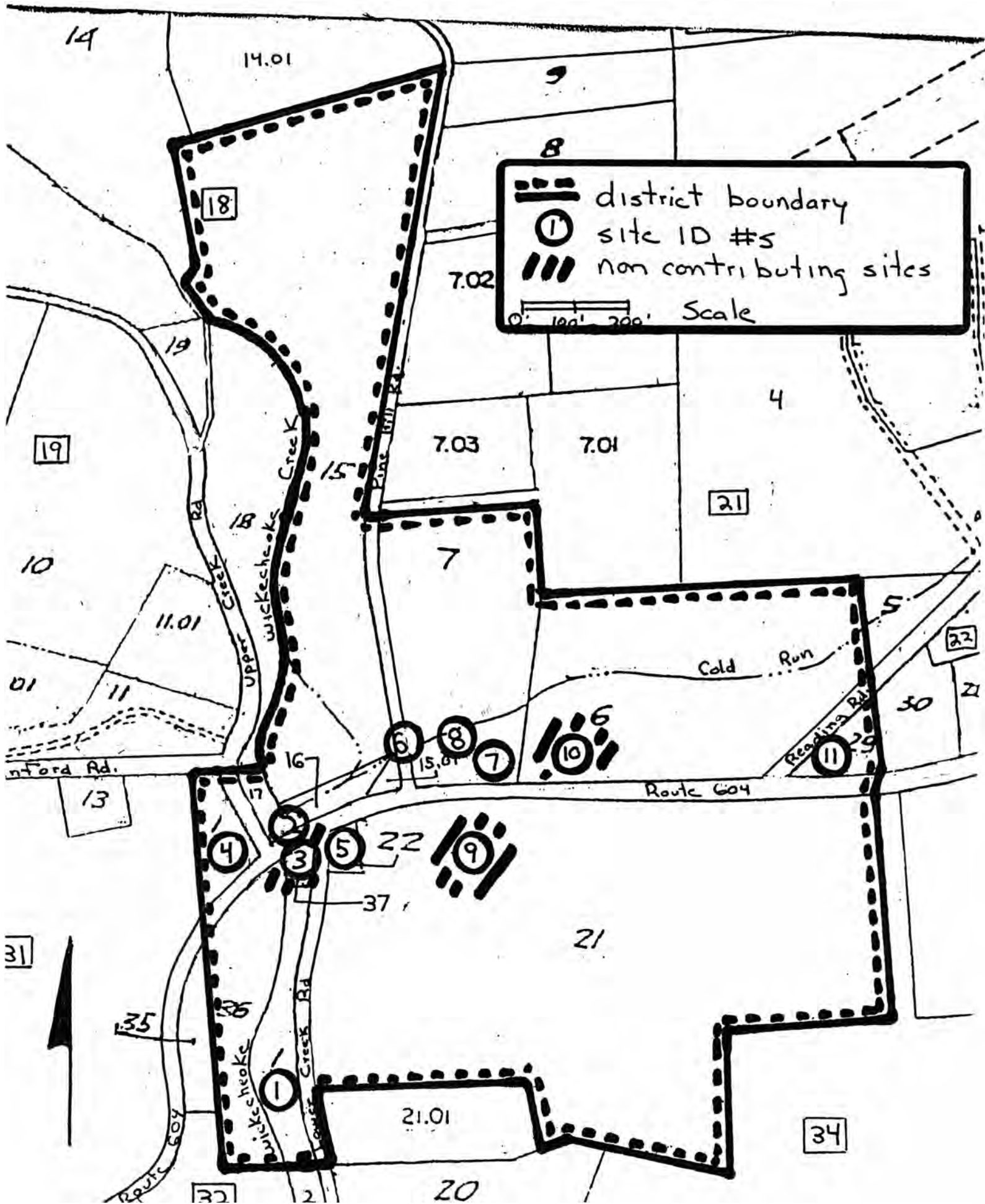
Name: Covered Bridge Historic District
Location: Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, NJ
Photographer: Dennis Bertland: #s 1, 3-6, 8-9 & 11-15
Clarence Brasch: #s 2, 7 and 10
Date of photographs: Bertland: October 1998
Brasch: Spring 1998
Negative repository: Dennis Bertland Associates,
P. O. Box 11, Port Murray, NJ 07865

Photograph direction of view:

#1 Site #4, NE view
#2 " #4, NE view
#3 " #4, barn, SE view
#4 " #5, SW view
#5 " #5, NE view
#6 " #6, wagon house, NE view
#7 " #6, NE view
#8 " #7, NE view
#9 " #7, NW view
#10 " #7 date stone, north view
#11 " #7, wagon house, NE view
#12 " #9, SW view
#13 " #10, NW view
#14 " #s 9 & 10, SW view
#15 " #11, NW view

Covered Bridge Historic District - Boundary & Site Map

Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, NJ



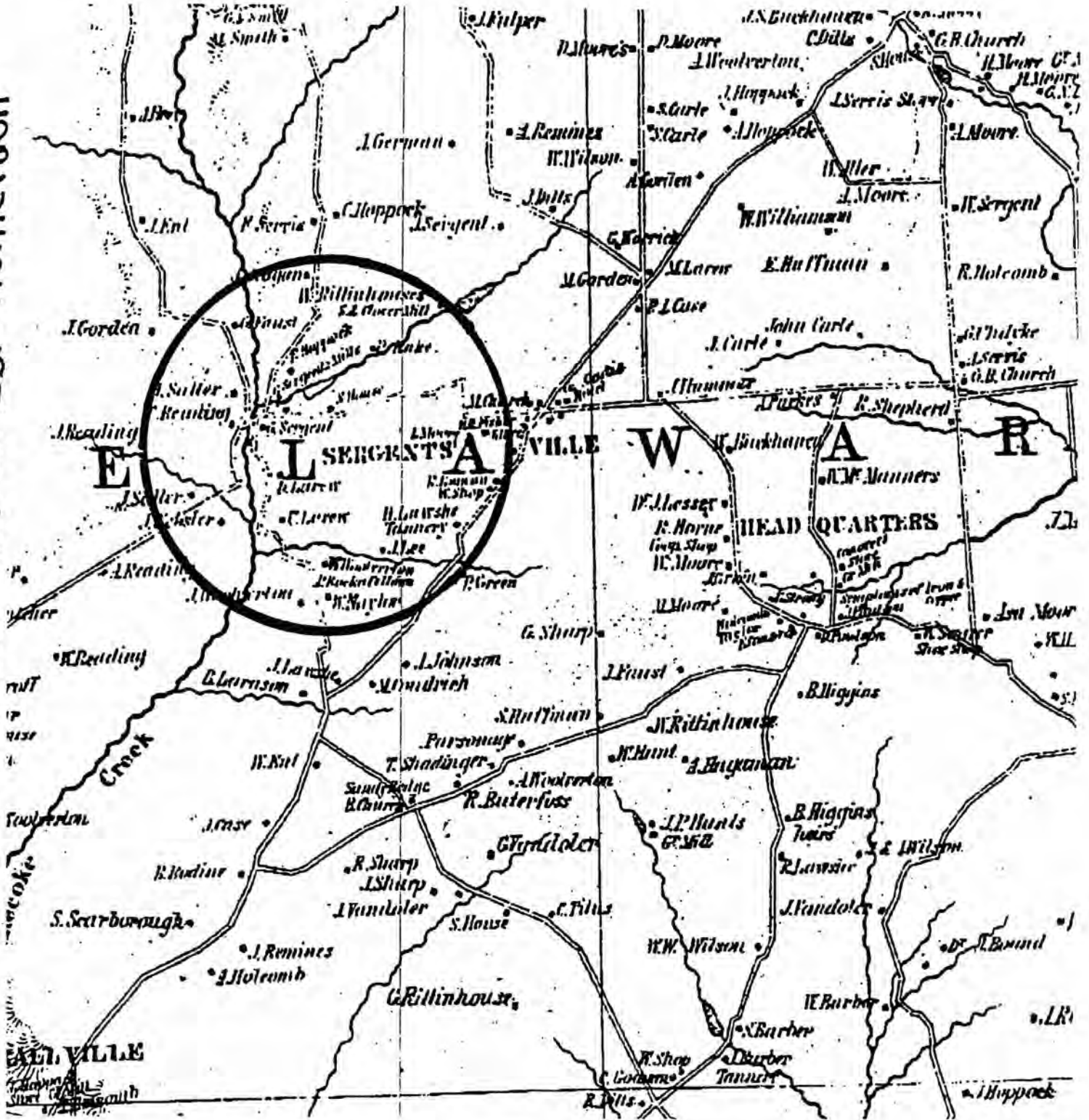
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National Park Service

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Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, NJ

Section number _____ Page _____

SEE 2 MILES MAP OF 1861 - HUNTERDON



COVERED BRIDGE DISTRICT
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

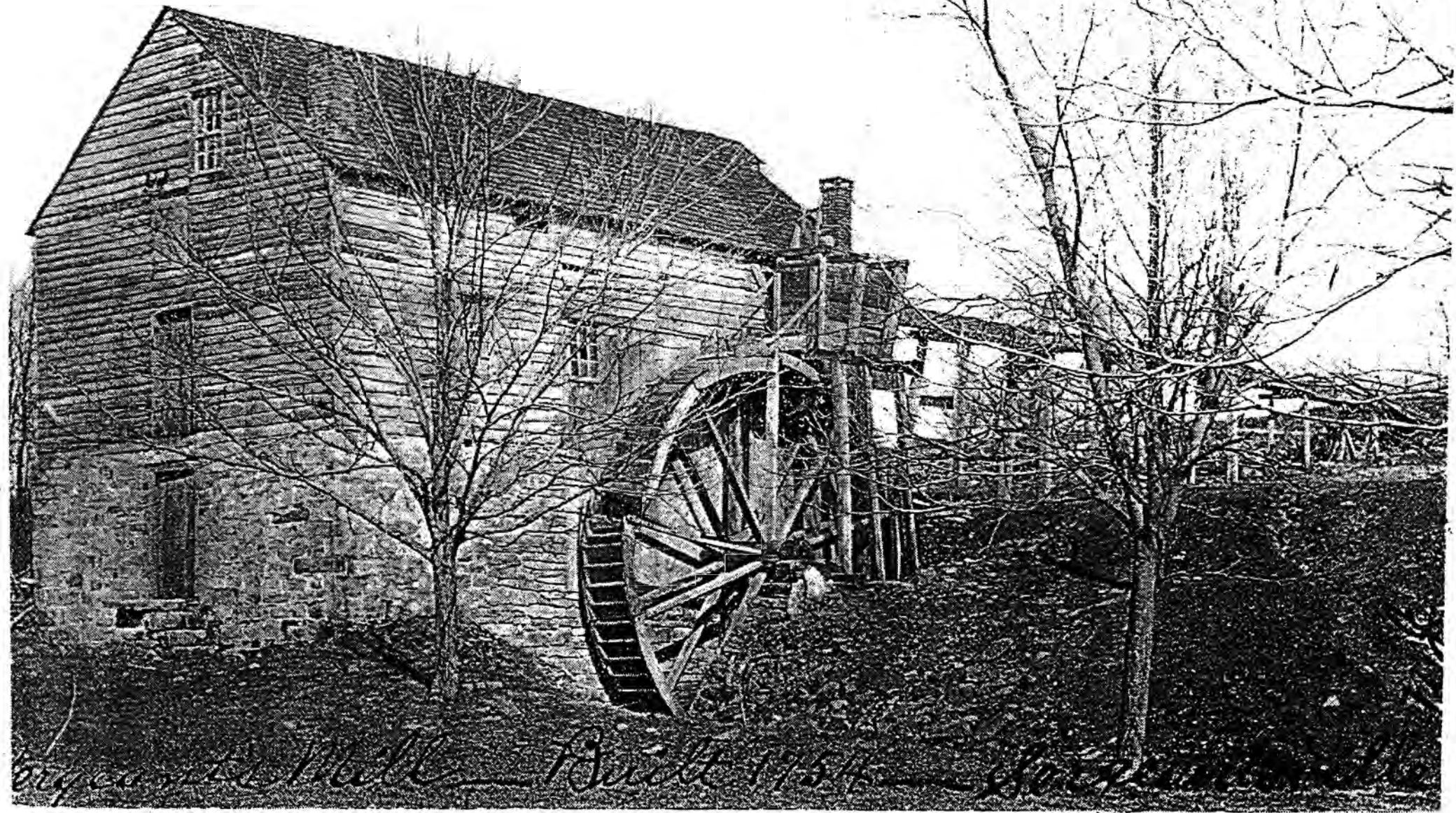
Covered Bridge Historic District
Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, NJ

Section number _____ Page _____

DEER'S HEADS MAP OF 1873 - HUNTERDON



Covered Bridge Historic District, Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, NJ

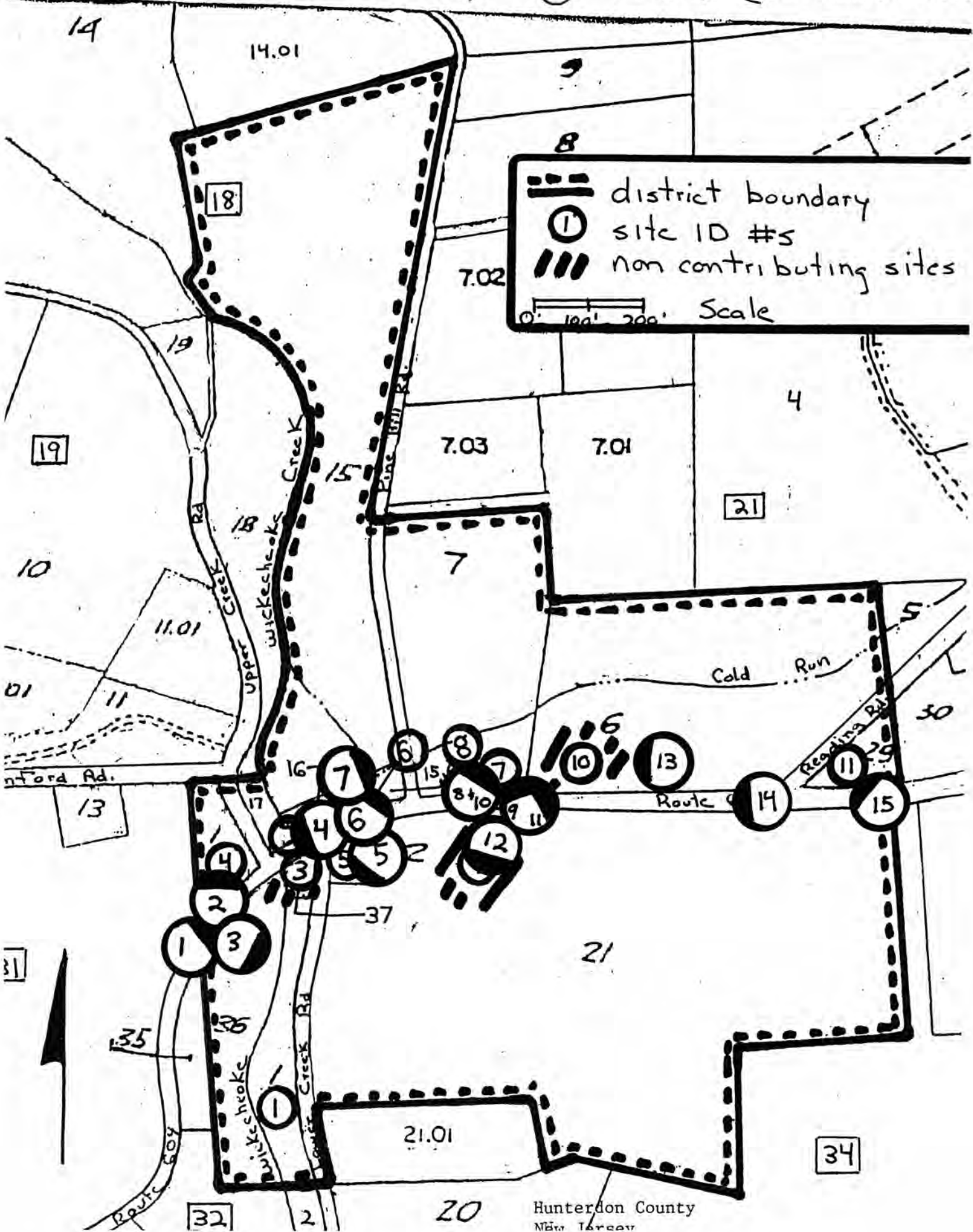


Logan's Mill - Built 1754 - Hunterdon County, NJ

Covered Bridge Historic District - Boundary & Site Map

Photo ID Map

① Photo # & direction of view



Hunterdon County
New Jersey

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Covered Bridge Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW JERSEY, Hunterdon

DATE RECEIVED: 2/04/99 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/17/99
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/05/99 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/21/99
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 99000269

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/5/99 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Memo 1/3/99
Hunterdon*

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N























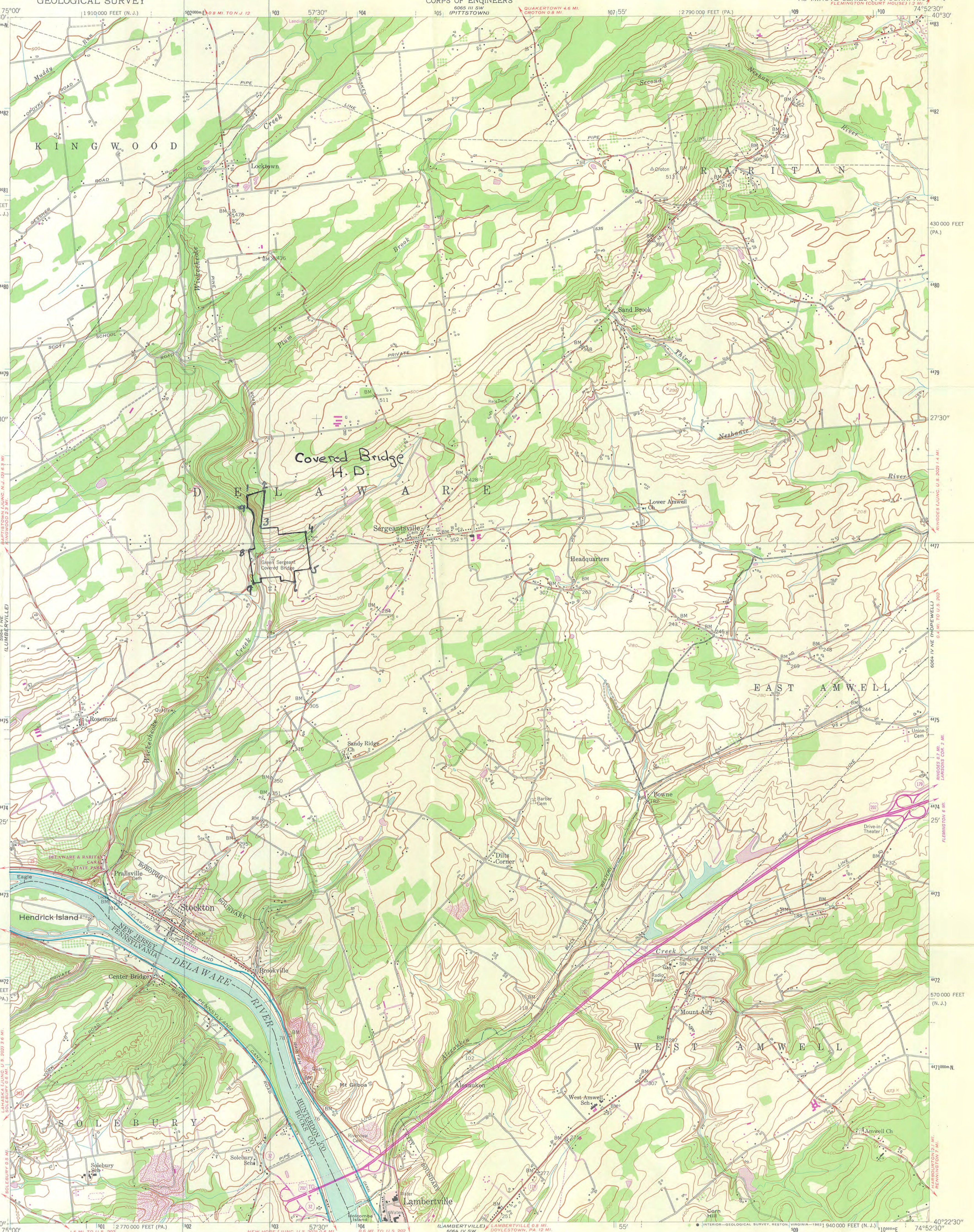






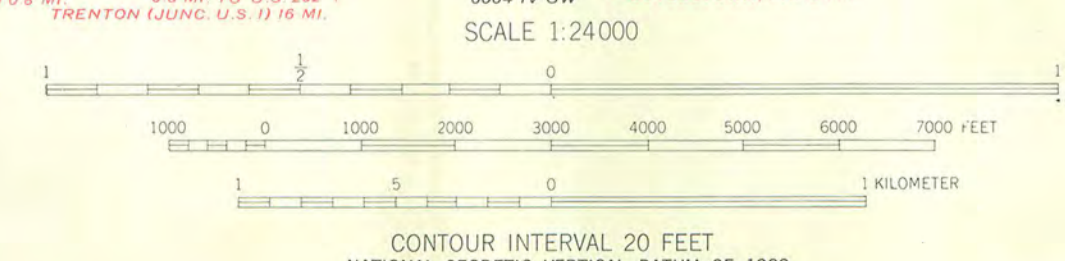
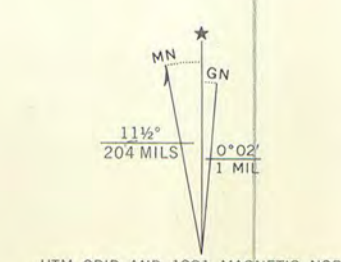


1.18 502720 4477560
2.18 502920 4477620
3.18 502860 4477220
4.18 503440 4477140
5.18 503460 4476700
6.18 502280 4476560
7.18 502800 4476540
8.18 502720 4476920
9.18 502700 4477400



Covered Bridge
H. D.

Mapped by the Defense Mapping Agency
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by NOS/NOAA, New Jersey Geodetic Survey, Pennsylvania Railroad, and SCS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1942. Field checked 1943
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1954
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grids based on New Jersey coordinate system and Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 6 meters south and 32 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



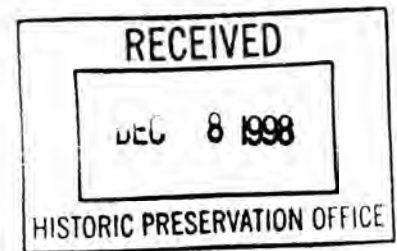
STOCKTON, N. J. - PA.
N4022.5-W7452.5/7.5

1954
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 6064 IV NW-SERIES V822

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1981. Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas.

1 12/04/1998 4:46 PM objection to nomination



Lawrence W. Johnson
688 Rosemont- Ringoes Road
Stockton N.J, 08559

Ms. Guzzo Administrator
D.E.P.
Division of Parks and Forestry
New Jersey Historic Preservation Office
P.O. Box 404
Trenton N.J. 08625-0404

Dear Ms. Guzzo;

I wish to protest the listing of my entire farm in the Covered Bridge Historic District. My farm Blk 18 Lot 15- Blk 21 Lot 6 -Blk 32 Lot 1 and Blk 34 lot 21 consists of some 92 acres more or less. My home is relatively new (post World War II) and is not included with the items noted as historic. My family's stone house had been given by my wife and myself and deeded to my son several years ago in recognition of his family heritage . My barns and equipment sheds are not of any historic value .If the Jones family wishes to include that home which had been referred to as Mille Cotton's house(5) on your map - fine -it too is old . The House to the far side of the bridge is also old though extensive renovations and additions have altered it's form. The inclusion of this house is also warranted if for no other reason than its quaint appearance and history.

But - there is no reason to include my 92 acre working farm in an historic district other than to ,satisfy the land hungry longing of the conservancy. The reality of the conservancy sponsoring the research for this nomination gives a hint of confusion of purpose , and conflict of interest.

I did not receive a copy of the proposal prior to the meeting for a vote of the issue. My letter informing me of the Dec 2. meeting did not include the item instructing land owners of a possible appeal (page 2). I received that portion of your letter by fax on Dec. 2 by my request. My notarized objection will be in the mail as soon as I receive appeal instructions and my time should run from that date. There is some confusion in the wording of the Rights of Owners section received today . Is the reference to a majority of owners or partial owners of a single property? Is it proper to give 3 votes to owners of 3 acres and 1 vote to the owner of 92 acres? Do the multiple partial owners of a single property each have a vote equal to the single vote of a single property owner? If so deeded can the wife and multiple children each have a vote?

I conclude with the statement that all land is old and only what is built upon that land

1

12/04/1998 4:46 PM

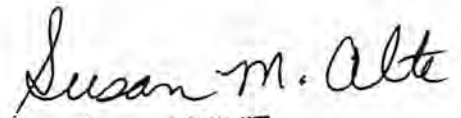
objection to nomination

can transform it into something historic. The Three structures noted as historic are clustered next to the covered bridge and would indeed make a nice historic district but there it ends . My farm is not in any way Historic . .

Sincerely


Mr. Lawrence W. Johnson

Mrs. Lawrence W. Johnson



SUSAN M. ALTE
Notary Public of New Jersey
My Commission Expires Oct 1, 2002

December 5, 1998
Hunterdon County



State of New Jersey

Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks & Forestry
Historic Preservation Office
PO Box 404
Trenton, N.J. 08625-0404
TEL: (609)292-2023
FAX: (609)984-0578

Christine Todd Whitman
Governor

Robert C. Shinn, Jr.
Commissioner

January 28, 1999

Ms. Carol Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

I am pleased to submit the Covered Bridge Historic District, Delaware Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey for National Register consideration.

This application has received majority approval from the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites. All procedures were followed in accordance with regulations published in the Federal Register.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact Dorothy P. Guzzo, Administrator, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 404, Trenton, New Jersey 08625 or call her at (609) 984-0176.

Sincerely,



James F. Hall
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer