

xx
0479

August 28, 1978

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation and Recreation
Service
Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Re: Spangler Bridge
Chatham, Columbia County
New York

This is to request a change in the official name for the
above referenced National Register property from Spangler Bridge
to Spengler Bridge.

The error was brought to our attention as a result of
restoration work on the bridge when a plaque was discovered
which listed the influential bridge Commissioner as H. C. Spengler.

Thank you for your attention to this problem.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Gobrecht
National Register and Survey
Coordinator
Historic Preservation
Field Services

KL/
cb



NEW YORK STATE PARKS & RECREATION • South Swan Street Building, South Mall, Albany, N.Y. 12223

Alexander Aldrich
Commissioner

Dr. William Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
Room 3209
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

As the State Liaison Officer, I am forwarding the enclosed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

Spangler Bridge, Chatham, Columbia County, New York

The above nomination has been reviewed and approved by the Governor's Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation in accordance with the criteria outlined in Section 2.2 of the Grants Guide.

The Staff of the State Board for Historic Preservation, the officially designated Preservation Agency, would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission with your office.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDER ALDRICH

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW YORK

Date Entered FEB 23 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Spangler Bridge	Chatham Columbia County

OFFICE COPY

rec'd
7mar73

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

Also Notified

Hon. Jacob K. Javits
Hon. James L. Buckley
Hon. Hamilton Fish, Jr.

M

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	New York
COUNTY:	Columbia
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON: Spangler Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Spangler Road

CITY OR TOWN: Chatham CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 28th

STATE: New York CODE: 36 COUNTY: Columbia CODE: 021

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Columbia County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: New York CODE: 36

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Columbia County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: New York CODE: 36

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	New York
COUNTY:	Columbia
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

Representative: Hamilton Fish

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Spangler Bridge accomodates only one lane of modern traffic on its narrow 16 foot width.

The all-metal through bridge is composed of two Pratt trusses with counters, each 138 feet in length, connected by upper and lower lateral bracing.

Each truss consists of an upper chord, a lower chord and 7 posts which create 8 panels. The panels contain diagonal, or sway, bracing, and counter bracing, which forms an X in each panel.

The upper chord is formed of a riveted iron channel. A massive wrought iron beam forms the bottom chord. The posts are actually small trusses. Paired rods form the diagonals. The position where the first post would be located is occupied by a small square rod under tension. Portal bracing strengthens the upper lateral structure at each end of the bridge.

The upper chord, lower chord and vertical posts are under compression, while the diagonal rods and vertical rods are tensile members. A wooden plank deck covers the lower lateral bracing.

Decorative features usually unassociated with utilitarian structures adorn the Spangler Bridge. Fanciful cast iron brackets create an arch at either entranceway and four cast iron urns crown the portal bracing.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1880**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in a peaceful and unspoiled setting which includes an old weathered frame grist mill nearby, the Spangler Bridge remains in the context of its original "shunpike" bypass of the 19th century, undisturbed by any busy highway or population center. Having been spared the fate of many similar bridges too narrow and frail to carry modern traffic this bridge and its setting is an especially significant historic resource worthy of preservation.

The Spangler Bridge crosses Kinderhook Creek about one and a half mile above the village of Chatham Center and about eighteen miles above the junction of the Kinderhook with Hudson River, as Stockport Creek. Located in the valley of the Kinderhook within the lower foothills of the Taconic Mountains, the bridge stands at an elevation of 280 feet above the level of the Hudson River and eleven miles east of the River overland. The bridge carries a small dirt highway, the Spangler Road, which links State Route 66 with County Road 13 east of Chatham Center.

The narrow margin of flat fertile alluvial flood plain along the creek in this part of the valley and its value as a trade route leading to the interior attracted colonial Dutch settlers such as the Van Alstynes, Van Alens, Van Valkenburghs, and Schermerhorns in the 17th and 18th centuries to the Chatham Center area. However, not until late in the 18th century did English settlers settle extensively in the hilly interior country where they managed to farm the stony hillsides of gravelly soil left by the ice age.

A map published in 1839 shows a "flowing mill" located on the west side of Kinderhook Creek above Chatham Center at the later site of Spangler Bridge. It is said that two Quakers had erected this mill, which was subsequently operated by the Van Alstyne family. A bridge had meanwhile been erected at Chatham Center as early as the War of 1812 for the transportation of ammunition.

See Continuation Sheet

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
New York	
COUNTY	
Columbia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Number 8.

Overland transportation problems continued, particularly in crossing the Kinderhook at Chatham Center as development of the area increased. To reach the mill west of the Kinderhook Creek from the east, crossings had to be made at Chatham Center or at Malden Bridge, nearly five miles up the valley. Finally, the overloaded bridge at Chatham Center fell into the creek one Sunday morning while a drove of cattle was passing over. It was replaced by a new covered bridge at Chatham Center in 1842.

In order to alleviate the problem of limited available crossings of the Kinderhook, a new road was soon built leading to the grist mill above Chatham Center across the creek from the road east of Chatham Center, forming a useful bypass around that village. The map of Columbia County published in 1858 clearly shows this new road in almost its present form, when the mill on the east side of the creek was operated by G. Kessler. That this road was intended to provide access to these mills from the east is clearly indicated by the steep difficult hillside on the east side and the otherwise poor location for a crossing at this place.

By 1873 a slight change in the alignment of the western end of this short bypass road and the mill crossing had been made. At this time the mill was owned by S. Sweet, who had purchased it from Bullis, a local industrialist. The new iron bridge over the creek near this mill was subsequently built in 1880 by the Morse Bridge Company of Youngstown Ohio.

The bridge has evidently changed little since 1880. It still has plank flooring, and a staccato rattle, like machine gun fire, echoes through the hillsides when a vehicle passes over the span. Handsome finials cap the four corner posts of the bridge and the old wooden railings, designed for horse and carriage days, still remain along the sidewalls. Spangler Bridge may be the sole surviving example in New York State of bridges built by the Morse Bridge Company. Hopefully, on some little shunpike, such as the Spangler Road, at least one of these specimens of a past era will be retained for future generations to enjoy.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		42° 25' 51"	73° 35' 59"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Lynn B. Weaver, Research Assistant, Doris Manley, Research Assistant
 ORGANIZATION: Paul Huey, Historical Archeologist

Board for Historic Preservation DATE: Dec. 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: South Swan Street, Core I
 CITY OR TOWN: Albany STATE: New York CODE: 36

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Michael Aldrich

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New York	
COUNTY Columbia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Number 9.

Burr, David H. An Atlas of the State of New York (New York, 1829. Republished at Ithaca, 1839) plate 13.

Beers, S.N. D.J. Lake and F.W. Beers. "Map of Columbia Co., New York." (Philadelphia, 1858)

Beers, D.G. and Co. Atlas of Columbia County, New York. (Philadelphia, 1873)

Ellis, Captain Franklin. History of Columbia County, New York. (Philadelphia, 1878) page 288.

"Newly Discovered Deeds Trace Early Chatham Center Holdings." The Chatham Courier-Rough Notes, Nov 23, 1967.

"Old Span Doomed? Move to Save Chatham Center Truss." The Chatham Courier-Rough Notes, May 16, 1968.

"Town Repairs Spangler Span." The Chatham Courier-Rough Notes. May 23, 1968.

"Letters to the Editor." The Chatham Courier-Rough Notes May 30, 1968; June 6, 1968; September 2, 1971.

"Historic Trust Asks Preservation of Span." The Chatham Courier Rough Notes, June 27, 1968.

"Plank Bridges." The Chatham Courier-Rough Notes, September 16, 1968.

"The Spangler Bridge." The Chatham Courier-Rough Notes, August 26, 1971.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Spangler Bridge		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
New York	Columbia	Chatham
STREET AND NUMBER		
Spangler Road		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
L.B. Weaver	May, 1972	N.Y.S. Board for Historic Preservation, Albany, N.Y.
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

View looking east

GPO 932-009

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Spangler Bridge		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
New York	Columbia	Chatham
STREET AND NUMBER		
Spangler Road		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
L.B. Weaver	May, 1972	N.Y.S. Board for Historic Preservation, Albany, N.Y.
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Detail showing urn and brackets

GPO 932-009

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		
COMMON Spangler Bridge	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
2. LOCATION		
STATE New York	COUNTY Columbia	TOWN Chatham
STREET AND NUMBER Spangler Road		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE 7.5 Minute series N.Y.S. D.O.T. Planimetric East Chatham Quadrangle	DATE Reproduced from U.S.G.S. 1953	SCALE 1:24000
REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.		

GPO 932-010

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON Spangler Bridge	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
2. LOCATION		
STATE New York	COUNTY Columbia	TOWN Chatham
STREET AND NUMBER Spangler Road		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT L.B. Weaver	DATE May, 1972	NEGATIVE FILED AT N.Y.S. Board for Historic Preservation, Albany, N.Y.
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Looking Northeast

Spangler Bridge
Spangler Road, Chatham Center, Col. .bia Co.

700000m. N.
890 000
880 000
850000m. N.



27'30" 42° 27' 30"

73° 37' 30"

42° 27' 30"

73° 35' 00"

73° 35' 59"

42° 25' 51"

73° 37' 36"

42° 25' 00"

42° 25' 00"

73° 35' 06"







