

*Excerpt from the 1928 plans for the Thompson's Station Bridge.*

Although the bridge has been altered, the truss lines are considered historically significant because they document a once common but now rare bridge type in the state.

Thompson's Station Bridge was built in 1928 by the authority of the Levy Court of New Castle County. Plans were prepared by the County Engineer's office using a set of standard specifications for Warren pony truss bridges prepared by the county engineer. The bridge contractor is undocumented, but the structural steel was fabricated by the Belmont Ironworks of Philadelphia. The bridge is one of only two surviving 20th-century examples of the once ubiquitous Warren metal truss bridge type and design in Delaware. The other is the 1929 Yorklyn Road Bridge (State Bridge NC-112).

### Yorklyn Road (Road 257) over Red Clay Creek

*State Bridge NC-112*

*Yorklyn, New Castle County*

*Designer/Builder: New Castle County  
Engineer's Office/Belmont Ironworks*

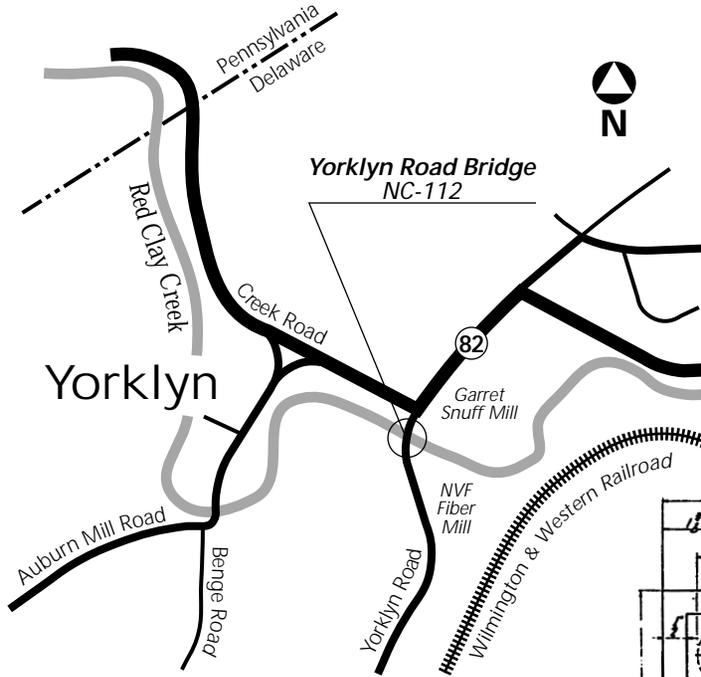
**1929**

**Y**orklyn Road bridge is a 75'-long, riveted, Warren with verticals pony truss, fabricated in 1929. The bridge is composed of built-up members of standard steel sections including angles, channels, and plates. A sidewalk with wood deck is cantilevered from the east side with an ornamental steel railing. The bridge is historically significant as a rare surviving example of this once common bridge type in the state.

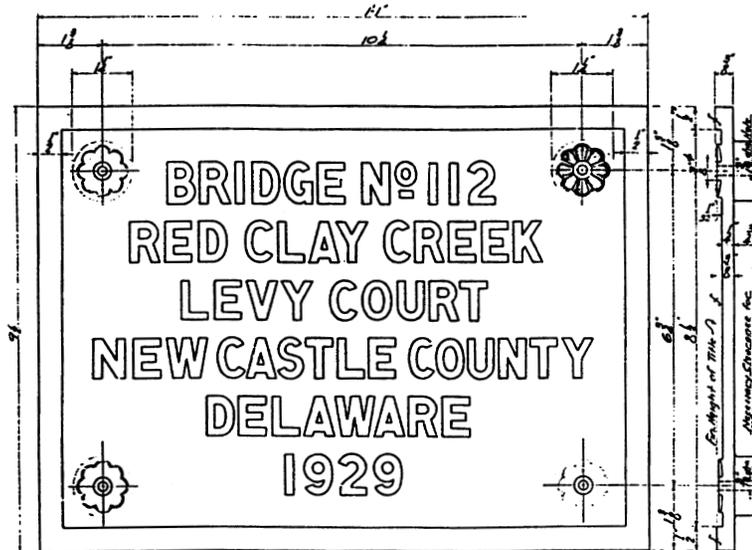
In 1990, DelDOT rehabilitated the bridge. The truss was widened from 20'-wide to 30'-wide, and the original floorbeams, stringers, and wood deck were replaced by new floorbeams supporting a laminated timber slab deck. During construction, the trusses were removed, cleaned and painted, and then replaced. Rivets at the lower panel points were replaced by high-strength bolts. New concrete abutments and wing-walls were constructed.

Although the bridge is altered, it documents a popular early 20th century design. In the 1920s, Warren pony truss bridges were the most common type of metal truss bridges on county roads in New Castle County. The Yorklyn Road bridge was built in 1929 by authority of the New Castle

# Truss Bridges



County Levy Court. It was designed by the County Engineer's office, and original plans are on file at DelDOT. The structural steel was fabricated by the Belmont Ironworks of Philadelphia. The contractor who erected the bridge is not recorded. ■



FEOD-2-BRONZE NAME PLATES

**ABOVE:** The 1929 Yorklyn Road bridge is one of only six truss highway bridges remaining in public service in Delaware. Although once common in the state, the truss bridge type rapidly vanished from state roads in the mid-20th century, in part because truss bridge roadway widths were often too narrow to be safe for larger and faster trucks and cars.

**LEFT:** This plaque detail is from the original 1929 drawings for the Yorklyn Road bridge.