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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>historic name</th>
<th>Tusten Stone Arch Bridge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>other name/site number</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>street &amp; town</th>
<th>Tusten Road at Ten Mile River</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>city or town</td>
<td>Tusten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>state</td>
<td>New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>code</td>
<td>NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>county</td>
<td>Sullivan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>code</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zip code</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 of certifying official/Title: ____________________________  
Date: _____________

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 of the Keeper: ____________________________  
Date of Action: _____________
**5. Classification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property (check as many boxes as apply)</th>
<th>Category of Property (check only one box)</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[ ] public-local</td>
<td>[ ] district</td>
<td>Contributing: 00  Noncontributing: 00 buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] private</td>
<td>[ ] building(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] public-State</td>
<td>[ ] site</td>
<td>Contributing: 00  Noncontributing: 00 sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ ] public-Federal</td>
<td>[ ] structure</td>
<td>Contributing: 01  Noncontributing: 00 structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ ] object</td>
<td>Contributing: 00  Noncontributing: 00 objects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Contributing: 01  Noncontributing: 00 Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

Historic & Architectural Resources of the Upper Delaware Valley in New York and Pennsylvania

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

00

**6. Function or Use**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Function (Enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Current Function (Enter categories from instructions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORTATION / road related</td>
<td>TRANSPORTATION / road related</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER / stone arch bridge

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation
walls STONE
roof
other

**Narrative Description**

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

The Tusten Stone Arch Bridge, built in 1896, carries Tusten Road over the Ten Mile River near that river’s junction with the Upper Delaware River. The bridge, built in the midst of the former the nineteenth century mill hamlet of Tusten, is located approximately four miles south of Narrowsburg and some twenty miles northwest of Port Jervis. Ten Mile River was so named in reference to its approximate distance northwest by river from Halfway Brook in the vicinity of what later became Barryville. The Halfway Brook marked the midpoint along the river between the Mongaup River and Tusten. Today, the area surrounding the bridge is forested and the roads in the vicinity of the bridge remain unpaved. The lands surrounding the bridge are owned by the Boy Scouts of America and are used for camping.

The bridge spans the rocky Ten Mile River approximately 1000 feet northeast of the river’s mouth on the Delaware. The span is carried above two round arches and measures 51.5 feet in length and approximately 15 feet in width. The arches spring from exposed bedrock on the banks of the river and are constructed of irregularly shaped and mortared voussoirs averaging approximately two feet in depth. The center pier extends a short distance upstream to form an icebreaker. The spandrel and parapet walls are built of irregular but carefully fitted fieldstones, ranging in size from boulders near the foundations to small stones forming the parapets. The 20-inch parapets are dressed in 3.5-inch bluestone coping stones, ranging from 3 to 8 feet in length. One 5-foot coping stone recovered from the river in recent years and currently on display in a nearby church yard is inscribed with the builder’s name and date of construction as follows: “BUILT BY W.H. HANKINS & CO. 1896.” The bridge also features two integral wing walls on the northwest bank. The downstream wingwall curves to the west, extending diagonally away from the abutment for 43 feet. The upstream wingwall extends northeast at right angles to the bridge for 18.33 feet. The bridge deck and approaches are surfaced in dirt and gravel. The bridge is unaltered and remains in fair condition.
### 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**

(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)

- Engineering
- Transportation
- Community Planning and Development

**Period of Significance**

1896

**Significant Dates**

1896

**Significant Persons**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Hankins, William H. and Co., Tusten, NY

**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):**

- [ ] 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
- [X] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other Name of repository:

  NPS Resource Mgmt. Office, Milanville, PA
Tusten Stone Arch Bridge
Tusten, Sullivan Co., New York

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tusten Stone Arch Bridge, built in 1896, is significant under Criterion C as a rare and intact example of traditional stone arch bridge construction within the context of Upper Delaware River Transportation Resources. Utilizing native bluestone from the active quarries of the river valley and the availability of skilled resident stone masons, local towns built a number of gracefully designed and finely crafted stone arch bridges between 1850 and 1910. This period was associated with an era of prosperity supported by the Erie Railroad and an influx of German and Swiss immigrants to the region, bringing, it is believed, a rich tradition of stone masonry craftsmanship to the area. The Tusten Stone Arch Bridge is one of only two surviving stone arch bridges remaining in the 74-mile long Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor. The bridge is also significant under Criterion A in the area of community planning and development as an important component of Tusten's infrastructure connecting the former milling community's northern and southern halves. The Tusten Bridge is one of only two extant and unaltered built resources surviving at the site of the hamlet. It continues in its original use as a vehicular bridge and retains a high degree of integrity. The bridge thus satisfies the registration requirements for properties in the transportation resources category of the multiple resources nomination.

In the 1750s, when Connecticut emigres associated with the Delaware Company settled in the river valley, several families built cabins and a sawmill at the place where the Ten Mile River meets the Delaware. It is believed that all 22 people who lived here were killed during an Indian raid in 1764. From then until after the Revolutionary War, the site remained deserted. Following the Revolution, however, new settlers drifted into the river valley. Those who took up residence at the mouth of the Ten Mile River gave the place the name, Tusten. The name was chosen in tribute to Dr. Benjamin Tusten, an American militia volunteer and physician, who was killed as he ministered to the wounded at the Battle of Minisink on July 22, 1779 less than ten miles to the south of this settlement.

As early as 1838, enough of a community had been rebuilt to warrant the establishment of a post office. The post office was an intermittent arrangement, with residents crossing the river to Mast Hope, Pennsylvania, to pick up their mail during the off years. Post offices at this same general location were known by different names with each reincarnation: Ten Mile River, 1838-1842; Delaware Bridge, 1849-1863; Tusten, 1884-1913. Each represented a different era in the community's history: Ten Mile River - establishment of a permanent, growing settlement; Delaware Bridge - the coming of the Erie Railroad, with its #9 bridge crossing the Delaware here; Tusten - the last years of a viable community.

In its glory days, "Ten Mile River Village" (as it was labeled in an 1875 atlas) boasted a sawmill, a gristmill, a store, a church, a schoolhouse, a cable ferry across the Delaware River to Mast Hope, and a number of homes. During this period, the Hankins family name was associated with virtually every public office and business in the community. William H. ("Uncle Billy") Hankins, a timber raftsman, stone mason, and sometime postmaster, was the man who built the stone arch bridge. At the time, his William H. Hankins & Company was working three or four quarries, employing as many as 30 men as quarrymen, stone cutters, teamsters, and laborers.

The stone arch bridge designed and built by Hankins was placed at the heart of Tusten, adjacent to a mill situated on the west bank of the Ten Mile River where it probably replaced a less permanent timber structure. Two arches were employed in order fully span the width of the river at this point without needlessly elevating the road deck or its approaches. The arches are formed with irregular, but carefully fitted and mortared stone voussoirs. The parapets of the bridge form a slight crown above the center pier, giving the bridge a particularly graceful appearance.

As the twentieth century began, Tusten, like other communities in the Upper Delaware Valley, evolved from a reliance on fading extractive industries to income brought through tourism, generated from the New York metropolitan area by the Erie Railroad. By 1906, Uncle Billy Hankins was the proprietor of a boarding house, which could accommodate eight guests at $7.00 a week, with extras including boats for rent (50 cents) and guides ($2 a day). With the advent of the automobile, summer travelers stopped using the railroad for their trips to the country.

A final effort to resuscitate Tusten's fortunes was manifested with the announcement of Minisink Company in 1911. The company laid out new roads, mapped 325 new building lots, and touted plans for country homes and renewed mining. However, by the 1920s, the company dissolved and most of Tusten's mills and houses were gradually abandoned. In 1927, the Boy Scouts' New York City organization purchased nearly 16,000 acres of land, including much of what had once been Tusten settlement, to be used for summer camping. Beginning in the summer of 1928, trains bringing scouts from New York would make a special stop at the end of the railroad's
Bridge #9 to let the boys off. As many as 1,200 boys a day would leave the train, hike along Tusten Road, and cross the stone arch bridge, on the way to their camps. Through traffic bypassed the bridge after the completion of the new Route 97 state highway a short distance to the east in 1939. The bridge, however, continued to serve local traffic.

Today, throughout the Upper Delaware Valley, the Erie and its passenger service has gone the way of timber rafts, bluestone quarries, and boarding houses. Boy Scouts still come to the Ten Mile River camps, but now they arrive by car and bus, using the stone arch bridge when they are on a hike. All that remains of the once prosperous Tusten settlement is the Ten Mile River Baptist Church (National Register, 1997) on NY 97, the remodeled "Uncle" Billy Hankins house fronting upon the Delaware River, and the remarkably unaltered Tusten Stone Arch Bridge. Although the surrounding hamlet has largely vanished, the bridge commemorates its existence at one of the most scenic places in the river corridor.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  less than one acre

UTM References
(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>4600277</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Easting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Zone</td>
<td>Easting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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  Mary E. Curtis, Historian, edited by Mark Peckham, NYSHPO
organization  National Park Service  date  March 2000
street & number  RR 2 Box 2428  telephone  570-729-7842
city or town  Beach Lake  state  PA  zip code  18405

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/title  Town of Tusten
street & number  Bridge St.  telephone

Additional Burden Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is described by a rectangle measuring 125 feet in length and 75 feet in width centered over the bridge as illustrated in the attached sketch map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary of the nominated property encompasses the historic bridge, its immediate approaches, its two wing walls, and its immediate setting.
Tusten Stone Arch Bridge  
Tusten, Sullivan Co., New York

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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PHOTOGRAPHS


TUSTEN STONE ARCH BRIDGE
TUSTEN, NARROWSBURG VIC.
SULLIVAN CO., NEW YORK

SKETCH SITE PLAN (NOT TO SCALE)
NATIONAL REGISTER BDY:
REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Tusten Stone Arch Bridge

MULTIPLE NAME: Upper Delaware Valley, New York and Pennsylvania, MPS

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Sullivan

DATE RECEIVED: 6/27/00
DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/07/00
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: 

REFERENCE NUMBER: 00000839

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 7/27/00 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER DISCIPLINE

TELEPHONE DATE

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
Tusten Stone Arch Bridge
Tusten, Sullivan Co., New York
Photo No. 1
Tusten Stone Arch Bridge, Sullivan Co., N.Y. Photo No. 3

Tusten Stone Arch Bridge
Sullivan County, New York
Mary Curtis
3/2000
National Park Service
#1 Northeast

#3