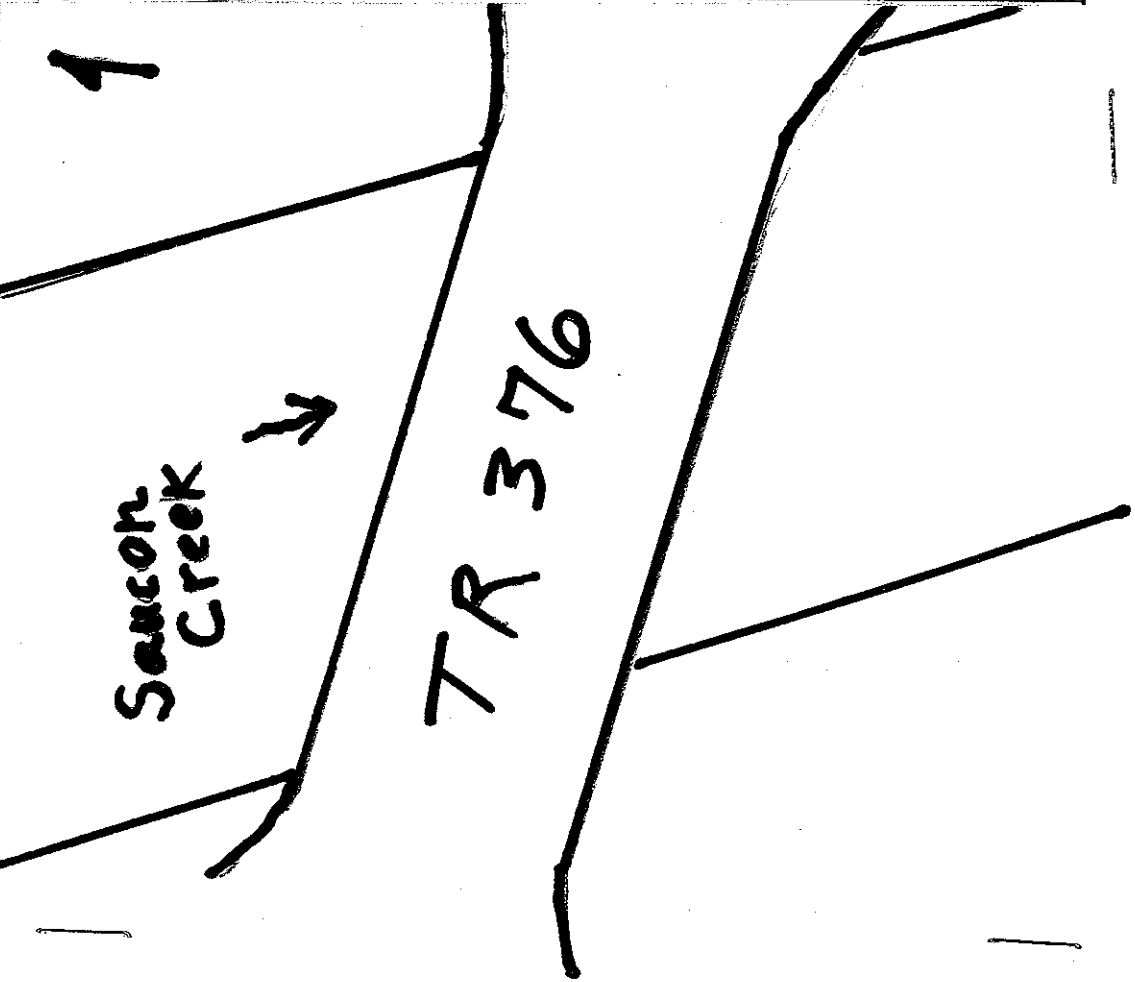


PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - PHOTO/SITE PLAN SHEET
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Survey Code/Tax Parcel/Other No.: 48721003769015
Municipality: Lower Saucon Township N/A
Historic Name/Other Name: N/A
County: Northampton
Address: Meadows Road

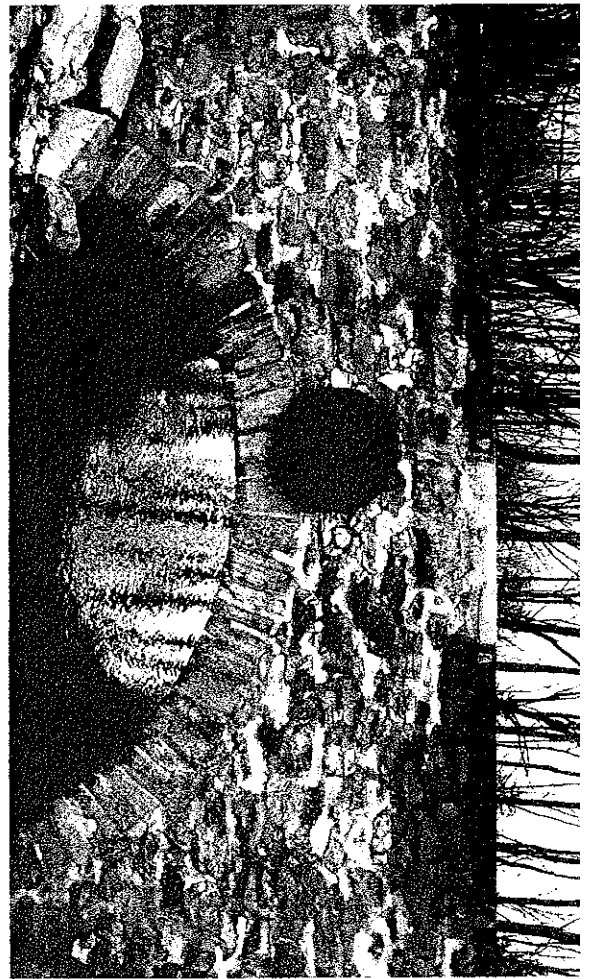
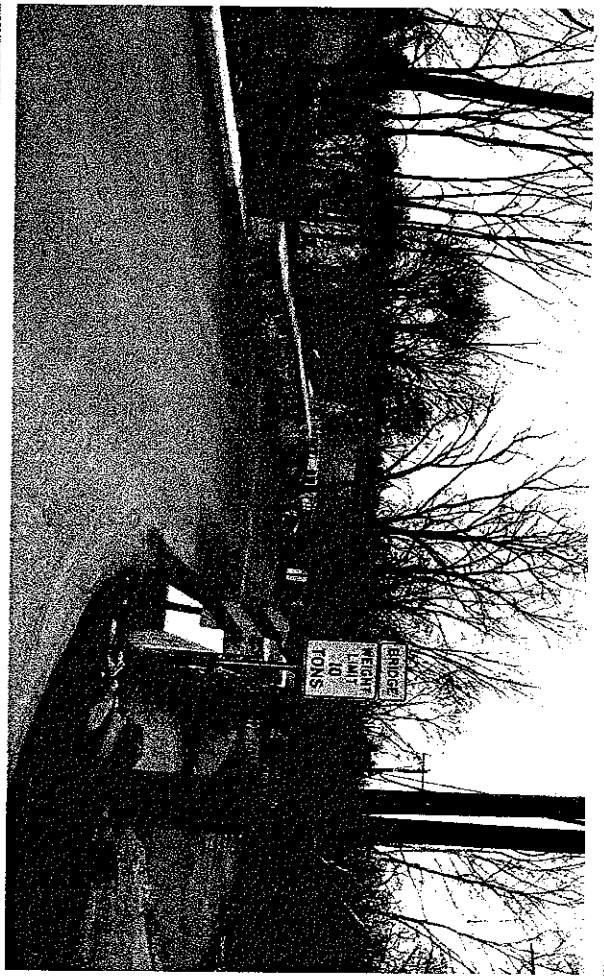
PHOTO INFORMATION

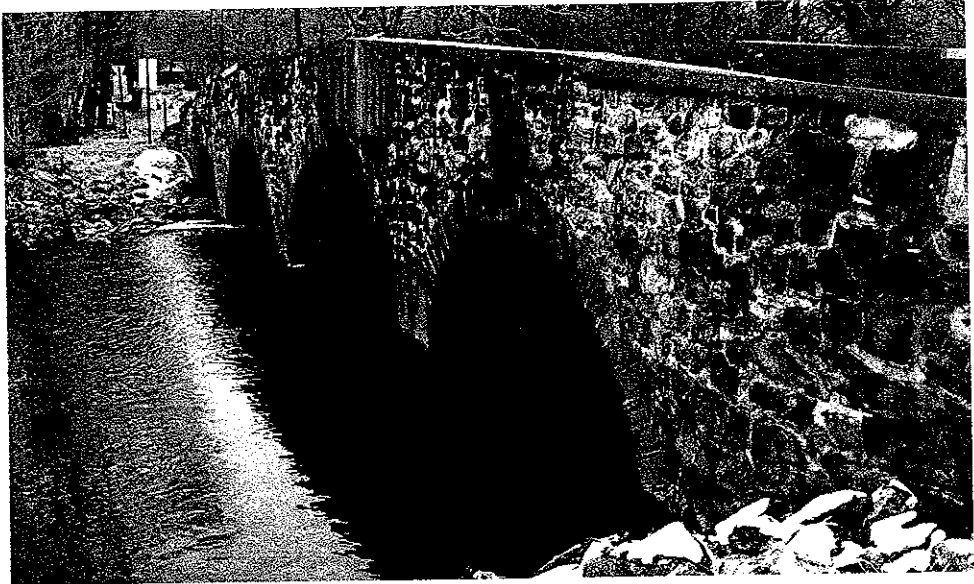
Attach Photo Here



Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	length of east side of bridge	west
2	parapets rebuilt in concrete	east
3	west side of bridge with banks of creek	east
4	south side of bridge, concrete capstones	north
5	entrance to north side of bridge	south
6	tie rod on east side of bridge	west

Photographer Name: Karen Samuels Date: 3/1/07
Negative Location: Karen Samuels, 1545 Saucon Valley Road
Bethlehem, PA 18015





PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC BRIDGE SURVEY FORM - DATA SHEET

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission,
Bureau for Historic Preservation

96BBR

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Survey Code: 48721003769015 Tax Parcel/Other No.: **County Bridge #15**

County: 1. Northampton 095
Municipality: 1. Lower Saucon Township

Street/Road: **Meadows Road**

Crossing Over: **Saucon Creek**

Historic Name: **N/A**

Other Name:

Owner Name/Address: **Northampton County, Department of Public Works, 669
Washington Street, Easton, PA 18042**

Owner Category: Private X Public-local-county Public-local-municipal
Public-state Public-federal

USGS Quad: 1. Hellertown 2.

UTM References: A.
B.

HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Historic Function Category: Subcategory: Code:
A. transportation road related 16D
B. _____

Current Function Category: Subcategory: Code:
A. transportation road related 16D
B. _____

Particular Type: bridge

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: A. no style 01
B. _____ Other: _____

of Spans 4 Overall Length 120' Predominant Material: ashlar fieldstone,
rubble coursed fieldstone

of Main Spans 4
Main Span

Materials: 1. ashlar fieldstone 2. rubble coursed fieldstone Length:

15', 21', 21', 15' Span Type: **closed spandrel**
Design Type: **deck** Structural Feature: 1. ___ 2. ___

Secondary Span 1

Materials: 1. ___ 2. ___ Length: ___ Span Type: ___
Design Type: ___ Structural Feature: ___

Secondary Span 2

Materials: 1. ___ 2. ___ Length: ___ Span Type: ___
Design Type: ___ Structural Feature: ___

Secondary Span 3

Materials: 1. ___ 2. ___ Length: ___ Span Type: ___
Design Type: ___ Structural Feature: ___

Substructure

Materials: 1. **ashlar fieldstone** 2. **rubble fieldstone** Structural Feature ___
Configuration ___

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: **1858** Additions/Alterations Dates: none
Basis for Dating: Documentary ___ Physical **X**
Explain: **plaque on bridge**

Associated Individuals: 1. _____ 2. _____
Associated Events: 1. _____ 2. _____
Architects/Engineers: 1. _____ 2. _____
Builders: 1. _____ 2. _____

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beers, D.G.. Atlas of Northampton County Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: A. Pomeroy and Company, 1874.
Fritts, Peter. History of Northampton County. 1. Philadelphia: Peter Fritts, 1877.
"Mining, Quarrying and Kindred and Dependent Industries of North America." The Mine, Quarry and Metallurgical Record. 1897.

PREVIOUS SURVEY, DETERMINATIONS

EVALUATION (Survey Director/Consultants Only)

Individual NR Potential: ___ Yes ___ No Context(s): _____
Contributes to Potential District ___ Yes ___ No District Name/Status: _____
Explain:

SURVEYOR INFORMATION

Surveyor Name/Title:

Date:
Project Name:
Organization:
Telephone:
Street and No.:
City, State:
Zip Code:
Additional Survey Documentation:
Associated Survey Codes:

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL BRIDGE SURVEY FORM - NARRATIVE SHEET 96CBR
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic
Preservation

Survey Code: 48721003769015 Tax Parcel/Other No.: County Bridge #15

County: **Northampton**
Municipality: **Lower Saucon Township**

Address: **Meadows Road, SR 7210**

Historic/Other Name: **N/A**

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Meadows Road Bridge (TR 376) is a stone closed spandrel arch bridge, built in 1858, which spans the Saucon Creek. It is a 4-span, 102'-long bridge laid up in rubble coursed fieldstone and matched ring stones. It is a camelback type bridge as both ends slope upward. Nearby are a 178 year old former Moyer's mill and miller's house along with Johannes Wagner's 167 year old barn. Moyer's mill, Wagner's farm and Heller's limestone quarry were in full operation when the bridge was built in 1858.

Northampton County's most recent inspection (November 2005) of the bridge required the repair of a separated ring arch. Sections of the parapets have been rebuilt in concrete, not stone. The roadway faces of the parapets are coated with concrete, and the cap stones are concrete. There are three tie rods through the spandrel walls giving additional lateral support to the bridge. The bridge has been repaired several times by Northampton County Public Works.

The bridge requires regular inspections and is being threatened by the heavier quantity of traffic as well periodic flooding of the Saucon Creek.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

The Meadows Road Bridge (TR 376), built in 1858, spans the Saucon Creek. It is one of only two examples of a four span stone arch bridge, built between 1826 and 1921, that exist today in Northampton County. This technology predates the covered bridge. Early stone arch bridges represented the only technology available to the early settlers for longer and permanent spans prior to the introduction of metal truss bridge technology.

By authorizing a sum of \$899.47 in 1857 for the construction of the Meadows Road Bridge the Northampton County Commissioners recognized the need of the local farmers to transport their grain to the Levi S. Moyer grist mill. Northampton County tax records for 1860 show Levi S. Moyer to be the wealthy owner of this grist mill. The handsome stone mill was built in 1829, continued operation as a mill for 110 years and still stands today. Farmers utilized the King's Highway (known as PA Rt. 412 today and was the original "walking purchase trail") then crossed the Saucon Creek over the bridge and traveled another 300 yards to the mill. Also operating in the immediate area, when the bridge was built, was the Stevers Mine. It was an open pit limestone quarry mined by J.D. Heller. Dr. Heller used horse and cart to transport the limestone to the local farmers.

Today the bridge is the oldest bridge in Lower Saucon Township and one of the oldest stone bridges in Northampton County. By the 1860's Northampton County switch to building primarily iron span bridges. The bridge is currently 9th in line for planned replacement by Northampton County. Back in 1976, when the county announced plans to replace the bridge, several local citizen groups wrote letters requesting that the bridge be saved. At that time, the county withdrew its plans for replacement.

The Meadows Road Bridge has been the focus of many local artists over the years, such as Fred Bees, Walter E. Baum and early 1900 post cards.

