**Survey Code/Tax Parcel/Other No.:** 48721003769015

**Municipality:** Lower Saucon Township  
**Address:** Meadows Road

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

---

**Saucon Creek**

**TR 376**

---

**PHOTO INFORMATION**

**Attach Photo Here**

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description of View</th>
<th>Direction of Camera</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>length of east side of bridge</td>
<td>west</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>parapets rebuilt in concrete</td>
<td>east</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>west side of bridge with banks of creek</td>
<td>east</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>south side of bridge, concrete capstones</td>
<td>north</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>entrance to north side of bridge</td>
<td>south</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>tie rod on east side of bridge</td>
<td>west</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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**
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: 
- [X] Public-local-county
- [ ] Public-local-municipal
- [ ] Public-state
- [ ] Public-federal

USGS Quad: 1. **Hellertown**

UTM References: 
- A.
- B.

**HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Historic Function Category:</th>
<th>Subcategory:</th>
<th>Code:</th>
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<td>A. <strong>transportation</strong></td>
<td>road related</td>
<td>16D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<th>Subcategory:</th>
<th>Code:</th>
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<td>road related</td>
<td>16D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Particular Type: **bridge**

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Architectural Classification: A. **no style**
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

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 course 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.