

Sixth Congressional District - Honorable Gus Yatron

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

q UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Pennsylvania

COUNTY:
Berks

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 1 1973



1. NAME

COMMON:
Askew Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Skew Bridge, "The Whiskey Bridge"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North 6th Street, near Woodward

CITY OR TOWN:
Reading

STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42 COUNTY: Berks CODE: 011

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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:
Reading Railroad Company

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Reading STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Berks County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
6th and Court Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Reading STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania

COUNTY: Berks

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ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 1 1973

DATE:

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 Askew Bridge was designed by Richard Osborne in 1856. The bridge carries double tracks of the Pennsylvania and Reading Railroad over North 6th Street to the railway terminal. Completed in 1857, the bridge was constructed of local brownstone. The main arch which spans the street is forty feet across. A smaller arch on each side of the main arch spans the sidewalk. Each course of the arch is laid in an elliptical curve which follows the oblique angle that the railroad tracks make with the street. Because of the elliptical course in which the blocks are laid, there is no keystone.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1857

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Askew Bridge is regarded as the best example of a skew bridge in the United States. The bridge which derived its name from the skew arches used in its construction was also called the (Soap and Whiskey Bridge) Richard Osborne, the designer, used a soap model of the bridge in its construction. The whiskey appellation is derived from the large amounts of whiskey which were given to the Irish workers as part of their salary. The bridge is in excellent repair and is still in use by the Reading Railroad.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Federal Writer's Project, Pennsylvania, A Guide to the Keystone State. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1940.

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	40°	20'	33"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	75°	55'	30"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Pennsylvania Register of Historical Sites & Landmarks

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Comm. DATE: 5/72

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

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: William J. Weaver
State Liaison Officer
Title: Deputy Executive Director
Pa. Historical & Museum Comm.
Date: 6/12/72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 3/1/73

ATTEST:
W. M. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 2-27-73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

18-42 1340/1466/100
JIN 1007
2-1-73

PROPERTY

Askew Bridge

STATE

Penna.

73001590

Working number

7.18.72.1104

TECH REVIEW

Photos 2

Maps 1

Berks Co.

5/8/73 Berks Co.

REVIEW

OK

9/11/72

HISTORIAN

OK

2-22-73

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

CHECKED WITH HAER THEY SAY OK.

OK KH 2/14/73

BRANCH CHIEF

OK [Signature] 2/26/73

EDITORIAL REVIEW

KEEPER

National Register write-up _____

Acknowledge *7.18.72*

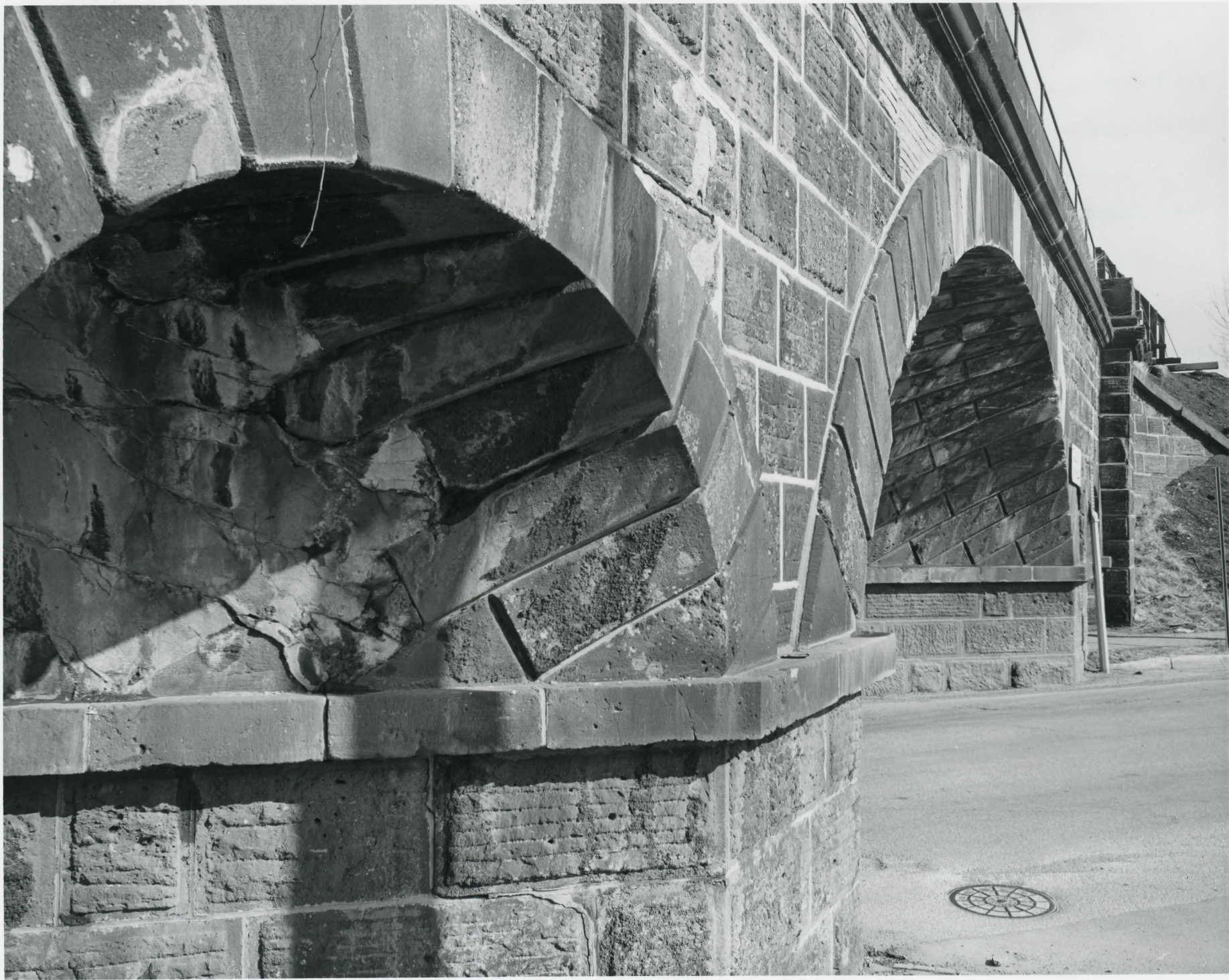
Federal Register entry *4-3-73*

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Register no. *MAR 1 1973*

Hon. Gus Yatron



NPS Number 3/1/73

Title: Askew Bridge

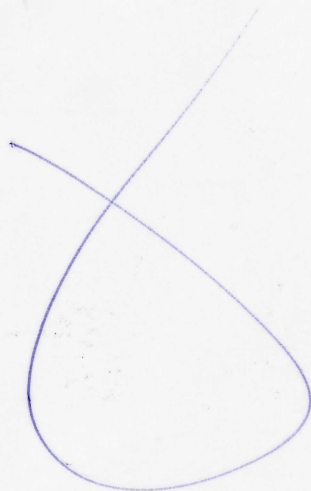
Loc. Berks, Penn.

Elliptical course of sidewalks

Arch

①

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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)

STATE

Pennsylvania

COUNTY

Berks

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

MAR 1 1973

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Askew Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC: Skew Bridge, Soap and whiskey Bridge

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STREET AND NUMBER:

North 6th Street, near Woodward

CITY OR TOWN:

Reading

STATE:

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY:

Berks

CODE

011

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Reading Eagle

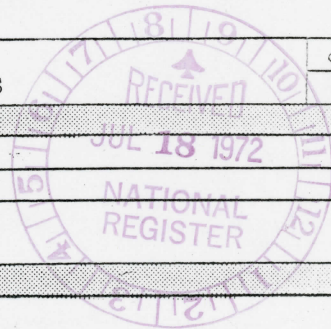
DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1972

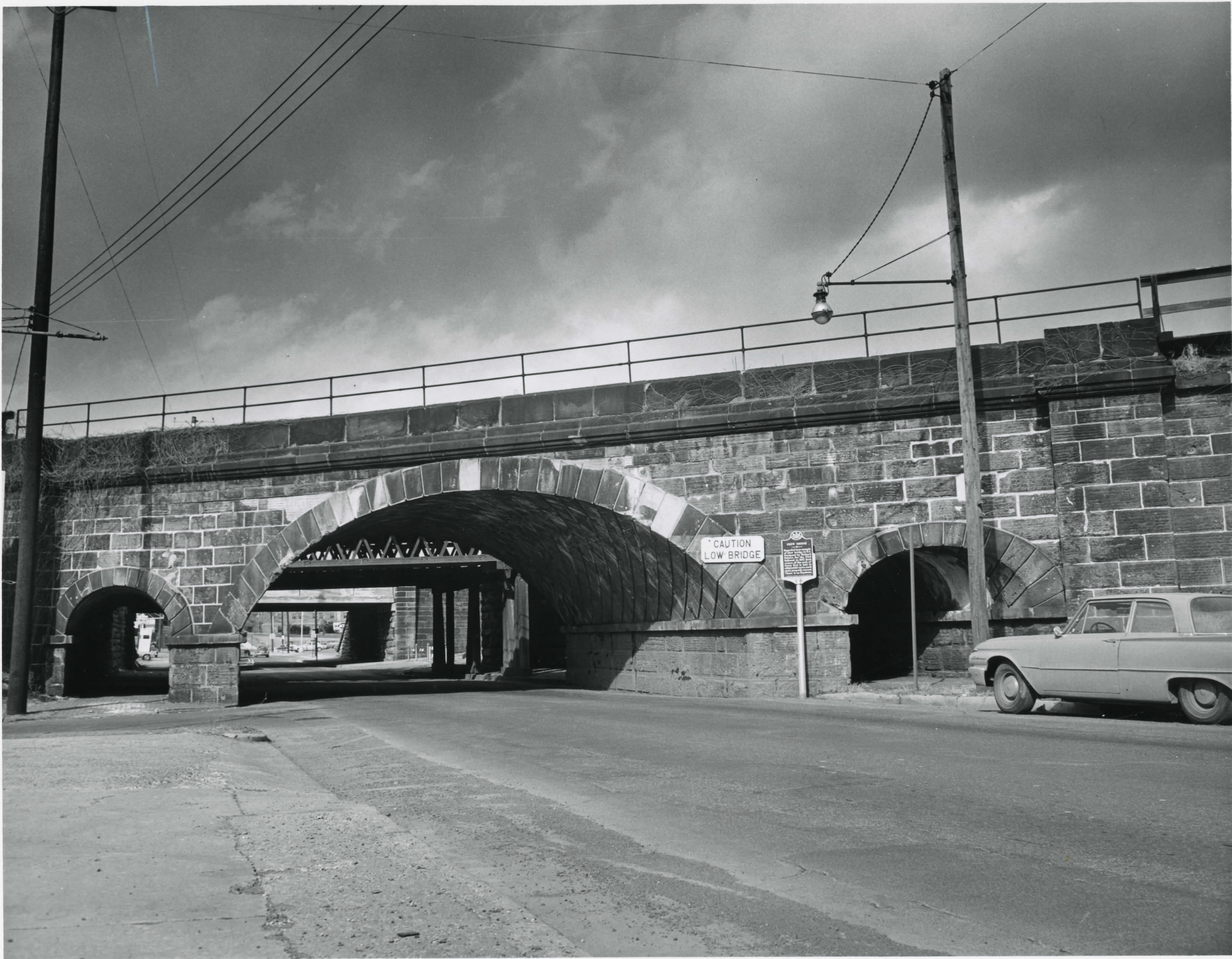
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Photo Dept. Reading Eagle
Reading Pa. 19603

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Elliptical course of sidewalk arch





CAUTION
LOW BRIDGE

Historical marker text, partially illegible.

NPS Number 3/1/73

Title: Astew Bridge

Loc. Beaks Penn.

South face of bridge

②

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

← 8^{3/4} →

W. A. ROMANSKI
MAR 10 1972

5

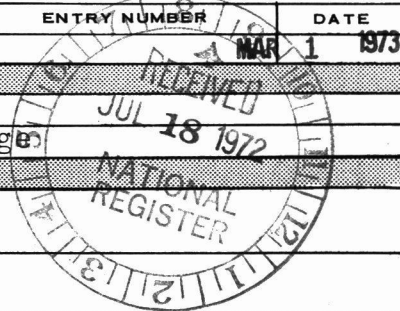
Form 10-301
(July 1969)

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)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Berks	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 1 1973



1. NAME

COMMON: Askew Bridge
AND/OR HISTORIC: Skew Bridge, Soap & Whiskey Bridge

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North 6th St. near Woodward

CITY OR TOWN:
Reading

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42	COUNTY: Berks	CODE 011
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3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U. S. Coastal & Geodetic Survey Map

SCALE: 1:24,000

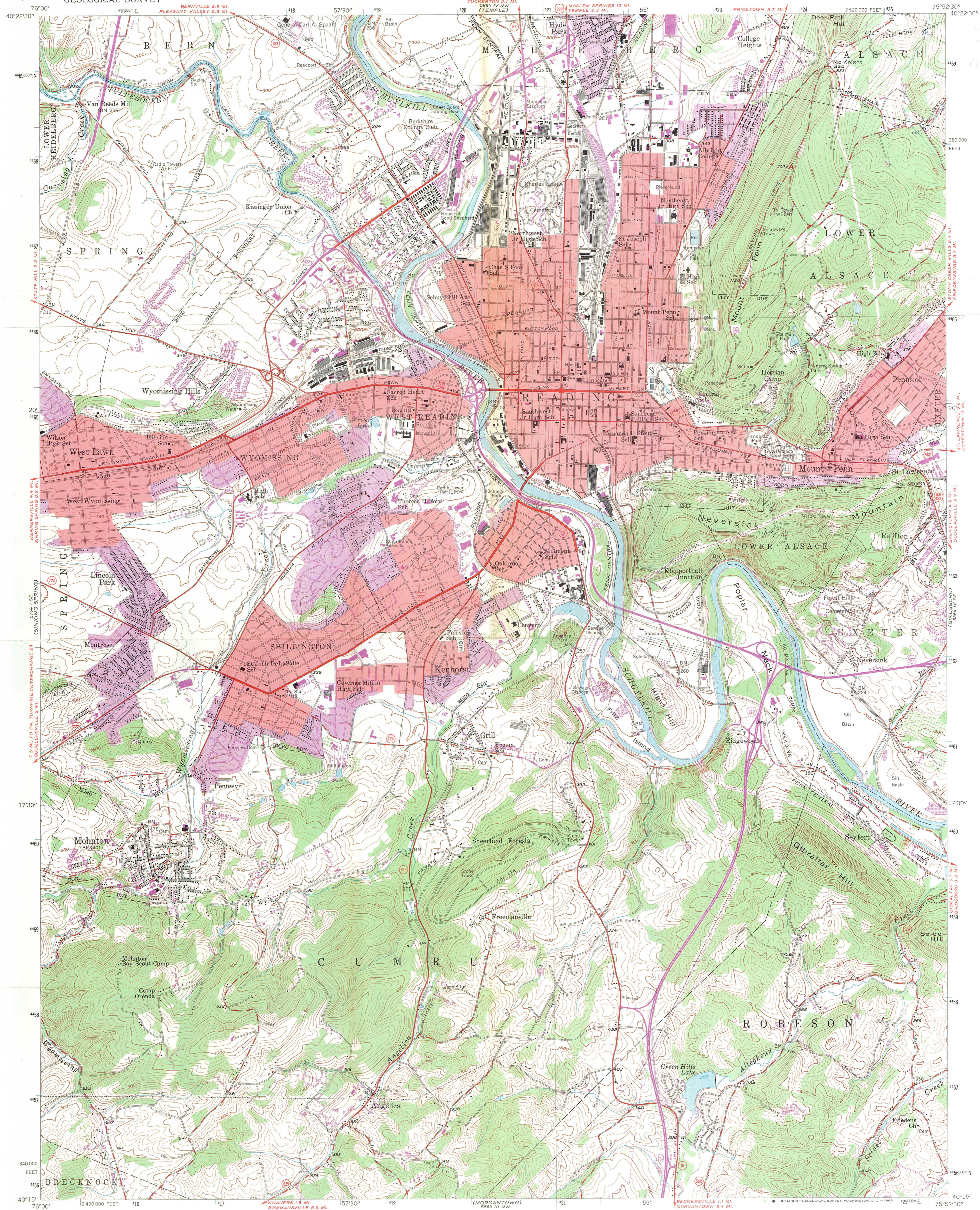
DATE: 1968

4. REQUIREMENTS

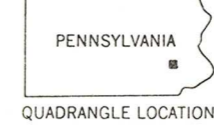
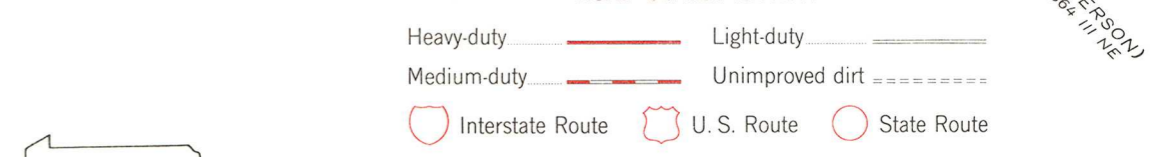
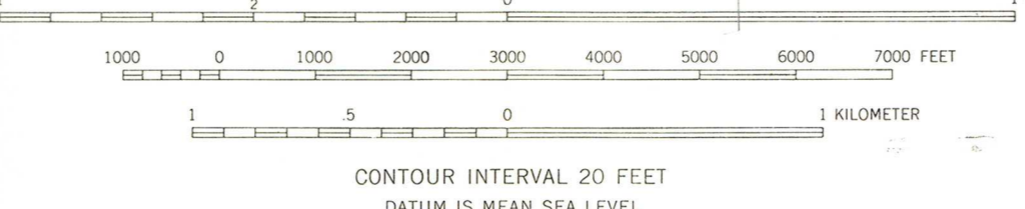
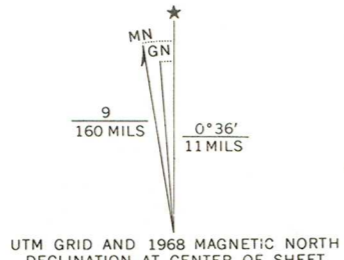
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS PH0061898

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1947. Field check 1956
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system,
south zone
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks
zone 18, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
State of Pennsylvania agencies, from aerial photographs
taken 1968. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



READING, PA.
N4015-W7552.5/7.5
1956
PHOTOREVISED 1968
AMS 5864 IV SW—SERIES V831

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

5864
(FLEET)

40°20'33" 75°55'30"

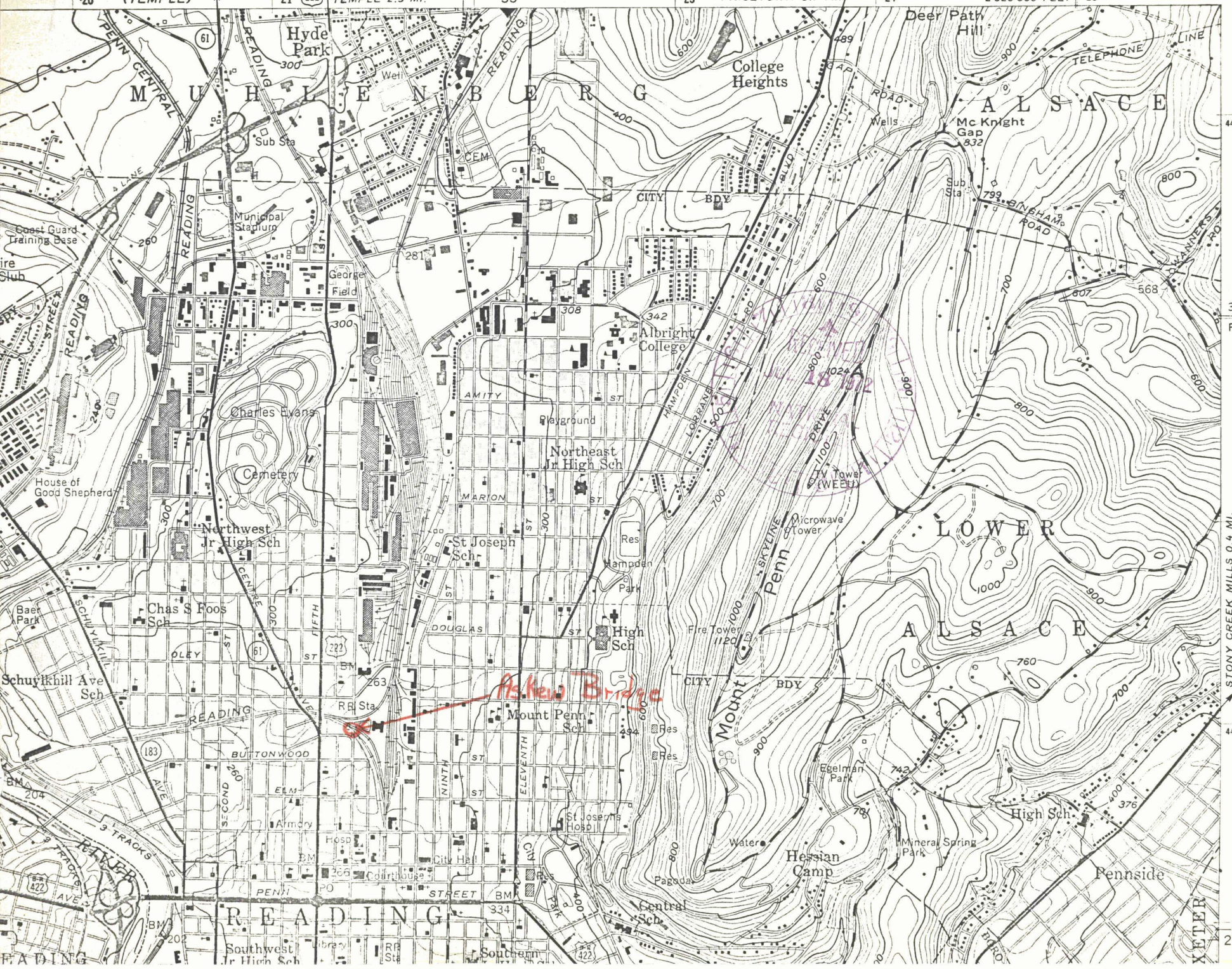
LEESPORT (LEESPORT P.O.) 5.9 MI.
TUCKERTON 2.1 MI.
5864 IV NW
(TEMPLE)

222 MOSLEM SPRINGS 10 MI.
TEMPLE 2.3 MI.

23 PRICETOWN 5.7 MI.

25 2 520 000 FEET

75°52'30"
40°22'30"



Handwritten purple text: "MOUNT PENN" and "ALSACE" with a red arrow pointing to the bridge area.

Handwritten red text: "Asheville Bridge" with a red arrow pointing to the bridge structure.

380 000
FEET

STONY CREEK MILLS 0.4 MI.
FRIEDENSBURG 5.7 MI.

20' 0.6 MI.
13 MI.



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE PENNSYLVANIA

Date Entered **MAR 1 1973**

Name

Location

Askew Bridge

Reading
Berks County

Also Notified

Hon. Hugh Scott

Hon. Richard S. Schweiker

Hon. Gus Yatron

Director, Northeast Region

State Liaison Officer

Mr. William J. Wewer, Executive
Director

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum
Commission

Box 1026

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108

PHR

NRowland:mm

3/12/73