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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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JUN 28 1993

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Dauphin County Bridge #27 other names/site number: Seaman Bridge

2. Location

street & number: Deibler's Dam Road, Mahantango Creek Road N/A not for publication city, town: Mifflin Township and Lower Mahanoy Township N/A vicinity state: Pennsylvania code: PA county: Dauphin code: 043 zip code: 17017 Northumberland 097

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [ ] private, [X] public-local, [ ] public-State, [ ] public-Federal. Category of Property: [ ] building(s), [ ] district, [ ] site, [X] structure, [ ] object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing: 1, Noncontributing: 0 buildings, 0 sites, 0 structures, 0 objects, Total: 1. Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0.

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet. DR. BRENT D. GLASS [Signature] Date: 6/21/93 PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: Date: State or Federal agency and bureau:

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: [X] entered in the National Register, [ ] See continuation sheet, [ ] determined eligible for the National Register, [ ] determined not eligible for the National Register, [ ] removed from the National Register, [ ] other (explain). entered in the National Register: [Signature] Date of Action: 8/2/93

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions) --

Transportation/ road-related:  
(vehicular)

"vacant/not in use"

Transportation/pedestrian-related

**7. Description**Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

"other" : Metal Truss Bridge

foundation : STONE

walls : N/A

roof : N/A

other : METAL/ iron

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Dauphin County Bridge #27, also known as Seaman Bridge, is a metal truss bridge spanning the Mahantango Creek between Mifflin Township, Dauphin County and Lower Mahanoy Township, Northumberland County. It was built in 1896 by the Chambersburg Bridge Company and measures 162.5 feet in length, by 15 feet 10 inches in width and 27 feet in height. The bridge consists of ten 16 foot 3 inch panels. The most outstanding feature structurally is the vertical members above the middle diagonal connections. As seen on the plan sheet, these vertical members (U3 to M3, U5 to M5, and U7 to M7) were built up with four angle sections.

The bridge is a variant of the Baltimore truss type. Baltimore truss bridges incorporate the use of sub-struts in the panels, for use as either tension members or compression members, compared to the common Pratt truss where these sub-struts are omitted from the design. These additional members give intermediate support to the chord supporting the floor system, while still retaining the structure's simplicity in construction. However, Dauphin County Bridge #27, has lower verticals made of two slender rods below the connection points (M3, M5, and M7). This signifies that the upper built-up, laced verticals, above these connection points, are intended for compression members and the lower verticals for tension members. This is highly unusual as compared to the Baltimore truss, which uses these lower members for compression and top members for tension.

All top chord members, (diagonals U1, L2, U9, L8, and verticals U4, L4, U6, L6) were built-up members of two angle sections. The floor consists of metal "I" beams which have wooden inserts on both sides running the full length. It has wooden stringers and a timber plank deck. Also, the bottom lateral bracing is made of eye bars which are connected to these metal "I" beams with pins. The abutments with wing walls are stone and measure 20 feet 6 inches in length, by 9 feet 9 inches in height, and 20 feet 10 inches in width. Another unusual feature of the Seaman Bridge is the existence of roller plates in the abutments, which were used for expansion and contraction. In recent years these rollers were cemented in place and the two lower chords are seen to be bowing, due to the change in weather. These lower

 See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dauphin County Bridge #27

Section number 7 Page 1

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chord members are divided in five sections and are connected with pins. When the weather is extremely hot, you can see these chord members bowing outward or sometimes inward. No damage has been done to these chord members because of this bowing action but they were not originally intended for expansion and contraction like the roller plates were.

Not only does the Seaman Bridge have these unusual features, but it also was one bridge to survive the 1972 flood without damage. Later this bridge was closed down in 1978 but after receiving petitions, it was later reopened for a five year period. In 1983 the bridge was closed to vehicular traffic permanently. Pedestrians crossed this span until March 1992. Due to the condition this bridge is in now, liability was a main factor in closing it for any transportation. Currently, there are large holes in the timber planks and one of the wooden stringers have weakened because of the weather. There are very few problems with the metal framework of this bridge. However, there are some places where rust is showing and the paint is chipping off.

Presently, the bridge is closed and restricted to both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. This one lane span is in very good condition for it's age but does need rehabilitation.

Over the years, no major alterations have been made to this bridge except to the roller plates in the abutments and the replacement of wood.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Enginnering  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1896  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1896  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Chambersburg Bridge Company  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Built in 1896 by the Chambersburg Bridge Company, Dauphin County Bridge #27 is an excellent example of a late nineteenth century metal truss bridge. The length of span (162.5 feet) and the unusual truss design (a variation of the Baltimore truss) make it a particularly noteworthy example of a late nineteenth century truss bridge.

The nominated bridge varies from typical Baltimore truss design. In the case of Dauphin County Bridge #27, the upper vertical laced members are used for compression and the bottom vertical members for tension. With a Baltimore truss these features are reversed. A Baltimore truss uses upper vertical members for tension and lower vertical members for compression. So Dauphin County Bridge #27 is significant for this feature.

The 1988 thematic National Register nomination of Highway Bridges Owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania includes only three examples of the Baltimore Truss type: Walnut Street Bridge, Harrisburg, Dauphin Co. (1890); Bridge in Cumberland Township, Adams Co. (1894); and the Bridge in Damascus Township, Wayne Co. (date unknown). Each of these is a standard Baltimore truss design.

Bridge #27 has been used for transportation since 1896. After surviving the 1972 flood without damage, the bridge was closed in 1978. After receiving petitions, it was reopened that year for a five year period. In 1983 the bridge was closed down to vehicular traffic permanently. Pedestrians still crossed this span until March 1992. Children crossed the bridge to catch their school bus but due to liability reasons this bridge has been barricaded and pedestrians can no longer cross this span.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Interview of Charles Rice, July, 1992

Interview of Mr. and Mrs. James Wiest, 1992

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Historic Highway Bridges In Pennsylvania, (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, 1987).

Interview with Dr. Jai Kim, Bucknell University.

See continuation sheet

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
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	8
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3	4	3	0	1	0
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4	4	9	9	6	6	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the southeast corner of the south abutment, proceeding north 183 feet to the northeast corner of the north abutment, then west 21 feet to the northwest corner of the north abutment, then 183 feet south to the southwest corner of the south abutment, and then east 21 feet to the place of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the bridge and its abutments. There are no adjoining contributing resources.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Cathy Ann weaver  
 organization \_\_\_\_\_ date July 13, 1992  
 street & number RD 1, Box 96 telephone (717) 758-3026  
 city or town Dalmatia state PA zip code 17017

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dauphin County Bridge #27

Section number 8 Page 1

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The people who live on the south side of this bridge in Dauphin County, are in a cul-de-sac area, which means that this bridge is the only means of getting out of the area in emergency situations. Now that this bridge has been closed, the people who live in this cul-de-sac area are forced to drive 2.5 miles one way to get to the other side of this bridge. If this bridge was open, they would have to drive only 200 yards to get to that same point. So this bridge is very important, not only to get out of this area faster when danger strikes, but also to provide quicker access for emergency vehicles to get into the area.

This bridge is built over the Mahantango Creek and borders Mifflin township, Dauphin County and Lower Mahanoy Township, Northumberland County. Downstream from where this bridge is located is a cement bridge, which is 1 1/2 miles away from this cul-de-sac area. Even though this cement bridge is located downstream, the people who live in this area would still be stranded without Bridge #27.

Years ago many people relied on horses and carriages for transportation over this bridge, so the bridge itself was not intended for the vehicles of today. Even though the bridge was not intended for the traffic of today it can still be rehabilitated for modern capacity.

Dauphin County Bridge #27 retains excellent historic integrity and has significant value. This bridge should be rehabilitated and preserved as a monument to the heritage of almost ninety years of service to the people in its community.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Dauphin County Bridge #27

Section number photos Page 1

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The following information applies to all photographs:

Name: Dauphin County Bridge #27  
Photographer: Cathy A. Weaver  
Location of negatives: RD 1, Box 96, Dalmatia, PA 17017  
Date: October 7, 1992

The descriptions of views follow.

1. Underneath bridge, looking south
2. Underneath bridge
3. looking southeast from north end of bridge
4. looking south from north end of bridge
5. looking west at east side of bridge
6. looking north from south bank
7. looking southeast from north bank
8. looking east at west side of bridge
9. looking east at west side of bridge
10. looking southeast at west side of bridge
11. looking northeast at west side of bridge
12. looking northeast at west side of bridge
13. looking northeast at north end of bridge.

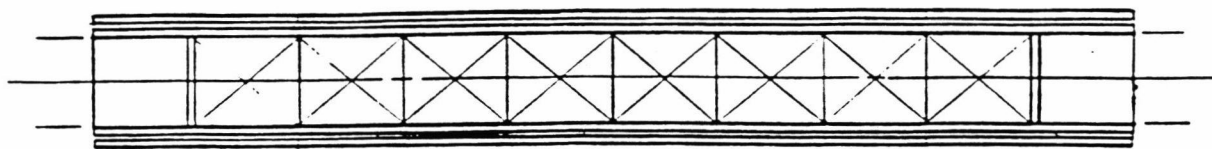
Dauphin County Bridge #27

Plan Sheet

Dauphin and Northumberland  
Counties, Mifflin and  
Lower Mahanoy Twps.



FLOW



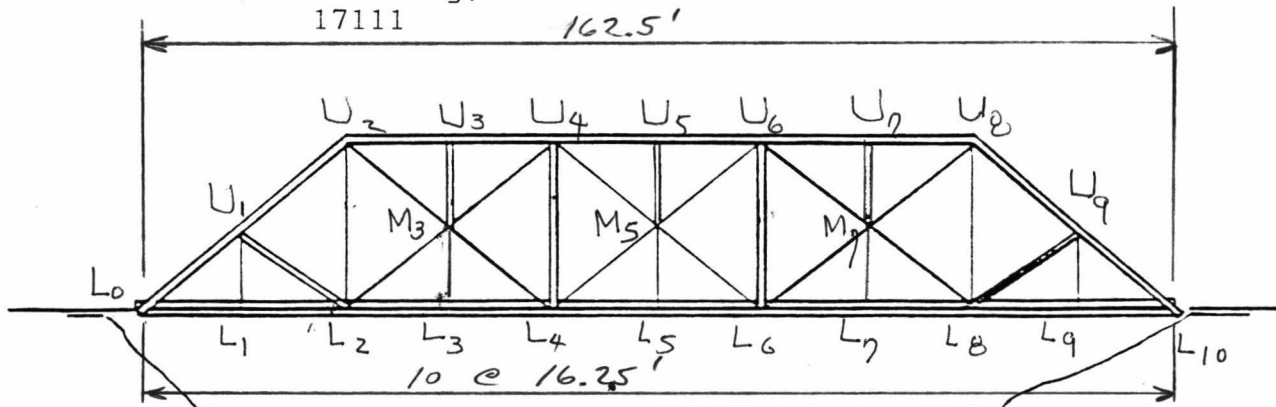
Drawn by:  
Herbert, Rowland & Grubic Inc.  
369 East Park Drive, Harrisburg, Pa.

PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 30'-0"

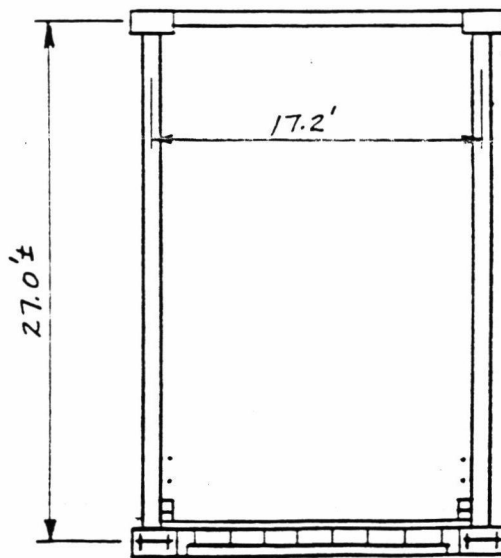
17111

162.5'



ELEVATION

SCALE: 1" = 30'-0"



CROSS SECTION

SCALE: 1" = 10'-0"

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Dauphin County Bridge No. 27

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: PENNSYLVANIA, Dauphin

DATE RECEIVED: 6/28/93      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/14/93  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/30/93      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/12/93  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 93000720

NOMINATOR: STATE

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    8/2/93 DATE

Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

---

CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

---

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

historic       current

---

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

---

SIGNIFICANCE

Period      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph  
 completeness  
 clarity  
 applicable criteria  
 justification of areas checked  
 relating significance to the resource  
 context  
 relationship of integrity to significance  
 justification of exception  
 other

---

BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps     USGS maps     photographs     presentation

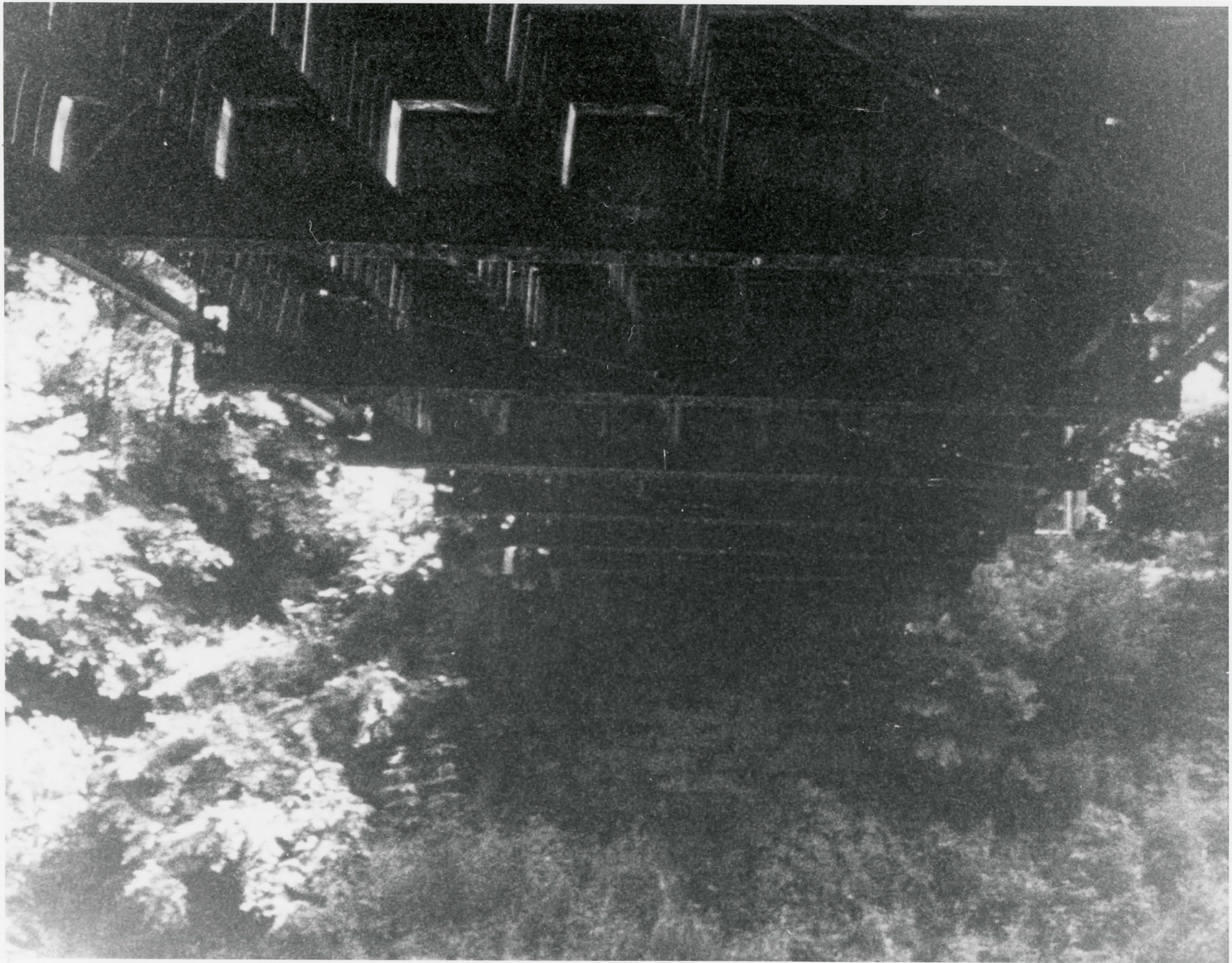
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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



#1

Dauphin County Bridge #27  
Mifflin township (Dauphin County)

Cathy Weaver

10-17-92

RD#1 Box 96 Dalmatia, Pa. 17017

\* Underneath structure, Looking South  
from North.

W



#2

Dauphin County Bridge #27  
M. Llin Township (Dauphin County)  
Cathy Weaver  
10-7-92  
RD#1 Box 96 Dalmatia, Pa. 17017  
\* Underneath structure



#3

Dauphin County Bridge #27  
Mifflin Township (Dauphin County)

Cathy Weaver

10-7-92

RD#1 Box 96 Dalmatia, Pa. 17017

\*



#4

Dauphin County Bridge #27  
Mifflin Township (Dauphin County)  
Cathy Weaver

10-7-92

RD#1 Box 96 Dalmatia, Pa. 17017

\*



#5





#6





#7





#8





#9





#10





#11





#12

Dauphin Co. Bridge #27

Dauphin / Northumberland Co's



#13

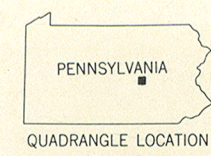
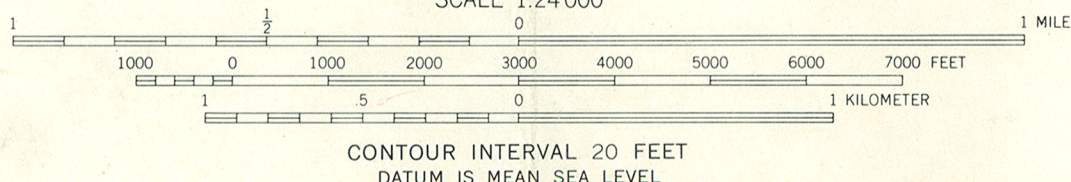
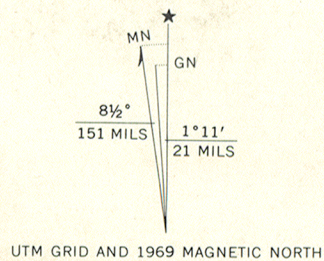
Dauphin County Bridge #27

Dauphin/Northernland Co's



*Dauphin County Bridge #127  
Dauphin/Northumberland Co.  
Zedie Rd - Pillow Road  
E 343010 N 4452660*

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1969  
Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1947  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, north and south zones  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather	U. S. Route
	State Route

PILLOW, PA.  
NE/4 MILLERSBURG 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4037.5—W7645/7.5

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

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JUN 03 1993

15TH DISTRICT  
JOHN J. SHUMAKER, SENATOR

PRESERVATION



Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

- LAW AND JUSTICE, REPUBLICAN CHAIRMAN
- CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
- EDUCATION
- JUDICIARY
- STATE GOVERNMENT

PLEASE REPLY TO:

- SENATE POST OFFICE  
THE STATE CAPITOL  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-0030
- 1800 LINGLESTOWN ROAD  
SUITE 207  
HARRISBURG, PA 17110
- 225 MARKET STREET  
MILLERSBURG, PA 17061

June 2, 1993

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JUN 28 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER

Dan Deibler, Chief  
 Division of Preservation Services  
 Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission  
 State Museum of Pennsylvania  
 Room 535  
 Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026

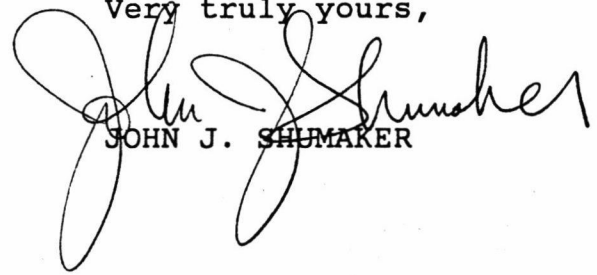
Dear Mr. Deibler:

It is my understanding that you are currently considering the Seaman Bridge (Dauphin County Bridge No. 27) as a nominee for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

I am writing to add my support to this nomination and ask for your utmost attention to this nominee. This historic 95-year old structure, crosses the Mahantango Creek between Mifflin Township, Dauphin County and Lower Mahoney Township, Northumberland County. It has great sentimental value to the residents of the upper end of Dauphin County.

It is my hope that this historic bridge receive the appropriate inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. If you have any questions regarding my comments, please contact me.

Very truly yours,



JOHN J. SHUMAKER

JJS/clk

cc: Lewis Weaver  
 Brenda Barrett, Director  
 Bureau of Historic Preservation

MERLE H. PHILLIPS, MEMBER  
HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 57  
MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-0028  
PHONE: (717) 787-3486

212 MARKET STREET  
SUNBURY, PENNSYLVANIA 17801  
PHONE: (717) 286-5885  
TOLL FREE 1-800-924-9060



COMMITTEES

REPUBLICAN CHAIRMAN  
HOUSE GAME AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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*House of Representatives*

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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JUN 04 1993

JUN 28 1993

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

June 3, 1993

HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION

Dan Deibler  
Historical Museum Commission  
535 State Museum of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Deibler:

It is my understanding that the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board is considering the Seaman's Bridge for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for this nomination.

Please give your serious consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

Merle H. Phillips  
108th Legislative District

MHP/jym



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
**Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission**  
 Bureau for Historic Preservation  
 Post Office Box 1026  
 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108-1026

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JUN 28 1993

JUN 28 1993

NATIONAL  
 REGISTER

June 17, 1993

Carol Shull, Chief of Registration  
 National Park Service  
 U.S. Department of the Interior  
 800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250  
 Washington, DC 22002

Re: NR Nomination Forms

*Carol*  
 Dear Ms. Shull:

The following National Register nomination forms are being submitted for your review and response:

Dauphin County Courthouse, Harrisburg, Dauphin County  
 Mill Rift Hall, Mill, Rift, Westfall Township, Pike County  
 D. and H. Canal Company Office, Lackawaxen, Pike County  
 Brownsville Commercial Historic and Brownsville Northside  
 Historic District, Brownsville, Fayette County  
 David Longwell House, Monongahela City, Washington County  
 Okehocking Historic District, Willistown Township, Chester  
 County  
 Dauphin County Bridge #27, Mifflin Township and Lower Mahanoy  
 Township, Dauphin and Northumberland Counties

The proposed actions is:

- listing in the National Register
- determination of eligibility (owner objection)

If you have any questions regarding the nominations please call us at (717) 783-8946.

Sincerely,

Dan G. Deibler, Chief  
 Division of Preservation  
 Services

Enclosures  
 DGD/dlc