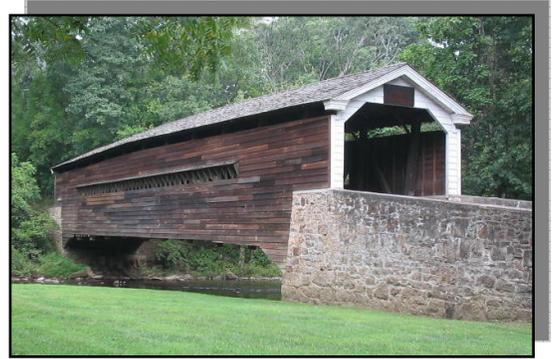


Historic Bridges

Rapps Dam Bridge

The bridge was built by Benjamin F. Hartman in 1866, with a '*Double Burr-arch truss*' design. The bridge is about 105 feet long and 14 feet wide, and is owned and maintained by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and inventoried on the National register of Historic Places. The bridge is named after George A. Rapp and his sons who operated a saw mill and gristmill just south of the bridge starting in 1878. Further south of the bridge is the Continental Powder Works. Throughout the 19th century this bridge and other covered bridges were vital to transportation and served local mills and the transportation of agriculture produce to market. Of the 85 covered bridges built in Chester County, the Rapps Dam Bridge is one of only 15 remaining.



Hares Hill Bridge

The Hares Hill Road Bridge is a single-span, tied arch, without overhead bracing, seated on masonry abutments. Its approaches are rammed fill contained by masonry wing walls. The bridge's unique wrought-iron superstructure is 103'4" in overall length with a clear span of 99'-8" measured between abutment faces at the seats.



The bridge was formerly called the Heistands Ford Bridge after the surname of the contiguous landowner at the time of construction, David Hiestand. Now it is known locally as Silver Bridge, reflecting the color of the paint used to protect against corrosion and to enhance night visibility. It was built in 1869 and is the only known surviving example of Thomas W. H. Mosely's "Wrought-Iron lattice Girder Bridge". It was one of the first iron highway bridges built in Chester County, and is the only one of its kind still in use. The bridge was placed on the national Register of Historic Places in 1978 and in 1986 was listed in Historic Highway bridges in Pennsylvania.

Kennedy Covered Bridge

Located on Seven Stars Road, north of Kimberton in East Vincent Township. The original bridge was built in 1856 utilizing the Burr Arch and Alex King and Jesse King, it was refurbished in 1979 and destroyed by fire on 1986. It was rebuilt in 1987 with a non-flammable wood from Africa called bongossi. This new bridge is a duplicate of the original and is 100 ft long and 14 ft wide and is still in use today.

