

# WEST SHORE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Old Forge Bridge

(Sheepford Road Bridge)

The West Shore Historical Society (WSHS), which is the recognized historical society for Lower Allen Township, Hampden Township, and the Boroughs of Lemoyne and Wormleysburg in Cumberland County, PA supports saving and preserving, one way or the other, this historic bridge that crosses the Yellow Breeches Creek into Fairview Township in York County.

WSHS President Don Paul Shearer, MAI, who also is a statewide recognized real estate expert as an advisor, analyst, and appraiser, has said that "not only is WSHS concerned about the historical aspects and significance of this historic bridge but also concerned about the character of the Sheepford Road neighborhood along and within close proximity to the bridge."

Shearer also expressed concern as to "what would remain of and the impact on the neighborhood if the bridge was removed and the potential adverse effects it would likely have on the character of the neighborhood and potentially even the overall market appeal and values of properties in the neighborhood."

This metal truss bridge was built in 1887, fabricated by the Phoenix Bridge Company of Phoenixville in Chester County, PA and erected by its agents, Dean and Westbrook, of New York, NY. It, along with the Green Lane Bridge which also crosses the Yellow Breeches, are the two Phoenix column bridges on the Yellow Breeches and built in 1889.

This metal truss bridge has a span of 113 feet and a full length of 114 feet with 13-foot spans and its top chords and verticals are patented Phoenix column sections with eye-bars and rods that connect the column section members. The deck width is 14 feet.

The bridge was closed to vehicular traffic on January 29, 2020 after it failed a structural test. Its floor beams, stringers, and open steel grid deck were replaced in 1975 with no change to its U-shaped hanger floor beam connections and there were no changes to its portal bracing, decorative brackets and builder plaque.

The bridge is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the Cumberland County Historical Commission will likely assist in getting the bridge registered accordingly.

Anyone interested in helping to save and preserve this historic bridge can learn more and/or contribute to the efforts of Save the Sheepford Road Bridge, [www.savesheepfordroadbridge.org](http://www.savesheepfordroadbridge.org).



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