

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

# 1. Name

historic Elm Grove Stone Arch Bridge

and/or common "Monument Place Bridge"

# 2. Location

street &amp; number U.S. Route 40 over Little Wheeling Creek not for publication

city, town Wheeling vicinity of congressional district First

state West Virginia code 54 county Ohio code 069

# 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

# 4. Owner of Property

name State of West Virginia, Dept. of Highways

street &amp; number 1900 Washington St., East

city, town Charleston vicinity of state West Virginia 25301

# 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ohio County Courthouse

street &amp; number 16th and Chapline Streets

city, town Wheeling state West Virginia 26001

# 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic American Building Survey (HABS)  
 title Historic American Engineering Record has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no  
 (HAER)

date HABS-1933, HAER-1973 ☒ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D.C. 20243

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Elm Grove Stone Arch Bridge spans Little Wheeling Creek, carrying present-day U.S. Route 40 in a northwest-southwest direction, in the community of Elm Grove, adjacent to Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia.

The Elm Grove Stone Arch Bridge or, as it is more commonly known, the "Monument Place Bridge", was constructed in 1817 by prominent Ohio Countian Moses Shepherd acting under contract from the United States government to build the Ohio County bridges that would carry the National Road. That the National Road crossed Little Wheeling Creek at this place is a part of its historic significance (see Section 8).

The bridge is a three (3) span stone arch bridge. The arches are formed in an ellipse, rather than being semicircular as was then common, in order to keep the bridge from becoming excessively high in the middle (or being "humpbacked").

The Elm Grove Stone Arch Bridge is built of uncoarsed limestone and each of the three segmental arches are delineated with smooth-surfaced, but irregular width stones. The voussiors form low round-ended piers that have coned-shaped buttresses carried into the solid masonry spandrels. This bridge is 208 feet in length, while the center arch has a 38 feet span length and the two outer arches span 25 feet in length. The Elm Grove Stone Arch Bridge well preserves early American engineering and masonry craftsmanship.

The Elm Grove Bridge is now a part of busy U.S. Route 40. The original 1817 parapets were removed in 1931 and replaced by sidewalks and concrete balustraded gaurdrails, bringing the total width of the bridge to 48 feet. The bridge was sprayed with gunite in 1953, in all probability due to questions as to its structural stability.

With the exception of these aforementioned alterations, and the asphalt paving, the historic Elm Grove Stone Arch Bridge stands as it did when completed in 1817 to carry the National Road.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates    1817                      Builder Architect    Moses Shepherd, builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Elm Grove Stone Arch Bridge, locally referred to as the "Monument Place Bridge" is significant as being the oldest extant bridge in the state of West Virginia.<sup>1</sup> The bridge is also significant as being one of only two remaining engineering structures remaining in West Virginia that are associated with the historic National Road<sup>2</sup> and for its close association with individuals of important historical significance.<sup>3</sup>

### Explanatory Notes

1. For a number of years it was thought by state and local historical organizations that the Van Metre Stone Arch Bridge in Berkeley County (entered on the National Register of Historic Places August 22, 1977) was West Virginia's oldest extant bridge, having been constructed in 1832. Information to that effect appeared in numerous newspaper accounts over the years. There is no doubt, however, that the Elm Grove Stone Arch Bridge is the state's oldest extant bridge, having been constructed in 1817 in conjunction with the National Road project. The apparent reason that the Elm Grove Bridge was overlooked for many years is that it was guited in 1958 and, thus, camouflaged, so to speak, as a concrete bridge.

2. The Elm Grove Stone Arch Bridge, constructed in 1817 by Moses Shepherd for the National Road, is one of only two engineering structures in West Virginia associated with the famed National Road. The other extant engineering structure thus associated is the Wheeling Suspension Bridge, a National Historic Landmark. Another bridge, the so-called "S Bridge" at Tridelphia, that was constructed in 1817 for the National Road, was demolished in 1934.

3. Moses Shepherd, the builder of the Elm Grove Stone Arch Bridge, was an individual of historical significance and, apparently, a man possessed of considerable influence in his day. The very existence of the Elm Grove Bridge is due entirely to Shepherd and his wife, Lydia Boggs Shepherd.

Moses Shepherd was a descendent of a number of prominent early settlers in West Virginia; including his grandfather Thomas Shepherd who founded Shepherdstown, West Virginia's first incorporated town, and his father Col. David Shepherd, commandant of Ft. Henry. Moses and Lydia Shepherd built Shepherd Hall near Wheeling in 1798 (entered on the National Register of Historic Places, December 18, 1970) and developed a large plantation which boasted a grist mill, sawmill, distillary and general store. Moses Shepherd also served as mayor of Wheeling.

It was Shepherd's growing influence, and especially his friendship with then U.S. House Speaker Henry Clay, that is said to have brought about the construction of the Elm Grove Stone Arch Bridge. Shepherd, probably through Clay's influence, received the contract to construct all bridges on the National Road between the Ohio River and the Pennsylvania state line. Due, it is said, to the insistence of Lydia Shepherd

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Elm Grove Stone Arch Bridge, Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

that the National Road pass by their home, the original design plan of the National Road, which ran along the north side of Little Wheeling Creek, was altered so that the road deviated to cross Little Wheeling Creek and then recross the stream in front of Shepherd Hall before resuming northwest to the Ohio River at Wheeling. To accomplish this, two bridges had to be constructed; one at Tridelpia (mentioned above) and the Elm Grove Stone Arch Bridge. Moses Shepherd built both these bridges in 1817 and the National Road reached Wheeling the following year. In 1820, in order to show his appreciation and to recognize his efforts in championing the National Road, Moses Shepherd commissioned an elaborate monument to Henry Clay to be erected on the grounds of Shepherd Hall. This monument was unveiled in Clay's presence that year and stood in place until recent years, giving Shepherd Hall its common name of "Monument Place"; hence, the "Monument Place Bridge" as the Elm Grove bridge is sometimes known.

During its "lifetime" the Elm Grove Stone Arch Bridge has "seen" many prominent individuals cross over it. It is known that such individuals as Clay, Daniel Webster, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, W. H. Harrison, Zackary Taylor, the Marquiss de Lafayette and others were visitors at Shepherd Hall and must have admired the graceful triple arch stone structure.

The Elm Grove Stone Arch Bridge is significant, therefore, as West Virginia's oldest existing bridge and for its close association with the great National Road and the many significant individuals in our state and national history who had a hand in its creation.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Elm Grove Stone Arch Bridge, Ohio County, West Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Jordan, Philip D., The National Road, Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis, c. 1943

Lewis, Clifford M., S.J., "Shepherd Hall", National Register of Historic Places  
Nomination, September, 1970.

Wingerter, Charles A., History of Greater Wheeling and Vicinity, 2 vols., Chicago,  
c.1912.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Correspondence from Thomas A Bryant, II, District Engineer, WV Dept. of Highways,  
May 23, 1980, August 13, 1980  
Ellifritt, Duane, "Early Engineering In the Hills", West Virginia Hillbilly,  
Richwood, WV, April 15, 1978

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Wheeling, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	7
---	---

5	2	9	1	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	4	3	2	4	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--

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

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--

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

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--

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

E 

--	--

--	--	--	--

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

F 

--	--

--	--	--	--

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

G 

--	--

--	--	--	--

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

H 

--	--

--	--	--	--

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

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The Elm Grove Bridge is located on U.S. Route 40 over Little Wheeling Creek 0.05 mile west of Junction W.Va. 88. This site being 208' from end to end of the bridge with a width of 60', being the W.Va. Dept. of Highways R/W. This area of 0.29 acre.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael J. Pauley, Historian, and W. Neil Richardson, Engineering Conservator  
Historic Preservation Unit

organization WV Dept. of Culture & History  
Science and Cultural Center

date July 10, 1981

street & number Capitol Complex

telephone 348-0240

city or town Charleston

state West Virginia

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-635), 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title SHPO

date July 10, 1981

For HCRRS use only

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

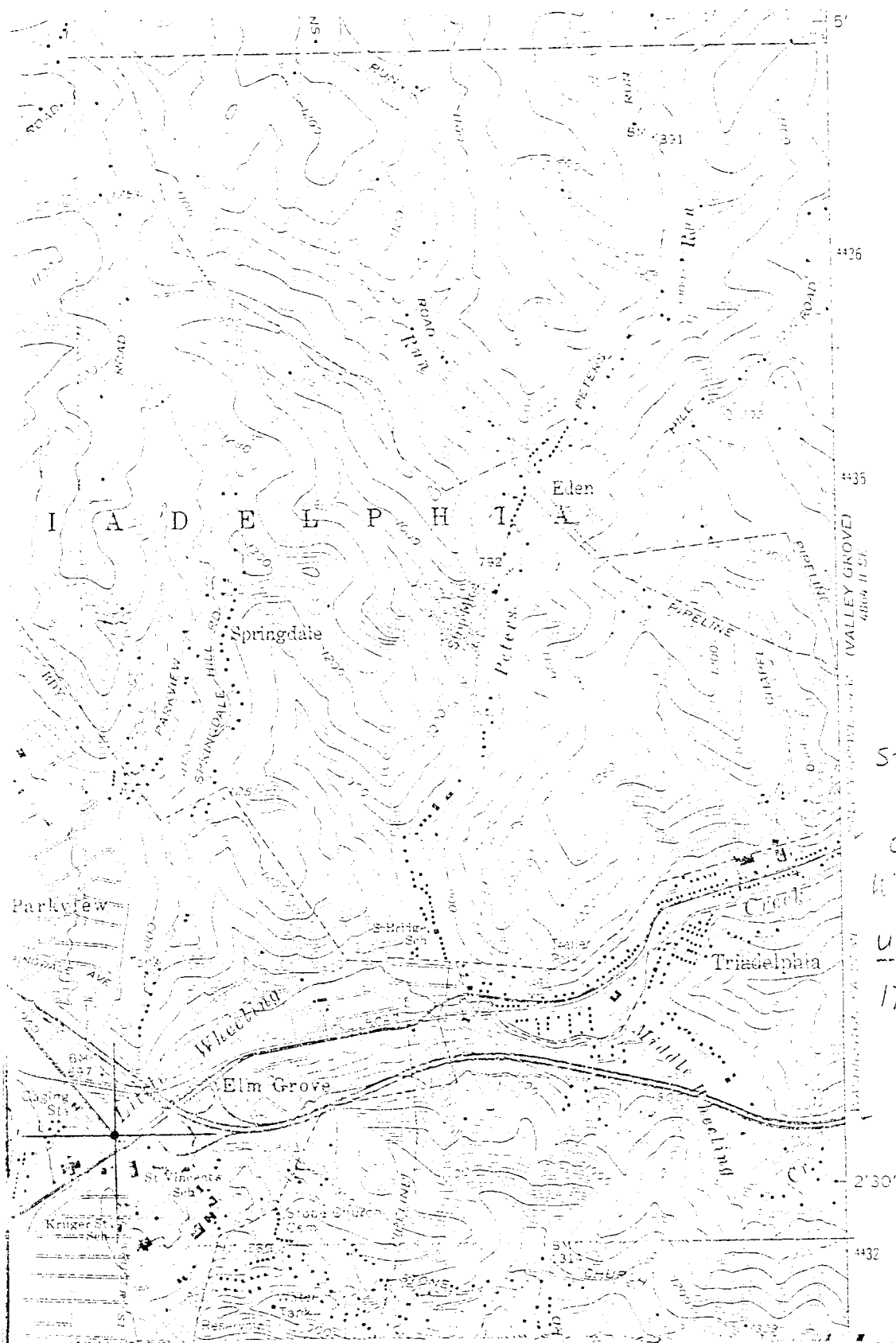
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Elm Grove  
Stone Arch Bridge  
Wheeling,  
Ohio County,  
West Virginia

UTM:

17/529110/4432447

