

The Twin Covered Bridges

A Unique Pair

At one time in Pennsylvania there were at least 1,526 covered bridges. Today only about 200 remain, which is still more than any other state in the US. The East & West Paden (Twin) Covered Bridges were originally built over Huntingdon Creek in 1884 by W.C. Pennington for \$720 and named for John Paden who operated a nearby sawmill. They are the only remaining twin bridges remaining in Pennsylvania and only one of two in the entire US.

Although they are not really "twins" they are called as such because of their close proximity to one another. Some publications give a date of construction as 1850 but research indicates the 1884 date as being more accurate. The bridges were bypassed in 1963 and have been preserved for future generations in Twin Bridges County Park in Fishing Creek Township and now serve as picnic pavilions in the park.

Bridge over Troubled Water

The bridges have had more than their fair share of assaults over the years. In 1994, heavy accumulated snow on East Paden Bridge caused a roof beam to collapse. In November 2003, a large tree collapsed onto the East Paden Bridge again and before repairs could be made a fire of suspicious origin in April 2004 caused more damage. The bridge was completely repaired in 2005. Then on June 28, 2006, heavy rains caused extensive flooding in the upper Susquehanna Valley and the ensuing floodwaters lifted the West Paden Bridge off its abutments and broke it into pieces. Construction of the new West Paden Covered Bridge using new materials was completed and rededicated in May 13, 2009.



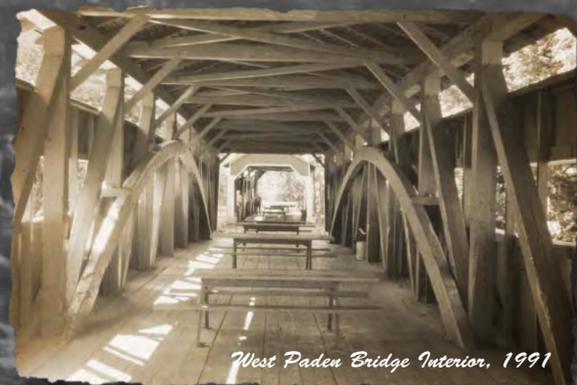
West Paden Bridge, 1961



Bridge Rededication, 1962

Construction Methods

An abundance of trees in the area provided a cheap and natural source of building material for bridges. To help the bridges last longer the original uncovered construction received a roof and became known as the Permanent Bridge. Bridges were normally constructed by local bridge builders, which is why the construction style varies throughout the state. West Paden Bridge is 100 ft. in length and spans Huntingdon Creek. It is of Burr Arch Truss construction. East Paden Bridge is 72 ft. 8 inches in length and crosses an overflow of Huntingdon Creek. It is of Queenpost type construction.



West Paden Bridge Interior, 1991



East Paden Bridge Interior, 2011

Bridge Facts

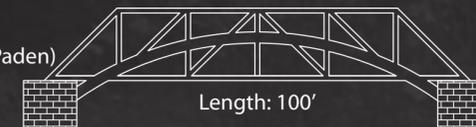
Year Built: 1884

Waterway: Huntingdon Creek

Builder: W.C. Pennington

Truss: Queenpost/Burr

Burr
(West Paden)



Length: 100'

Queenpost
(East Paden)



Length: 72'- 8"