

10. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

State Bridge Number 69

11. PHOTOS (W/ FILM ROLL & FRAME NO.) AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION

43B:28A-36A



43B:28A

Mack, Warren W. "A History of Motor Highways in Delaware", in Reed, Henry Clay, Delaware: A History of the First State, vol.2, pp.535-550 (NY: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1947).

Delaware State Program. Delaware State Highways; The Story of Roads in Delaware... [Newark, Delaware: Press of Kells, 1919].

Federal Writers' Project. Delaware: A Guide to the First State. (New York: Viking Press, 1938).

Delaware State Archives. State of Delaware, New Castle County Levy Court, Specifications, Proposals, Contract and Bond. ms., State Archives, Dover, DE.

Delaware State Archives. New Castle County Road Commissioners Papers, various years 1750-1940, ms. State Archives, Dover, Delaware.

Delaware DOT records: photo archives, contract files.

Plans on file at Delaware DOT: Contract #BNC-73

12. SOURCES

13. INVENTORIED BY:

AFFILIATION

DATE

P.A.C. Spero & Company with Kidde Consultants for Delaware DOT

April-November 1988

HABS/HAER INVENTORY

See "HABS/HAER Inventory Guidelines" before filling out this card.

1. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

State Bridge Number 69

2. LOCATION

Adams Dam Road over Waterway
Tavistock, New Castle County, Delaware

3. DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION

1934

4. USE (ORIGINAL/CURRENT)

Vehicular

5. RATING

CG

6. CONDITION

Good

State Highway Bridge 69 is a concrete girder bridge with a single span of 35'-6" (maximum). It is built on approximately a 30 degree skew. It is 40'-0" wide (at widest point) and carries two lanes of traffic. The structure consists of 16" x 24" rectangular concrete beams supported by random rubble abutments with U-shaped random rubble wing walls. The parapet is also constructed with random rubble. It consists of a center balustrade with pointed arch openings, topped with peaked coping and framed by raised end posts with pyramidal caps. The wing walls extend to parapet height. The concrete fascia has a single scored horizontal line and is shaped as a shallow segmental arch.

Delaware Department of Transportation records include drawings dated December 8, 1933 documenting the configuration and construction details of this structure. These drawings, prepared for the Levy Court by the Office of the County Engineer, indicate the scheme for placement of reinforcing steel within the concrete core of the masonry-faced bridge. Photo archive records at Delaware Department of Transportation confirm that the bridge was constructed in 1934, replacing an earlier steel pony truss bridge on rubble masonry abutments.

State Bridge Number 69 is a concrete girder bridge with stone ornamentation. Survey results indicate that this masonry ornamentation of the concrete girder bridge type was built only in New Castle County, apparently in response to the picturesque surroundings characteristic of the area and perhaps to evoke historical associations with the turnpike era of the nineteenth century, when toll roads radiating around Wilmington were carried on masonry structures. Several similarly embellished bridges were built by the Levy Court of New Castle County in the early 1930's; upon taking over responsibility for all road and bridge construction throughout the state in 1935, the State Highway Department continued the practice. Bridge Engineer A. G. Livingston of the State Highway Department was a champion of these stone-faced bridges, which were built in wooded, often parklike settings; Livingston's notes and other documents indicate his strong feeling that a structure's surroundings should influence its form, and that the stone masonry was an appropriate response to the landscape of upper New Castle County. Notes on the drawings for Bridge 543, a masonry-embellished steel girder bridge constructed in the area in 1934, provide insight into the inspiration for this treatment: "the site shows exposed rock thickly located around the entire vicinity; construction should conform as closely as possible to the surrounding country." The embellishment of Bridge 69 is similar to that of Bridge 70, constructed nearby in the same year. This bridge is an unusually embellished example of the common concrete girder bridge type.