

Bogert's Bridge - Allentown, PA



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Situated in the scenic Lehigh Parkway area of Allentown, Bogert's Bridge stands as one of the oldest covered bridges in the United States, and in fact the oldest in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Constructed in 1841 the bridge stood for 115 years before sustaining substantial damage in 1956 from a truck accident. The local community rallied in support of the historic structure, and it was then repaired to its present state of condition. Spanning 145 feet across the Little Lehigh River, the bridge is constructed with Burr trusses that form two continuous arches on either side of the 15' width. The sides are finished with vertical plank siding, which is painted red - the color typically associated with this type of bridge. Since the truck accident the bridge has remained in service for pedestrian traffic only.

Once home to over 1500 covered bridges, Pennsylvania can still boast more than 200 fully functional bridges like Bogert's - more than any other state. While the natural design of covered bridges usually protect the roadway and pedestrians from the elements, during earlier days (prior to the invention of the automobile), snow would have to be shoveled back onto the bridge in order to facilitate the movement of horse drawn sleds.