



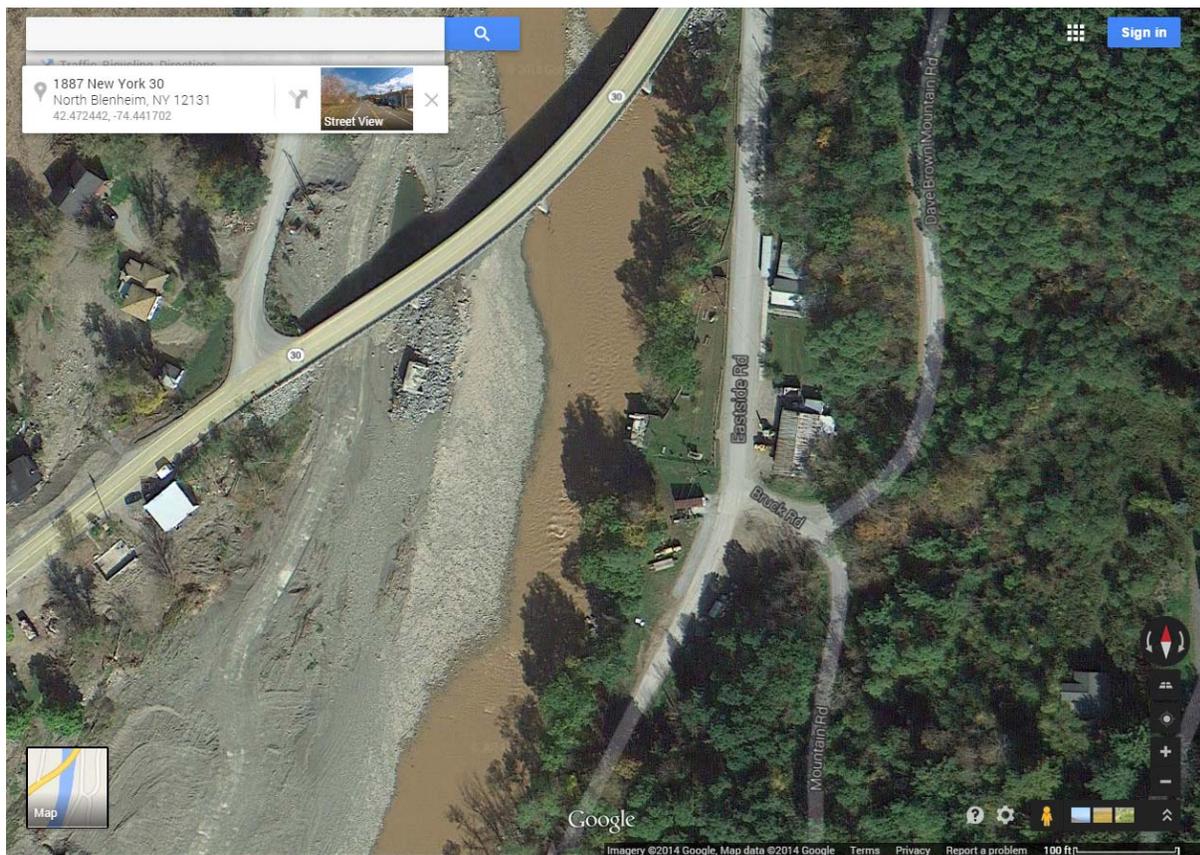
Name of Property: Old Blenheim Bridge (Withdrawal of Designation)
City, State: North Blenheim, Schoharie County, New York
Period of Significance: 1855
NHL Criteria: 4
NHL Theme: VI. Expanding Science and Technology
2. Technological applications
Previous Recognition: 1964 National Historic Landmark
National Historic Context: VII. Technology (Engineering and Invention)
B. Transportation

NHL Significance:

- Constructed in 1855 by Vermonter Nicholas Montgomery Powers, the Old Blenheim Bridge was one of the longest, single-span wooden covered bridges in the world. It stretched 210 feet across the Schoharie Creek near the village of North Blenheim.
- The bridge's main feature was its single, center arch which provided structural strength. The arch stretched in a three-rib segment from the abutments to the ridge pole in the center of the bridge, and back again.
- The bridge was in use until 1932 when a new span was built downstream, alongside it.

Integrity:

- In late August 2011, record flooding associated with the remnants of Hurricanes Irene and Lee impacted the Schoharie River Valley. Classified as a 500-year flood, the valley



sustained unprecedented devastation. The Old Blenheim Bridge was swept away and destroyed on August 28. Although some pieces of the bridge that were scattered far and wide downriver have been recovered, a reconstruction is not possible with what remains. None of the bridge remains at its former site.

Owner of Property: Schoharie County, New York

Acreeage of Property: approximately 2 acres

Origins of Nomination: Following the 2011 flooding, the community requested that the National Park Service delay the withdrawal of the NHL designation for the bridge while they recovered from the devastation resulting from the flood. In the summer of 2014, the New York State Historic Preservation Office revisited the proposal for the withdrawal of designation, and after reviewing the issue, the NPS agreed to proceed with a withdrawal report.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Withdrawal of the NHL designation for the Old Blenheim Bridge would demonstrate that the NHL Program continually monitors the condition of National Historic Landmarks and that the Secretary of the Interior is willing to remove those that no longer meet the program's criteria.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Withdrawal of designation. Dr. Stevens moved, Dr. Chen seconded; unanimous approval.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of):

Advisory Board Recommendation: