

**OLD BLENHEIM BRIDGE**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

**Withdrawal Report**

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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**NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK WITHDRAWAL OF DESIGNATION REPORT**

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**Old Blenheim Bridge**

**Designated:** January 29, 1964

**Location:** North Blenheim, Schoharie County, New York

**Owner:** Anthony Van Glad, Chair 518-295-8347  
Schoharie County Board of Supervisors  
P.O. Box 429  
Schoharie, New York 12157

**SHPO Contact:** Rose Harvey, SHPO and Commissioner 518-474-0443  
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, New York 12207

**Significance of the Landmark:**

Old Blenheim Bridge is one of the longest single-span wooden covered bridges in the world, stretching 210 feet across Schoharie Creek near the village of North Blenheim. The bridge was constructed in 1855 by Vermonter Nicholas Montgomery Powers, who received \$6,000 for his work. The main feature of the covered bridge is its single, center arch on which the bridge relies for strength, stretching 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. Since that time it only carries sightseeing traffic.

**Condition of Landmark:**

In late August of 2011, record flooding associated with the remnants of Hurricanes Irene and Lee, hit the Schoharie River Valley. Classified as a 500-year flood, the valley sustained unprecedented devastation. One of the casualties was the Old Blenheim Bridge which was swept away and destroyed on August 28. None of the bridge remains at its former site, and pieces of it were scattered far and wide downriver.

**Recommendation:**

Although the community has recovered some of the original bridge timbers from downstream, the property no longer retains its historical integrity. Therefore, National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation should be withdrawn. The New York State Historic Preservation Office concurs with the decision to withdraw the NHL designation, as well as its listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Justification for Withdrawing Landmark Designation:**

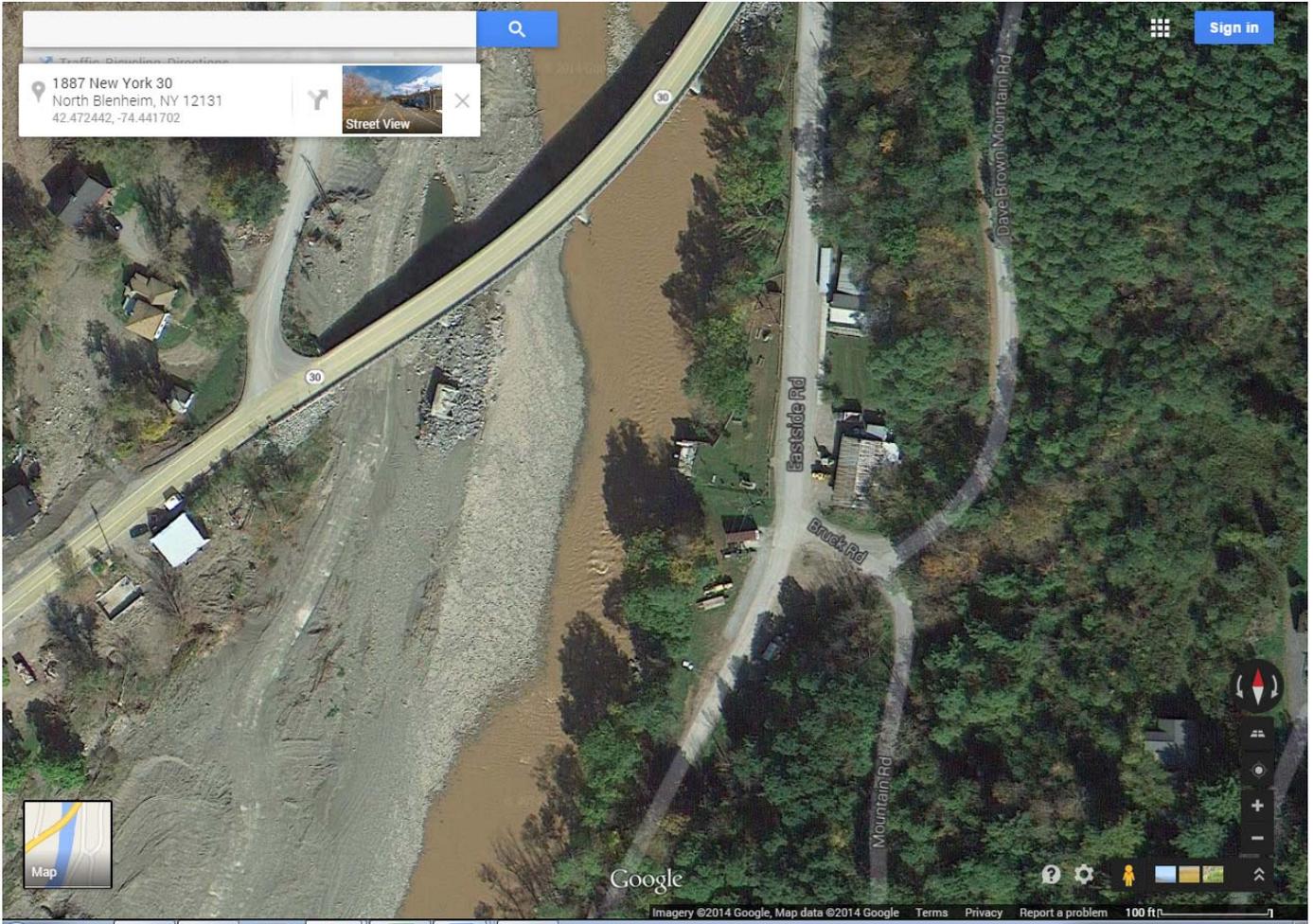
The Old Blenheim Bridge has ceased to meet the criteria for designation because the qualities which originally led it to be designated, have been destroyed [36 CFR 65.9 (b)(1)].

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# Photos

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Aerial view of former site of the Old Blenheim Bridge.  
Note that only the concrete abutments on either shore remain.  
Source: Google Maps.