

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

REBUILDING A BRIDGE

Truss lowered onto
Dreibelbis Station
Covered Bridge

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Standing along Maiden Creek, more than two dozen spectators watched a 350-ton crane drop a newly restored wooden bridge frame on the southern side of the Dreibelbis Station Covered Bridge in Greenwich Township on Monday.

The restoration of the 150-year-old bridge was back on track after a five-week delay caused by the coronavirus outbreak.

The crane dropped the restored wooden frame on a steel span installed before PennDOT halted all construction projects in the state to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Contractors plan to install the northern side of the frame today.

The spectators, including about a half-dozen members of the Theodore Burr Covered Bridge Society of Pennsylvania based in Manheim, Lancaster County, gathered at an adjacent property to watch the truss being dropped.

Tony Zaya, owner of Lancaster County Timber Frames Inc. in Lower Windsor Township, York County, said the restored frame was all set to be installed when PennDOT halted construction.

"It was scary economically," Zaya said. "We were out for five weeks. Today, we are back on site, and everyone is wearing masks and social distancing."

The restoration of the 171-foot long span connecting Greenwich and Windsor townships is expected to be complete this summer. The work includes installing a roof, permanent floors and siding.

The bridge, which provides a shortcut between Lenhartsville and Virginville, remains closed until the restoration is complete.

Josh Coleman, head of the design team for Lancaster County Timber Frames, said the truss fit perfectly into the steel frame installed by Lobar Site Development Corp., Dillsburg, York County, the lead contractor for



BEN HASTY — READING EAGLE

One of the restored trusses of the Dreibelbis Station Covered Bridge in Greenwich Township is put back in place Monday.

the project.

"We wrestled it down, and it was a snug fit," he said. "It was a nice day. Everything went real smooth."

Both contractors worked together Monday on the installation of the truss.

The \$4.3 million restoration project is funded through the National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program.

In September, the bridge was lifted by a crane and placed on the Maiden Creek bank. Contractors then transported the frame to Timber Frames for restoration.

The work involved taking apart the old wood from white oak trees. The lumber that was not rotted was connected to new lumber from yellow southern pine trees.

"It was challenging to fit the new pieces with the old pieces," Coleman said.



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Workers guide a restored truss into position on the Dreibelbis Station Covered Bridge.