

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Vermont
COUNTY:	Franklin
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 19 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Comstock Covered Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Town road across Trout River at west edge of  
Montgomery village VT 118

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Vt. District

STATE: Vermont CODE: 50 COUNTY: Franklin CODE: 011

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Town of Montgomery

STREET AND NUMBER: (no street number)

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Office of Town Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER: (no street number)

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1974  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Vermont Division of Historic Sites

STREET AND NUMBER: Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Vermont
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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Comstock Covered Bridge consists of a single span supported by two flanking timber Town lattice trusses. Two longitudinal segmented stringers have been added to the underside of the deck beams for reinforcement; each stringer comprises shorter timbers tie-bolted together.

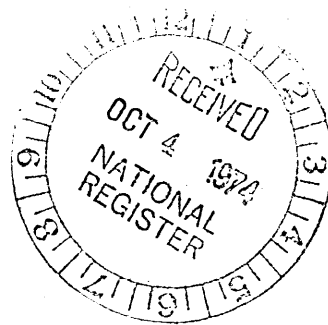
The structure rests on abutments built originally of irregular stone laid dry. The short west abutment, which stands on a prominent outcrop of bedrock, has been mortared together and capped with concrete. The east abutment has been faced with concrete.

The Comstock Bridge is 69 feet long overall and 19.5 feet wide, and has a 16-foot roadway. The wood floor, which consists of planks laid on edge and parallel to the trusses, begins four feet inside each portal; the approaches are concrete.

On the exterior, the heavy planks pegged together diagonally to form the trusses (and side walls) of the bridge are sheathed with unpainted flush boards hung vertically. Similar siding protects the ends of the trusses immediately inside the portals. The siding stops short of the eaves to leave strip openings along the tops of the walls. Near the west end of the north wall, a strip opening provides visibility of the sharp curve in the road at that end of the bridge.

The gable ends are sheathed with flush boards hung vertically and painted white. The portal openings have diagonal upper corners. The shallow-pitch gable roof is covered with standing seam metal sheeting painted red.

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**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1883

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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The Comstock Covered Bridge crosses the Trout River at the west edge of Montgomery village. Five other covered wood bridges remain in the town of Montgomery, giving it the highest concentration of covered bridges by town in Vermont. Two brothers, Sheldon and Savannah Jewett of Montgomery, built all six of the bridges; they completed the Comstock Bridge in 1883. The Jewetts used Town lattice trusses in all of the bridges, which also share common architectural design and similar dimensions except for length.

Together with another bridge constructed by the Jewett brothers across the Trout River in the adjoining town of Enosburg, the Montgomery bridges constitute the most extensive surviving record of the work of any individual covered bridge builders who practiced their trade in Vermont. The complete inventory of bridges built by the Jewetts is unknown; Richard Sanders Allen writes that they built bridges "for more than thirty years."<sup>1</sup> The brothers prepared the timber for their bridges at their own mill, which stood in the West Hill district of Montgomery near one of the remaining bridges.

The covered bridges of Vermont are among its most cherished and symbolic historic resources. About one hundred of the bridges still stand in the state, the highest concentration by area of covered bridges in the United States.<sup>2</sup> Many of these bridges have been altered only slightly, and many relate to other structures and villagescapes to form a unique historic environment. Recently, however, various forces have caused drastic changes in the state. The covered bridges have become subject to increasingly intense and detrimental effects of those changes. The Vermont Division of Historic Sites, therefore, wishes to extend the recognition and protection of the National Register of Historic Places to a majority of the remaining covered bridges.

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1. R. S. Allen, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1974, p. 60.

2. Ibid., p. 50.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Allen, Richard Sanders, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1974 (rev. ed.).  
 Congdon, Herbert Wheaton, The Covered Bridge, Vermont Books, Middlebury, Vt., 1970.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

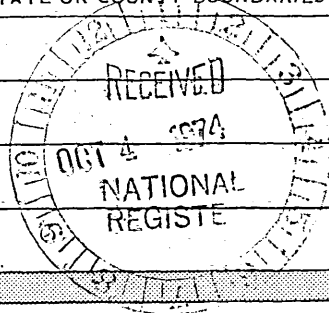
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44° 54' 01"	72° 38' 39"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

18/68600  
 4974300  
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Hugh H. Henry, Historic Sites Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Vermont Division of Historic Sites DATE: 9/13/74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>William B. Pannay</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director of Historic Sites State Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>9/30/74</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>A. R. Wooten</u>                  Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>11/19/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Charles D. Gering</u>                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>11.15.74</u></p>
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