

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| STATE:<br>New Hampshire   |
| COUNTY:<br>Cheshire       |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY          |
| ENTRY DATE<br>JUN 17 1975 |

### 1. NAME

|                                     |
|-------------------------------------|
| COMMON:<br>Carleton Covered Bridge  |
| AND/OR HISTORIC:<br>Carleton Bridge |

### 2. LOCATION

|                                                                      |            |                                   |             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>Carleton Road over South Branch Ashuelot River |            |                                   |             |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>East Swanzey vicinity                               |            | CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:<br>Second |             |
| STATE<br>New Hampshire                                               | CODE<br>33 | COUNTY:<br>Cheshire               | CODE<br>005 |

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)                                                                                                                                                               | OWNERSHIP                                                                                                                                          | STATUS                                                                                                                                                   | ACCESSIBLE<br>TO THE PUBLIC                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both                                    | Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work<br>in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____<br>Comments _____<br>No Closed              |

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

|                                  |                                             |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| OWNER'S NAME:<br>Town of Swanzey | STATE:<br>New Hampshire 03431<br>CODE<br>33 |
| STREET AND NUMBER:               |                                             |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Swanzey         |                                             |

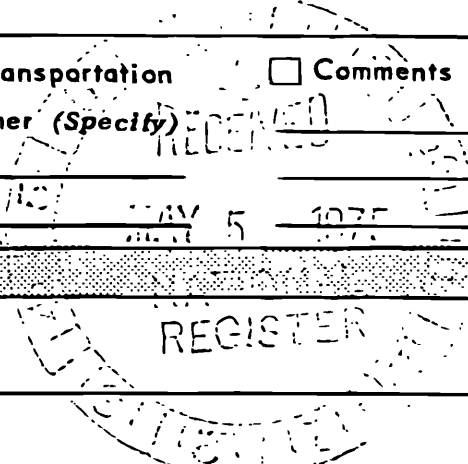
### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

|                                                                                                   |                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:<br>Cheshire County Registry of Deeds, Cheshire Co. Courthouse | STATE:<br>New Hampshire 03431<br>CODE<br>33 |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>12 Court Street                                                             |                                             |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Keene                                                                            |                                             |

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

|                                                                                                                                                                |                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| TITLE OF SURVEY:<br>New Hampshire's Historic Preservation Plan                                                                                                 |                                             |
| DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local |                                             |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State of New Hampshire<br>Department of Resources and Economic Development                                                      |                                             |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>P. O. Box 856    State House Annex<br>25 Capitol Street                                                                                  |                                             |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Concord                                                                                                                                       | STATE:<br>New Hampshire 03301<br>CODE<br>33 |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



|                         |
|-------------------------|
| STATE:<br>New Hampshire |
| COUNTY:<br>Cheshire     |
| ENTRY NUMBER:<br>111    |
| DATE:                   |

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

|           |                                             |                                    |                                |                                                   |                                |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                                 |                                    |                                |                                                   |                                |
|           | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent          | <input type="checkbox"/> Good      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins |
|           | (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

Spanning the South Branch Ashuelot River on an asphalt surfaced town road between East Swanzey and Swanzey Center, this bridge of undated antiquity is the only surviving example of the somewhat rare Queenpost Truss design in this region of the state. National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges World Guide to Covered Bridges number 29-03-07. N.H. Department of Public Works and Highways number 148/100. N.H. Department of Resources and Economic Development number 7.

Reputed one of the oldest area covered bridges, this is also one of the smallest (60' long, 14' wide), and probably retains much of its original appearance if not materials. It was supposed to have been erected by local farmers employing framing techniques used to build barns and other buildings, and a full load of hay was their reputed guide to determine the width and height of the portal.

Over the years many parts, such as flooring, roof and support timbers have been repaired and replaced. Some tie rods and metal supports were added together with a tin roof and new sheathing. Notwithstanding, the load capacity was reduced to 3 tons, and the bridge finally closed in June 1974 to await town appropriations for repairs, rebuilding or reconstruction. According to a state bridge maintenance engineer, the support beams have separated and sagged about a foot causing a noticeable sag in the bridge.

The Carleton Covered Bridge is an attractive, even picturesque structure of pleasing proportions supported by split granite abutments, its side walls fully sheathed, although its present condition is a little shabby and neglected.

\* MULTIPLE KINGPOST TRUSS?



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**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)

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"/> Science                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |                                                    | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |                                                 |                                                    | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Engineering:

America's wooden covered bridges, an "endangered species," are an historic chapter in United States engineering history worthy of protection and preservation as technological, artistic and historical documents. The Carleton Covered Bridge in particular is an example of the Queenpost Truss construction design, a rather simple and early bridge design adapted from barn and church building techniques. It is characterized by a truncated triangle with a post at each end and a connecting horizontal crosspiece and is rare today, perhaps because of its considerable antiquity. The Carleton Covered Bridge is the only surviving example of this construction in southern New Hampshire and as such is an especially significant structure.

Transportation:

The location of the Carleton Covered Bridge on a secondary town road is fortuitous to its preservation since it is not a heavily used link in the town's transportation picture, yet as a functional member of the transportation system an additional one-mile trip is made necessary for residents of the Carleton Road area by its closure.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Allen, Richard Sanders. Covered Bridges of the Northeast. rev. ed. (Brattleboro, Vt., Stephen Greene Press, 1974).

Avery, Floyd L. Report of Covered Bridges in New Hampshire. rev. October 1965. (Concord, N. H., N. H. Department of Public Works and Highways, 1965).

Kenyon, Thedia Cox. New Hampshire's Covered Bridges. rev. ed., with appendix. (n.p., Wake-Brook House, n.d.).

(Continued)

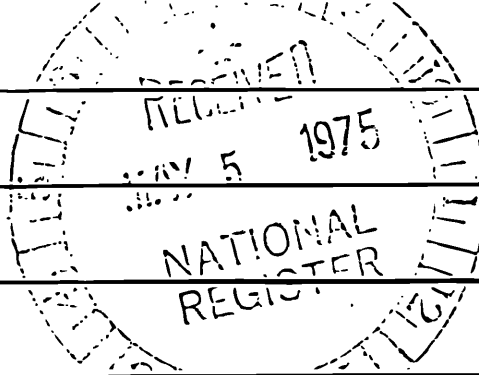
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER                                                                           | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | N LATITUDE                                                                                              | W LONGITUDE             |  |
|                                                                                  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds                                                                                 | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW                                                                               | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | 42° 51' 14"                                                                                             | 72° 16' 28"             |  |
| NE                                                                               | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |                                                                                                         |                         |  |
| SE                                                                               | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |                                                                                                         |                         |  |
| SW                                                                               | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |                                                                                                         |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: *less than 1*

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
David R. Proper, Curator

ORGANIZATION: Historical Society of Cheshire County      DATE: June 20, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
51 So. Lincoln Street

CITY OR TOWN: Keene,      STATE: New Hampshire 03431      CODE: 33

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

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:

National  State  Local

Name: *[Signature]*  
Commissioner, DRED  
Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: April 30, 1975

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*[Signature]*  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: *6/10/75*

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: *JUN 9 1975*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet) /

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|                        | JUN 10 1975 |

(Number all entries) 9 (Cont.)

Keyworth, William Gordon. The Covered Bridges of New Hampshire (n.p., 1972?)

National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc. World Guide to Covered Bridges, ed. by Oscar F. Lane, rev. April 1, 1972. (n.p., 1972)

N. H. Division of Economic Development: The Covered Bridges of New Hampshire. (Concord, N. H., 1973).

Smith, Marjorie W. "Swanzey's Covered Bridges." Granite State Vacationer, Aug. 17-23, 1973 pp. 27-28.

White, W. Edward. Covered Bridges of New Hampshire. (Plymouth, N. H., n.d.).



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(Continuation Sheet) 2

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|                        | JUN 10 1975 |

(Number all entries)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA, continued.

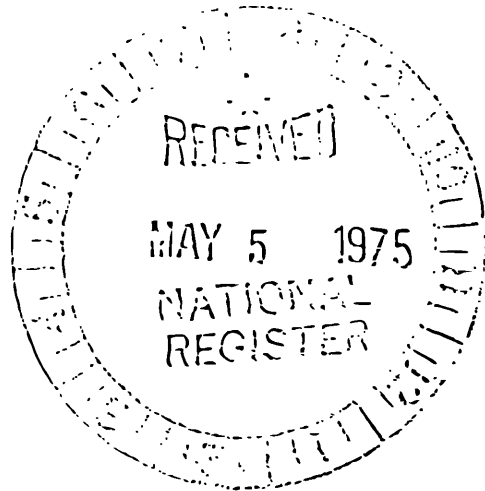
10.2 UTM References

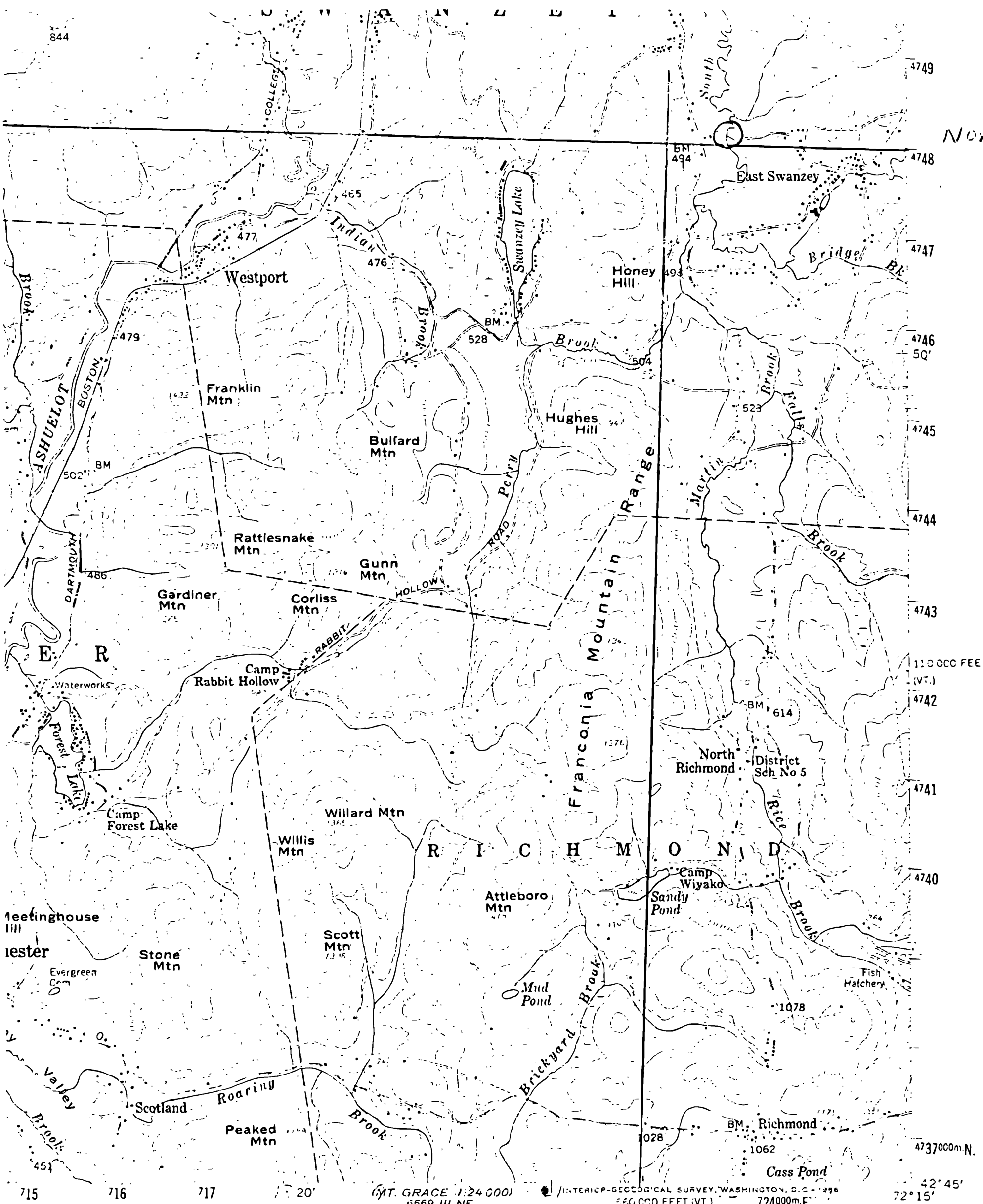
Zone 18

Easting: 7-22-670

Northing: 47-48-100

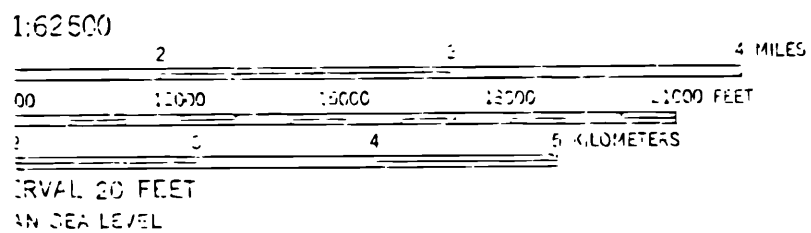
VTM OK  
HL





Nothing 47-48-100

UTM Zone 18  
 Easting:  
 7-22-670  
 Nothing:  
 47-48-100



(MT. GRACE 1:24 000) 6569 III NE  
 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 560 000 FEET (VT.) 724000 E  
 ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
 Heavy-duty --- Light-duty ---  
 Medium-duty --- Unimproved dirt ---  
 U. S. Route State Route

Caution road to East Swanzey Mt  
 KEENE, N. H.-VT.  
 N4245-W7215/15

SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1958  
 AMS 6569 IV-SERIES V712