

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM 1974

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



STATE: Vermont
 COUNTY: Orleans
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: NOV 20 1974

1. NAME
 COMMON: Orne Covered Bridge
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION SW of Coventry off VT 14
 STREET AND NUMBER: Town road across Black River, 0.6 mile southwest of Coventry village
 CITY OR TOWN: Coventry vicinity Irasburg
 STATE: Vermont CODE: 50
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Vt. District
 COUNTY: Orleans CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 Irasburg
 STREET AND NUMBER: (no street number)
 CITY OR TOWN: Irasburg 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: Irasburg 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

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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 Orne Covered Bridge consists of a single span supported by two flanking timber Paddleford trusses. The trusses have not been reinforced by any of the various devices added to many other covered bridges in Vermont. The structure rests on abutments built of irregular stone laid dry and subsequently faced with concrete.

The Orne Bridge is 87 feet long at floor level. The upper ends of the side walls flare outward to meet the gable ends, which overhang the floor three feet at each portal. The bridge is 17 feet wide and has a 14-foot roadway. The wood floor, which consists of planks laid flat and parallel to the trusses, begins four feet inside the west portal and six feet inside the east portal; the approaches are gravel.

On the exterior, the timbers pegged and bolted together to form the trusses (and side walls) of the bridge are sheathed with unpainted flush boards hung vertically. The boards rise only about half the height of the north wall, leaving the upper half of the truss exposed (apparently to provide visibility of the sharp curve in the road at the east end of the bridge). On the south wall, the boards rise nearly to the eaves, leaving only a strip opening along the top of the wall.

The gable ends are also sheathed with unpainted flush boards hung vertically. The portal openings are framed with segmental arches. The sheathing extends beyond the line of the side walls to form half-arches under the eaves. The medium-pitch gable roof is covered with standing seam metal sheeting.

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) 1879 (1881)

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 checked="" 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

The Orne Covered Bridge is the only covered wood bridge supported by Paddleford trusses in Vermont which remains on its original site and carries a public road. (There are two other covered bridges with Paddleford trusses in the state -- one in Lyndon and another in Irasburg -- but both have been moved from their original sites and are now owned privately.) The builder and date of construction of the Orne Bridge are uncertain; one source states that E. P. Colton built it in 1879,¹ and another states that John D. Colton built it in 1881.²

The Orne Bridge ranks among the finest surviving examples of vernacular covered bridge architecture in Vermont. The bridge retains to an extraordinary extent its original design, structure, and materials. The exterior displays finely proportioned arched portals whose graceful curvilinear forms complement the rigid angularity of the trusses. Simultaneously the bold criss-cross pattern of the partly exposed north truss provides an attractive contrast to the narrow vertical siding which covers the lower part of the truss.

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.³ 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.

1. Robert L. Hagerman in unpublished survey notes (1971) for the Vermont Division of Historic Sites, Montpelier, Vermont.

2. R. S. Allen, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1974, p. 110.

3. Ibid., p. 50.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

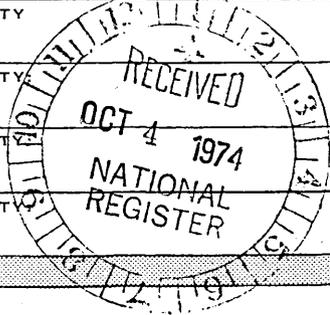
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	44°	51'	39"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	72°	16'	30"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

18/715350
4970850
60

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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. Finney</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director of Historic Sites</u> <u>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>AP Montross</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>11/20/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Charles A. Henry</u> Acting Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>11.14.74</u></p>
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