

PH0283070

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUL 11 1975  
DATE ENTERED MAR 26 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Bennett's Mill Covered Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

Bennett's Mill Covered Bridge

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

*W of Hancock*

County Road 2125, off Kentucky Route 7, over Tygart's Creek

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Greenup

VICINITY OF Lynn

7

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Kentucky

021

Greenup

089

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Greenup County

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Greenup County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Greenup

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

STATE

401 Wapping Street

Frankfort

Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bennett's Mill Covered Bridge sits over Tygart's Creek, several miles south of the creek's junction with the Ohio River in the northeast tip of Kentucky. The bridge is just off Kentucky Route 7 in Greenup County, County Road 2125.

The single span of 195 feet is of Col. Stephen H. Long's truss design. It has a 5-ton load limit and is still open to vehicular traffic.

Since its construction around 1855 or 1856, the bridge has never received a coat of paint and has since weathered to its present handsome silver-gray appearance. The side boards have been cut short of the roof line for ventilation and lighting. Saw-toothed portals along with board-and-batten siding distinguish this bridge from most others.

Comparison of the Bennett's Mill Covered Bridge and Franklin County's Switzer Covered Bridge (placed on the National Register on Sept. 6, 1974), shows them to be not unlike. In addition, the truss systems of the two are similar except that Switzer, built on William Howe's design, substitutes metal tie-rods for Long's timber uprights.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

B. F. and Pramley Bennett commissioned a covered bridge to be built over Tygart's Creek in order to facilitate access to a mill the two brothers operated prior to the Civil War.

Threatened with destruction during the Civil War, they hid guns in the 800-foot high hills to the east and west in order to protect their investment.

At 195 feet in length, Bennett's Mill Covered Bridge is the Commonwealth's longest single-spanner still standing.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kentucky Covered Bridge Association. Timbered Tunnel Talk. Newport, Kentucky, (issue 31).

Allen, Richard S. Covered Bridges of the South. New York: Bonanza Books, 1970.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>17</u>	<u>33,226,0</u>	<u>4,27,73,4,0</u>
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	

B			
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John M. Johnson

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

June, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

401 Wapping Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Cedric W. Melton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer 7-9-75

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ACTING

[Signature]

DATE

3/26/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

7-25-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 10 1976
DATE ENTERED

Bennett's Mill Covered Bridge  
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Bennett's Mill Covered Bridge in Greenup County is 159 feet in length according to Kentucky Department of Transportation measurements.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY MAY 10 1976 RECEIVED DATE ENTERED
---

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

Bennett's Mill Covered Bridge  
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

At one time Kentucky had hundreds of covered bridges spanning her rivers. Just prior to World War II, sixty-five were still standing. By 1952, the numbers had shrunk to thirty-nine. Now only sixteen remain. These sixteen, which represent a variety of structural types, are concentrated in the central and northeast sections of the state in the small communities or rural areas of the state.

Many reasons have been offered to explain the construction of covered bridges in Kentucky during the 19th century. The road across the bridges were kept dry and free of snow in winter. Most important, however, was the protection the covering over the bridges provided against the deterioration of the wood. It permitted the timbered trusses and braces to season properly and kept water out of the joints. The life of the bridge was, therefore, significantly prolonged, averaging, generally seven to eight times that of one left uncovered.

Many of the covered bridges owe their present survival to modern spans constructed nearby that relieve the covered bridges of heavy traffic. Six are now closed to vehicular traffic although, like the others, they are visited by large numbers of tourists. All but one are publicly owned. Few are well maintained and most are in need of immediate repair or restoration if their preservation is to be secured.