

PH0666483

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 5 1978
DATE ENTERED NOV 14 1978

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 **SLATE COVERED BRIDGE**

AND/OR COMMON

SLATE COVERED BRIDGE

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Off N.H. Route 10 at Westport

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

~~Swansey~~ *Westport* VICINITY OF

2

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

New Hampshire

33

Cheshire

005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED Limit: 3 tons	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of New Hampshire

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cheshire County Registry of Deeds, Cheshire County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

12 Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Keene

STATE

New Hampshire 03431

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Hampshire's Historic Preservation Plan

DATE

1970

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

**State of New Hampshire
Department of Resources and Economic Development**

CITY, TOWN

Concord

STATE

New Hampshire 03301

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Spanning the Ashuelot River on the state secondary highway system, originally a part of trunkline N.H. 10, near Westport village, this bridge is located just off the present N.H. Route 10. National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges World Guide to Covered Bridges number is 29-03-06. New Hampshire Department of Public Works and Highways number is 080/090. New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development number is 4.

Built in 1862, this single span bridge 122 feet long and 17 feet wide occupies the site of earlier covered bridges, cost \$1,850.64, and takes its name from that of an early neighboring family, rather than any construction detail. Although it probably retains much of its original appearance, many parts, including flooring, roof, and support beams, have been repaired or replaced. It has the unusual feature of four long iron turnbuckle rods to reinforce its Town lattice truss construction. A tin roof, replaced sheathing, and roadway "tracks" indicate repairs. Abutments are of split granite; side walls of the bridge are fully sheathed.

The bridge is now in a somewhat neglected condition; load limit has been reduced to 3 tons and signs of deterioration are becoming noticeable.

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 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 1862

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Engineering: Wooden covered bridges, which constitute a significant chapter in American engineering history, are an "endangered species" deservant of protection and preservation. The Slate Covered Bridge in particular well illustrates the Town Truss construction designed and patented in 1820 by Ithiel Town, a New Haven, Connecticut, architect and builder. The first truly American covered bridge design, it is characterized by a web of heavy planks crisscrossed at an angle of 45 degrees to 60 degrees, resembling a lattice, fastened together with wooden pins or trunnels at each intersection. It is an especially picturesque design, particularly in a well-proportioned structure such as the Slate Covered Bridge, although it suffers from the engineering defect of being structurally indeterminate (i.e., The stresses in the truss members cannot be analyzed by traditional means.).

Transportation: Located on a road parallel to N.H. Route 10, the Slate Covered Bridge is no longer a vital highway river crossing, although a great convenience for residents of the Westport section of Swanzey. Its close proximity to the state highway on a surfaced secondary road makes it a popular attraction and easily accessible regional historic, artistic, and technological resource.

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

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 8	7 1 1 7	2 5 1 0	4 7	4 7	1 0 0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			
C							D					

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

David R. Proper, Curator

ORGANIZATION

Historical Society of Cheshire County

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

51 South Lincoln Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Keene

STATE

New Hampshire 03431

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

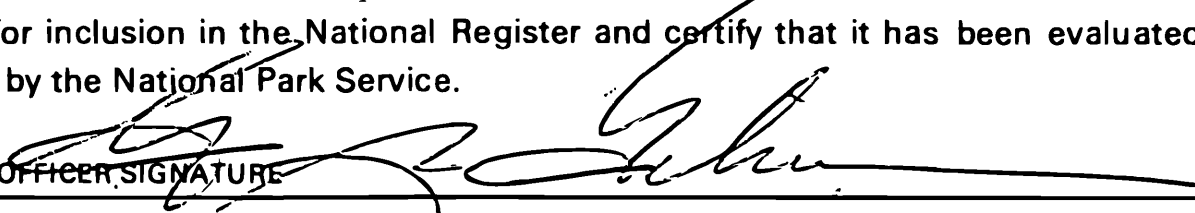
STATE

LOCAL

11/9/78

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Commissioner NH Dept. Resources & Economic Development DATE May 11, 1977
NH State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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



DATE 11-14-78

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST *Marilyn Sharp*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-9-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 5 1975

DATE ENTERED NOV 11 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

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).

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

Read, Benjamin. The History of Swanzey, New Hampshire, From 1734 to 1890. (Salem, Mass., Salem Press Publishing and Printing Company, 1892).

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

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