

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Banks
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: JUN 10 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: New Salem Covered Bridge
AND/OR HISTORIC: same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Six miles north of Commerce, Georgia, on State Route S992, Grove Creek
CITY OR TOWN: Commerce - vicinity
STATE: Georgia
CODE: 13
COUNTY: Banks
CODE: 011

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One): District, Building, Site, Structure, Object
OWNERSHIP: Public, Private, Both
STATUS: Occupied, Unoccupied, Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes (Restricted, Unrestricted, No)
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate): Educational, Museum, etc.
Comments: Bridge is by-passed

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Banks County
STREET AND NUMBER: Banks County Court House
CITY OR TOWN: Homer
STATE: Georgia
CODE: 011

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

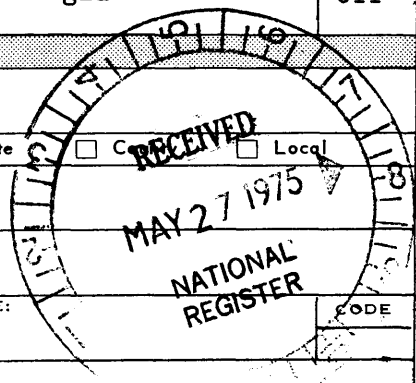
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Banks County
STREET AND NUMBER: Banks County Court House
CITY OR TOWN: Homer
STATE: Georgia
CODE: 011

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None
DATE OF SURVEY:
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
CODE:

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

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

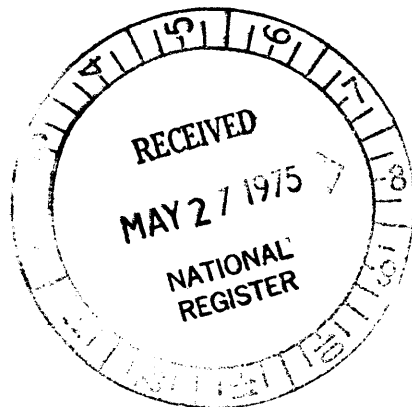
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The New Salem Covered Bridge spans a branch of Grove Creek in Banks County, Georgia, about two miles south of New Salem Church on State Route S992. The bridge has been by-passed by a modern concrete bridge and is no longer in use. The bridge is completely covered and extends 47 feet in length with one span. It is 15 feet wide, overall, and 15½ feet high from the deck to the ridge line of the roof. The bridge rests on concrete abutments. The floor is made of 2 x 6 inch boards with longitudinal runners of 2 x 8 inch boards to provide a smoother surface for traffic and to minimize wear on the deck. The deck joists are made of 3 x 10 inch timbers. The bridge has a sag that drops the deck about one foot at the center of the bridge. The roof is metal with an overhang of one foot on each side and on the ends. The portals are of the plain barn type. The sides are covered with rough sawn pine boards and batten.

Construction is of the Multiple Kingpost Truss design and the main timbers are 8 x 10 inches in size and all of heart pine. The brace timbers are 3 x 8 inches in size. There are three vertical iron rods, 1½ inches in diameter, on each side, compressing the triangles for added strength.

This bridge is structurally weak and stands today only because it has been by-passed and because of the good condition of the roof.

The New Salem Covered Bridge is listed as No. 10-06-10 in the "World Guide to Covered Bridges," published by the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, 1972 edition.



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**4. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1915**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><b>History</b> |
| <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            |   |  | _____   |

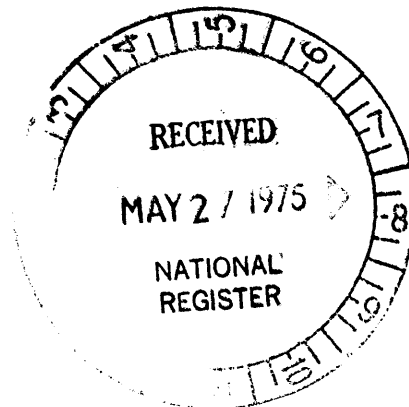
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

✓ The New Salem Covered Bridge was built in 1915 by Mr. W. M. Thomas who built a number of covered bridges in Banks County. The bridge is located near the New Salem Church community and takes its name therefrom.

Not so many years ago, Banks County had 30 covered bridges standing within its borders. Today there are only three. While by-passed now and no longer in use, the New Salem Covered Bridge once provided useful service on a lateral county road, route S992, that connected two north-south highways that serve Commerce and Carnesville, Georgia. Today it stands as a reminder of an earlier period in our history and people stop frequently to examine and photograph this covered bridge.

The New Salem Covered Bridge is one of 21 covered bridges remaining in Georgia. Four of these covered bridges are built of the Kingpost Truss design and the New Salem Covered Bridge is one of these. The Kingpost Truss is the oldest and simplest truss design and was used for short spans. In this case, the truss has been modified so as to support a 47 foot span.

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Covered Bridges of the South, Richard Sanders Allen. Brattleboro, Vt.: Stephen Greene Press, 1970.  
World Guide to Covered Bridges, ed. Oscar F. Lane, Boston, Mass., 1972  
Old Covered Bridges in Georgia, pamphlet, Atlanta: Georgia State Parks Dept. James G. Bogle, "The Vanishing Breed," Georgia Magazine, March 1972, p. 16.

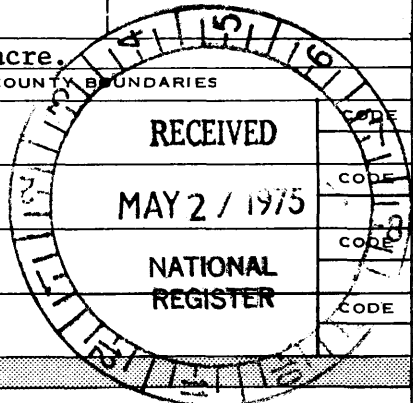
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |    | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |    | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    | 34 ° 15 ' 30 "  | 83 ° 25 ' 20 "          |  |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    |   |                         |  |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    |   |                         |  |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    |   |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre.

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

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



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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: James G. Bogle, Colonel, U. S. Army retired, consultant to the

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Section, Department of DATE Dec. 18, 1974.  
Natural Resources, State of Georgia

STREET AND NUMBER: 270 Washington Street, S. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE Georgia CODE 13

**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 Jackson O'Neal Lamb      I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Title St. Historic Preservation Officer      Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date May 22, 1975      Date 6/10/75

ATTEST: W. Huntz      Keeper of the National Register

Date JUN 9 1975