

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Vermont
COUNTY:	Lamoille
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	OCT 1 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Gold Brook Covered Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: S of Stowe
Town road across Gold Brook, 1.8 miles south of Stowe village

CITY OR TOWN: Stowe Vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Vermont District

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Vermont	50	Lamoille	015

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<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 <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Town of Stowe

STREET AND NUMBER: (no street number)

CITY OR TOWN: Stowe

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: Stowe

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

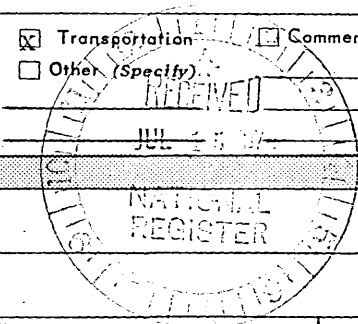
STREET AND NUMBER: Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier

STATE: Vermont

CODE: 50

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:	Vermont
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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

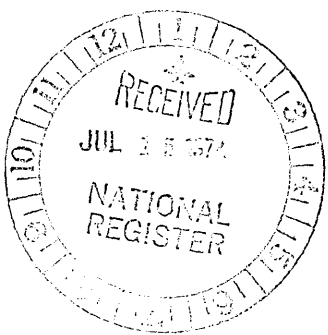
The Gold Brook Covered Bridge consists of a single span supported by two flanking timber Howe trusses. Each truss incorporates iron suspension rods which connect the top and bottom chords between the diagonal timber braces and counter braces; there are two suspension rods between adjoining sets of timber braces. The original timber deck beams have been replaced with railroad rails laid both perpendicular and parallel to the bottom chords to support the bridge floor.

The Gold Brook Bridge is 48.5 feet long at floor level and 17 feet wide; it has a 13.5-foot roadway. The wood floor consists of planks laid flat and perpendicular to the trusses. The structure rests on abutments built of irregular stone slabs laid dry.

On the exterior, the timbers bolted together to form the trusses (and side walls) of the bridge are sheathed with unpainted flush boards hung vertically. Similar siding protects the ends of the trusses immediately inside the portals. The siding stops short of the eaves to leave strip openings along the tops of the walls.

The gable ends are also sheathed with unpainted flush boards hung vertically. The portal openings have diagonal upper corners, which cover the first interior struts. The top chords project 2.5 feet beyond the gable ends to support the wide overhangs of the roof; the ends of the chords are enclosed with unpainted flush vertical boards which taper downward to meet the side walls. The medium-pitch gable roof is covered with corrugated 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) C. 1844

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 Gold Brook Covered Bridge is unique in Vermont, being the only bridge supported by timber Howe trusses which carries a public highway in the state. (One other bridge of the same truss type still stands in Vermont near East Shoreham, but it was built for railroad use.) The Howe truss, with its iron suspension rods and angle blocks, represents the transition from wood to iron for structural material in bridge construction.

John W. Smith built the Gold Brook Bridge about 1844, which ranks it among the earliest applications of the Howe truss.¹ (The first bridge of the type was constructed in Massachusetts in 1838.²) The Gold Brook Bridge is the only covered bridge remaining in the town of Stowe. In 1969 the residents of the town adopted a resolution which directs the selectmen to provide "perpetual maintenance" of the bridge.³

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.⁴ 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, Covered Bridges of Lamoille County, Robert L. Hagerman, Morrisville, Vt., 1972, p. 6.

2. R. S. Allen, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1957, p. 19.

3. Robert L. Hagerman, Covered Bridges of Lamoille County, Robert L. Hagerman, Morrisville, Vt., 1972, p. 8.

4. R. S. Allen, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1957, p. 50.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hagerman, Robert L., Covered Bridges of Lamoille County, Robert L. Hagerman, Morrisville, Vt., 1972.

Allen, Richard Sanders, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1957.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

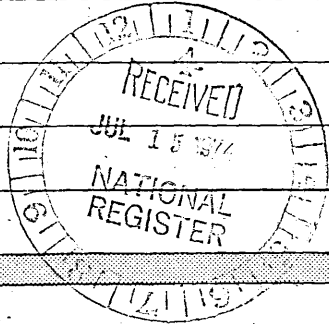
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE					
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	44	26	25	72	40	50
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

18/684600
4923180
6

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: 5/30/74

STREET AND NUMBER: Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

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 William B. Pinney

Title Director of Historic Sites
State Historic Preservation
Officer

Date 7/10/74

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

A. R. Mortensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/1/74

ATTEST:

William B. Pinney
Keeper of The National Register

Date 9.27.74