

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 8 1980

DATE ENTERED JUN - 4 1981

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

14

DENTS RUN COVERED BRIDGE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Secondary Route 43/4 at junction
of Secondary Route 43 crossing Dents Run

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

X VICINITY OF Laurel Point

2

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

West Virginia

54

Monongalia

061

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___ DISTRICT

X PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED in service

___ AGRICULTURE

___ MUSEUM

___ BUILDING(S)

___ PRIVATE

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ COMMERCIAL

___ PARK

X STRUCTURE

___ BOTH

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ RELIGIOUS

___ OBJECT

___ IN PROCESS

___ YES: RESTRICTED

___ GOVERNMENT

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ BEING CONSIDERED

X YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ INDUSTRIAL

X TRANSPORTATION

___ NO

___ MILITARY

___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

West Virginia Department of Highways

STREET & NUMBER

1900 Washington Street, East

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia 25305

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Monongalia County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

High Street

CITY, TOWN

Morgantown

STATE

West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 Dents Run Covered Bridge is 12 feet 10 inches wide and the bottom chord is 40 feet long making one of the shortest extant covered bridges in West Virginia. It has lap siding painted red and a standing seam metal roof. The truss is of the kingpost type and has two-9 x 9 inch diagonals extending from the notched ends of the 9½ x 13½ bottom chord to the mortise and tenon joint of the 8½ x 12½ inch centerpost. Braces, 6 ¾ inches square, extend from two feet above the base of the centerpost to about the middle of the diagonals. Metal straps bolted to the centerpost help to secure the centerpost to the bottom chord. Other metal tension straps, extending from the transverse roof beam to the transverse floor beam, on both trusses, support the transverse floor beam on which the stringers rest. Unique components not found on any other existing covered bridge in West Virginia are the U-shaped iron hangers, spaced on three foot centers and bolted to the bottom chord. It is thought that the hangers functioned as supports for transverse floor beams that once supported wooden stringers. 9½ x 11 inch timbers have been spliced to the bottom chords on the west side of the bridge, probably in an attempt to strengthen the members, and six American Standard I-beam stringers, placed on the abutments and supported at mid-span by a transverse floor beam support the deck and have replaced the original timber stringers.

18 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

1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

W.A. Loar & Wm & Joseph Mercer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On March 5, 1889, Martin P. Fox and others filed petitions with the Monongalia County Court to build a bridge across Dents Run at or near the residence of Edward W. Brand, near Laurel Point. Brand, a member of the court, was appointed to contract for the construction of the bridge. On June 6, 1889, Brand reported that he had contracted with W. A. Loar to build a bridge for \$448.00 (\$198.00 for stonework and \$250.00 for the woodwork). After the contract was approved, Brand was appointed to superintend the construction of the bridge. Loar constructed the stone abutments (1) and William and Joseph Mercer built the superstructure (2). On December 3, 1889 the courts ordered that \$448 be paid to W. A. Loar for the construction of the bridge (1).

The West Virginia Department of Highways placed steel I beams under the deck of the bridge to give the bridge additional strength. A controversy developed in late 1972 and 1973 when Dippel and Dippel Coal Company wanted to open a coal mine and subsequently use the bridge in transporting coal across Dents Run. Area residents protested and the coal company constructed a concrete bridge nearby (2).

The Dents Run Covered Bridge is the only remaining covered bridge in Monongalia County and one of two covered bridges left in West Virginia which utilize the kingpost truss design.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Misc. Order Book #2, Monongalia County Court: 1886-1893, pp. 129, 207, 229, 253.
2. "Register May List Covered Bridge in County," The Dominion Post, 24 April 1968.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Not Applicable /

QUADRANGLE NAME Rivesville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 | 582900 | 4386240

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [] | [] | []

E [] | [] | []

G [] | [] | []

B [] | [] | []

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D [] | [] | []

F [] | [] | []

H [] | [] | []

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

E.L. Kemp, Professor History of Science & Technology and of Civil Engineering

ORGANIZATION

DATE

West Virginia University

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

G14 Woodburn Hall, Town Campus

(304) 293-3867

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Morgantown,

West Virginia 26506

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

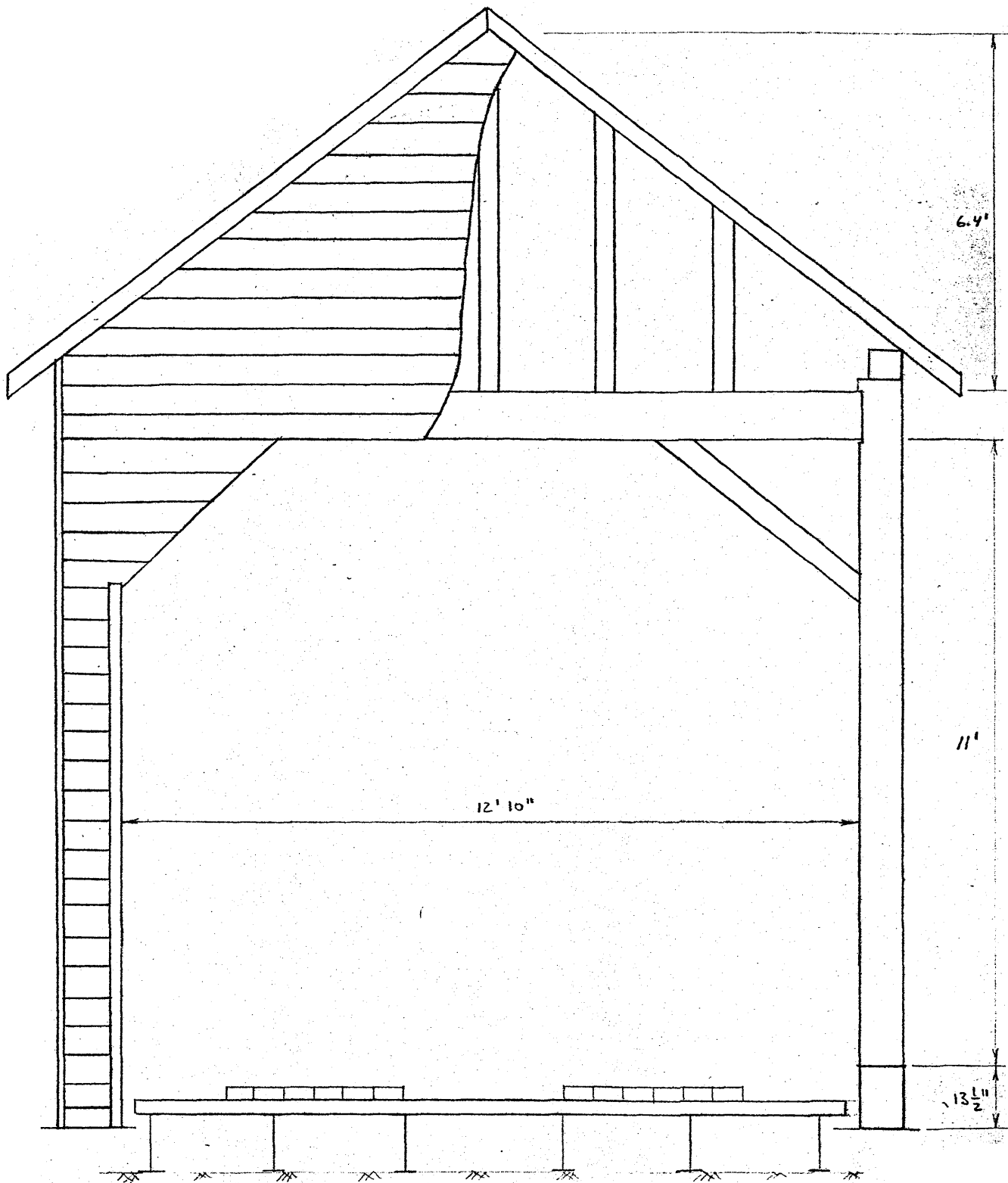
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

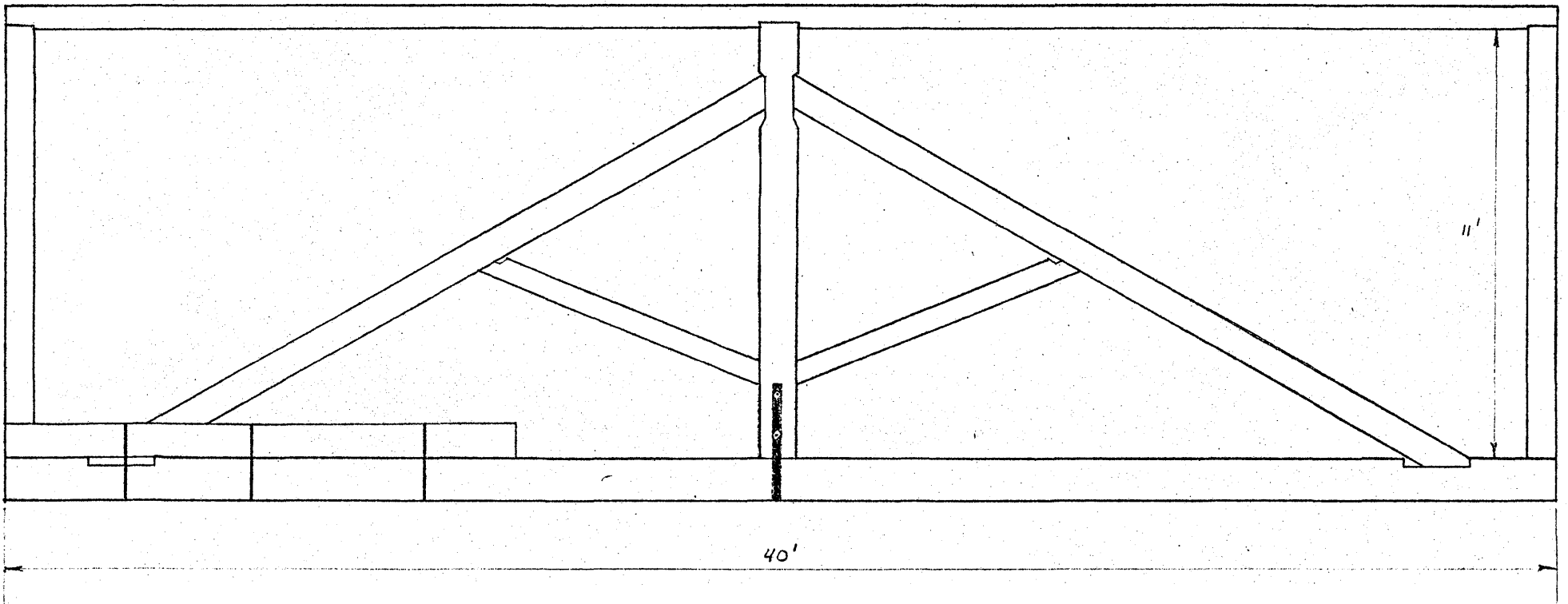
ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

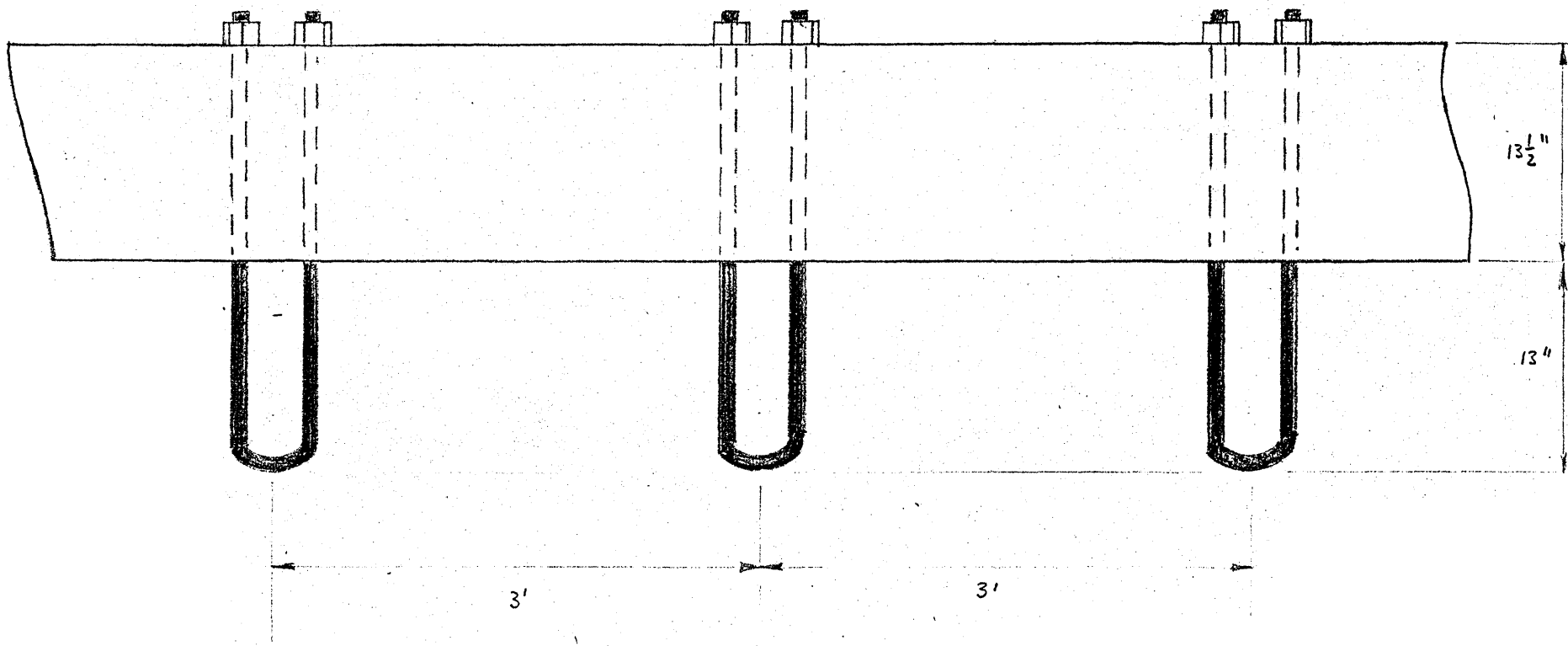
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



17. DENTS RUN COVERED BRIDGE



17. DENTS RUN COVERED BRIDGE



17. DENTS RUN COVERED BRIDGE