

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0666181
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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

**

BLOW-ME-DOWN COVERED BRIDGE

AND/OR COMMON

BRIDGE OVER GORGE/FREEMAN'S MILL BRIDGE

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

One-half mile south of NH 12A/Squag City/Mill Road and

Blow-Me-Down Brook

CITY, TOWN

Cornish

VICINITY OF

Second

STATE

New Hampshire

CODE

33

COUNTY

Sullivan

CODE

019

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Town of Cornish

STREET & NUMBER

Selectmen's Office

CITY, TOWN

Cornish

VICINITY OF

New Hampshire

STATE

03746

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sullivan County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Box 448

CITY, TOWN

Newport,

STATE

New Hampshire 03773

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 - Dept. of Resources & Economic Development

CITY, TOWN

Concord,

STATE

New Hampshire

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Blow-Me-Down Covered Bridge is an excellent example of the multiple Kingpost Truss, all-wood covered bridge. It consists of a single span with an exterior length of 91 feet and exterior width of 16 1/2 feet. The actual deck or roadway is 85 feet in length and 14 feet wide.

The bridge rests on natural stone ledge on both ends, with added dry-laid stone abutments for leveling. The bridge has been closed to traffic due to cracks in the abutment at the southern end of the bridge.

The truss contains twenty-four panels and twenty-five panel posts on each side. The panel posts and top and bottom chords are joined together with iron bolts.

The portal is segmental/triangular in style and is sheathed with vertical butted boards, as is the entire exterior of the bridge. The gabled roof is covered with sheet metal, replacing earlier wooden shingles. The central rafter is joined to the ridge (roof) by a perpendicular post.

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

1877

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Blow-Me-Down Covered Bridge is an example of the multiple Kingpost truss type covered bridge. It was built and designed by James F. Tasker (1826-1903) of Cornish, New Hampshire. Tasker was paid \$528 for the work on this bridge in October of 1877.

The National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, World Guide to Covered Bridges number for the Blow-Me-Down Covered Bridge is 29-10-10; the New Hampshire Department of Public Works and Highways Number is 071/168; and the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development Survey of Covered Bridges number is 23.

