

3-7-74

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Vermont	
COUNTY:	Rutland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	JAN	24 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON: **Cooley Covered Bridge**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Town road across Furnace Brook, 1.2 miles south of Pittsford village**

CITY OR TOWN: **Pittsford**

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Vermont	50	Rutland	21

**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	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 Pittsford**

STREET AND NUMBER: **(no street number)**

CITY OR TOWN: **Pittsford** 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: **Pittsford** STATE: **Vermont** CODE: **50**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

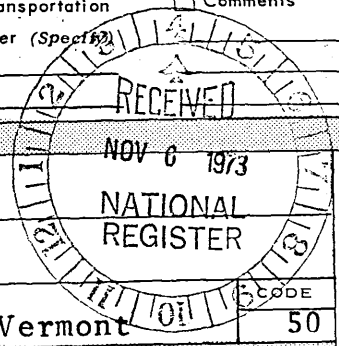
TITLE OF SURVEY: **Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1973**  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

COUNTY: Rutland

ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 24 1974

DATE: JAN 24 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

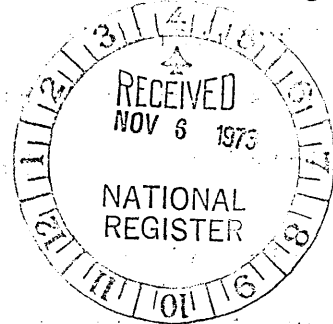
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 Cooley Covered Bridge consists of a single span supported by two flanking timber Town lattice trusses. Some of the original lattice planks have been subsequently doubled, especially in the north truss. Two laminated stringers have been tie-bolted to the underside of the floor beams parallel to the trusses to reinforce the structure; each stringer comprises a number of shorter timbers which have been tie-bolted together. Iron sway braces have been added to the underside of the bridge, extending diagonally between the bottom chords. The abutments, originally built of slabs of rock, have been rebuilt or faced massively with concrete.

The Cooley Bridge measures 50.5 feet along the bottom of the trusses. The upper ends of the trusses extend outward so that the gable ends overhang the roadway eight feet at each portal. The bridge is 18.5 feet wide, with a 15-foot roadway. The wood floor begins 5.5 feet inside each portal.

On the exterior, the large planks pegged together diagonally to form the trusses (and side walls) of the bridge are sheathed with flush boards hung vertically. Similar siding protects the ends of the trusses immediately inside the portals. There are no intentional openings in the side walls. The gable ends are also sheathed with flush vertical boards. The exterior siding is painted red. The gable roof is covered with slate shingles.



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**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) **1849**

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

One of four covered wood bridges remaining in the town of Pittsford, the Cooley Bridge was built in 1849 by Nicholas M. Powers. Powers, who was born on a farm in the vicinity of the bridge, became "Vermont's most famous covered bridge builder."<sup>1</sup> The Cooley Bridge is one of three bridges surviving in Vermont whose construction Powers is known to have assisted or directed. The extreme overhang of its portals - which makes the roof 16 feet longer than the 50-foot floor - gives the bridge a distinctive form.

The covered bridges of Vermont are among its most cherished and symbolic historic resources. About one hundred bridges still stand in the state, the greatest concentration by area of covered bridges in the country.<sup>2</sup> Many of these bridges are integral parts of unique architectural environments whose physical setting and cultural context have been little altered until recently. However, extensive highway construction programs are now drastically changing the historic environment of the state. The Vermont Division of Historic Sites wishes to extend the recognition and protection of the National Register to the majority of the surviving covered bridges, including the Cooley Bridge.

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

2. Ibid.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

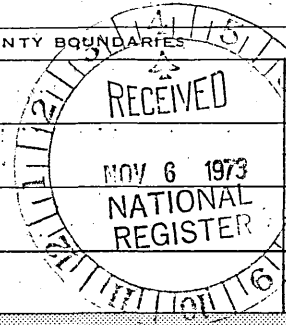
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		43 0 41 . 25 .	73 0 01 . 45 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

UTM  
18/658840  
4839130  
CD

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, Researcher**

ORGANIZATION: **Vermont Division of Historic Sites** DATE: **10/1/73**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Pavilion Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Montpelier** STATE: **Vermont** CODE: **50**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>William B. Pinney</u></p> <p>Title <b>Director of Historic Sites State Historic Preservation Officer</b></p> <p>Date <u>10/31/73</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>A. R. Mortensen</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>1/24/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>George J. Hamer</u> Deputy Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>Jan. 21, 1974</u></p>
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