

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JAN 30 1976  
DATE ENTERED AUG 17 1976

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 *ml* Cromer's Mill Covered Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

Nails Creek Covered Bridge

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Eight miles south of Carnesville *at Nails Creek*

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Carnesville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
9th - Phil M. Landrum

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Franklin

CODE

119

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED In Use

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Franklin County

STREET & NUMBER

Franklin County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Carnesville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Franklin County

STREET & NUMBER

Franklin County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Carnesville

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Cromer's Mill Covered Bridge spans Nails Creek in Franklin County, Georgia, about eight miles south of Carnesville. This bridge has been by-passed by a modern concrete bridge on Georgia Route 106, about 50 yards away, but is still passable for vehicles and maintained in a good condition by county highway maintenance crews. The bridge is completely covered and extends 111 feet with one span. The south end of the bridge has an uncovered approach made of wood six feet in length. The bridge is 16 feet wide, overall, and 17 feet high from the bottom of the lower chord to the ridge line of the roof. The trusses on each side are 14 feet high. Vehicle clearance is restricted to 9 feet for both height and width.

Construction is of the Town Lattice design and the wood is rough sawn heart pine. The diagonals are made of 3 x 10 inch timbers and each is numbered indicating its place in the truss. This was a common practice to ease assembly. There are two pins at each intersection. There are two lower chords and one upper chord, each made of 3 x 10 inch timbers, doubled. The floor sills are 4 x 12 inches in size and placed about six feet apart. The floor joists are made of 3 x 6 inch planks with a longitudinal runner of the same size boards to provide a smooth surface for traffic and to minimize wear on the floor.

The bridge rests on stone abutments held together with concrete and on the south end a similiarly constructed stone pier supports the bridge. The distance from the center of this pier to the abutment is 13 feet. In 1967, a steel truss was placed under the north end of this bridge some eight feet from the abutment, in order to add additional support to the span. This truss is made of 12 inch steel I beams. Later, a single wooden pole was installed as a support on the east side of the bridge about 20 feet from the pier.

The sides are covered with pine boards and batten. The roof, now metal, was originally of wooden shingles. The metal roof, the restrictive portals, and the additional supports under the bridge are the only alterations that have been made to its original appearance.

This bridge is maintained in generally good condition and sustains a very moderate amount of traffic since it has been by-passed with a nearby concrete bridge.

There are no visible ruins of the Comer's Mill complex within 800 yards of the Bridge. A 1910 map of Franklin County does indicate the presence of a mill near the Bridge. The area of the historic site will include the mill site as shown by the 1910 map.

Cromer's Mill Covered Bridge is listed as No. 10-59-01 in the "World Guide to Covered Bridges," published by the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc., 1972 edition.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1907

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Cromer's Mill Covered Bridge was constructed in 1907 in accordance with a contract awarded by the county to James M. Hunt whose bid of \$1,623 was the lowest received. The bridge takes its name from the Cromer family who moved into Franklin County, Georgia, and settled on Nails Creek at this location in 1845. Mr. Will Cromer built the stone abutments on which this bridge rests and he was a descendent of the original family. The Cromers operated a woolen mill downstream from this bridge before the Civil War. Subsequently, the area boasted of a cotton gin, flour mill and saw mill. All of this ceased by 1943 and there are no salient remains near the bridge. Today there are several homes nearby and the vacated building of a small country store.

Cromer's Mill Covered Bridge is one of 21 covered bridges remaining in Georgia and one of only 13 still in use, though on a restricted basis. Thirteen of Georgia's remaining covered bridges are built of the Town Lattice design and the Cromer's Mill Covered Bridge is one of these. The Town Truss was designed and patented in 1820 by Ithiel Town, an architect of New Haven, Connecticut. Town realized the need for a covered bridge truss which could be quickly built by a carpenter and his was the first truly American design. The design consists of a web of light planks crisscrossed at an angle of 45 to 60 degrees, like a lattice, and fastened together with wooden pins or trunnels at each intersection. It is the most popular design for covered bridges in this country.

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## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Allen, Richard Sanders, Covered Bridges of the South. Battleboro, Vt.: Stephen Greene Press.  
 Bogle, James G., "The Vanishing Breed," Georgia Magazine, March 1972, p.16.  
Bridge Beat, News Letter, Southern Covered Bridge Assoc., Cary, N.E., June 1970.  
World Guide to Covered Bridges, ed. Oscar F. Lane, Boston, Mass., 1972.  
Old Covered Bridges in Georgia, pamphlet, Atlanta: Georgia State Parks Department.  
 "Old Georgia Covered Bridge Could Tell Quite A Story," Carnesville Herald, Carnesville, Georgia, December 26, 1963.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

410

A	1,7	29,13,9,0	3,79,47,6,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Using the Comers Covered Bridge as the standing point, the boundaries extend approximately 125 feet on either side of Nails Creek and runs eastward from the Bridge a distance of 250 feet and westward from the bridge 125 feet.

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	David T. Agnew, Historian, Historic Preservation Section
ORGANIZATION	James G. Bogle, Colonel, U.S. Army Ret., Consultant to the Historic Preservation Section
DATE	January 7, 1975
STREET & NUMBER	270 Washington Street, S.W., Room 703-C
TELEPHONE	404-656-2840
CITY OR TOWN	Atlanta
STATE	Georgia

## 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

DAVID M. SHERMAN

DATE

TITLE

Chief, Historic Preservation Section

1-23-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

8/17/70

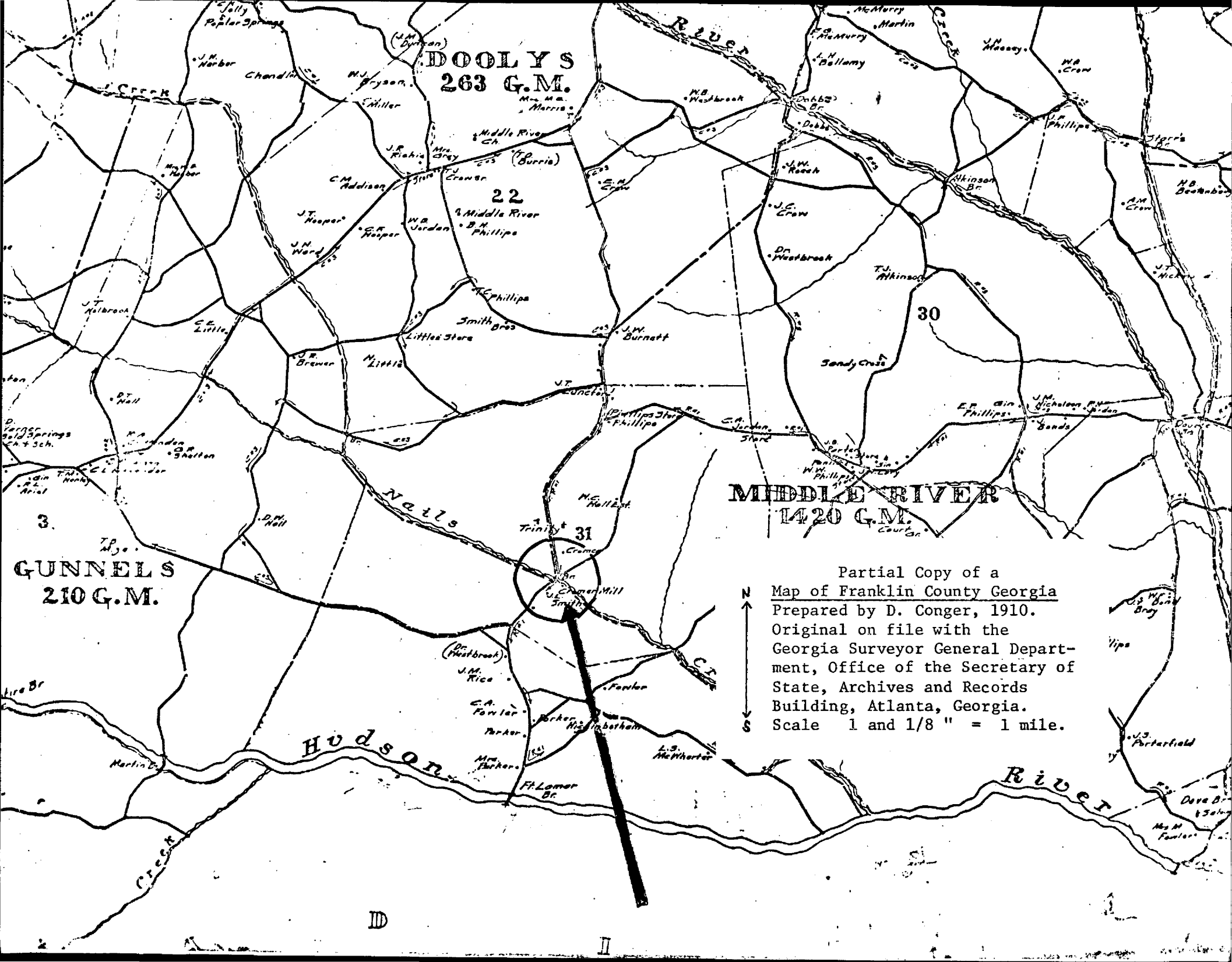
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

8.17.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



**DOOLY'S**  
263 G.M.

**GUNNEL'S**  
210 G.M.

**MIDDLE RIVER**  
1420 G.M.

Partial Copy of a  
Map of Franklin County Georgia  
 Prepared by D. Conger, 1910.  
 Original on file with the  
 Georgia Surveyor General Department,  
 Office of the Secretary of State,  
 Archives and Records Building,  
 Atlanta, Georgia.  
 Scale 1 and 1/8" = 1 mile.

Franklin Co, Ga.  
Cromer Mill Course & Hedge  
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER