

PH0367320

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Hampshire
COUNTY: Cheshire
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE NOV 21 1976

1. NAME

COMMON:
Coombs Covered Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Coombs Bridge

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Off N. H. Route 10, "Old Westport Road"

CITY OR TOWN:
Winchester

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Second

STATE:
New Hampshire

CODE:
33

COUNTY:
Cheshire

CODE:
005

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 type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No Limit 6 tons
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)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Town of Winchester

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Winchester

STATE:
New Hampshire

CODE:
33

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Cheshire County Registry of Deeds, Cheshire Co. Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
12 Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Keene,

STATE:
New Hampshire

CODE:
03431

33

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Hampshire's Historic Preservation Plan

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State of New Hampshire
 Department of Resources and Economic Development

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House Annex
P. O. Box 856 25 Capitol Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Concord,

STATE:
New Hampshire

CODE:
03301

33

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
New Hampshire

COUNTY:
Cheshire

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DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

Spanning the Ashuelot River on an asphalt surfaced secondary town road 0.3 miles west of N. H. Route 10 in Winchester, New Hampshire, this bridge, 118 feet long and 14 feet wide, was erected in 1837, named for its builder, one of the descendants of Anthony Combs, or Coombs, who settled in Winchester soon after the Revolution, coming from his native Massachusetts to New Hampshire where he raised a large family. Anthony, Jr., appears to have lived just over this bridge about 1858. National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges. World Guide to Covered Bridges 29-03-03. N. H. Department of Public Works and Highways number 143/175. N. H. Department of Resources and Economic Development number 2.

This attractive single-span covered bridge resting on split granite abutments fitted without mortar, underwent extensive repairs in 1964 after deteriorating badly and having been closed, and was thoroughly renovated following a 1969 study of its condition by state public works personnel. Numerous parts found to be broken, weak or decayed were replaced, the oak floor renewed and elements of its Town lattice construction, braces, portals and portions of its sheathed siding repaired. Despite the new materials, a tin roof and tie rods, this bridge preserves very much its original appearance, although perhaps originally painted rather than stained, and since its latest renovation is in excellent condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) 1837

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 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

Engineering:

Wooden covered bridges, "an endangered species," are significant documents in the annals of American engineering and technological history worthy of protection and preservation. The Coombs covered bridge illustrates the Town Truss construction designed and patented in 1820 by Ithiel Town, a New Haven architect and builder. It is characterized by a lattice-like web of light planks crisscrossed at an angle of 45 degrees to 60 degrees, fastened together with wooden pins or trunnels. The Coombs bridge is supported by split granite abutments so perfectly fitted together that no mortar was required. The bridge and abutments are in excellent condition. The Coombs covered bridge is an especially well-proportioned structure of historic and artistic merit as well as an engineering landmark of its region.

Transportation:

Less of an essential transportation link today, the Coombs bridge does occupy a position of great convenience to students and tourists very near N. H. Route 10. To bypass this bridge would require substantial improvement of gravel roads in both the towns of Swanzey and Winchester and would entail a considerable detour for residents of this section of both communities.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allen, Richard Sanders. Covered Bridges of the Northeast. Rev. ed. (Brattleboro, Vt., Stephen Greene Press, 1974).

Avery, Floyd L. Report of Covered Bridges in New Hampshire. Rev. October 1965. (Concord, N. H., N. H. Department of Public Works and Highways, 1965).

Child, Hamilton, comp. Gazetteer of Cheshire County, N. H., 1736-1885. (Syracuse, N. Y., Printed at the Journal Office, 1885).

Continued

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		N	W	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		42° 50' 18"	72° 21' 0"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		<i>Zone 18</i>		
SE	° ' "	° ' "		<i>715-600-E</i>	<i>4746-000-N</i>	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **0.5 A**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
David R. Proper, Curator

ORGANIZATION: Historical Society of Cheshire County DATE: June 20, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
51 So. Lincoln Street

CITY OR TOWN: Keene STATE: New Hampshire 03431 CODE: 33

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: [Signature]

Title: NH State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: May 12, 1975

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

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/21/76

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 11.15.76

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 1

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Cheshire	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 21 1976

(Number all entries) 6 (Cont.)

U. S. Dept. of the Interior. National Parks Service. Historic American Engineering Record. New England; An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites. (Wash., D. C., 1974).

Rowe, William H. Historic American Engineering Record. n.d.]

8 (Cont.)

Kenyon, Thedia Cox. New Hampshire's Covered Bridges. Rev. ed., with appendix ... (n.p., Wake-Brook House, n.d.).

Keyworth, William Gordon. The Covered Bridges of New Hampshire. (n.p., 1972?).

National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc. World Guide to Covered Bridges, ed. by Oscar F. Lane, rev. April 1, 1972. (n.p., 1972).

N. H. Division of Economic Development. The Covered Bridges of New Hampshire. (Concord, N. H., 1973).

Smith and Morley (firm) Philadelphia. Map of Cheshire County, N. H., from Actual Survey by L. Fagan. (Philadelphia, 1858).

White, W. Edward. Covered Bridges of New Hampshire. (Plymouth, N. H., n.d.).



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RECEIVED	MAY 4 1977
DATE ENTERED	MAY 11 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA, Continued.

10.2 UTM References

<u>ZONE</u>	<u>EASTING</u>	<u>NORTHING</u>
18	7 · 15 · 600	47 · 46 · 000