

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Vermont
COUNTY:	Lamoille
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 13 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Waterman Covered Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Town road across Waterman Brook, 2.8 miles south of Johnson village S of Johnson

CITY OR TOWN: Johnson *vic.* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Vermont District

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Vermont	50	Lamoille	015

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 Johnson

STREET AND NUMBER: (no street number)

CITY OR TOWN: Johnson 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: Johnson STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

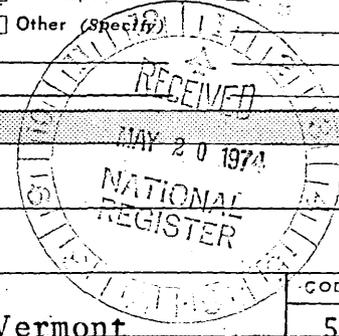
TITLE OF SURVEY: Vermont Historic Sites & Structures Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1974  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



STATE:	Vermont
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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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 Waterman Covered Bridge consists of a principal span supported by two flanking timber queenpost trusses and, at the west end, a short secondary span of post-and-beam construction. The queenpost trusses incorporate iron suspension rods which extend from the principal upper members to the bottom chords. In 1969 four steel beams were placed under the queenpost span for reinforcement.<sup>1</sup>

The bridge rests on abutments which were built originally of irregular stone slabs laid dry. In 1962 the west abutment was rebuilt in concrete.<sup>2</sup> A timber bent stands under the bridge to support it at the point where the principal and secondary spans are joined. The bent stands on a foundation built of irregular stone laid dry and capped with concrete.

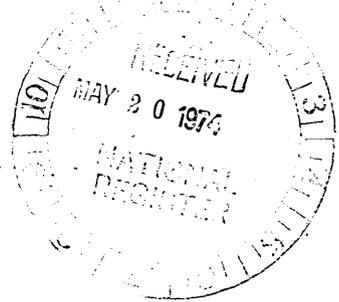
The Waterman Bridge is 90 feet long overall; the queenpost span extends 74 feet and the post-and-beam span the remaining 16 feet. The bridge is 19 feet wide and has a 16-foot roadway. The wood floor consists of planks laid flat and perpendicular to the trusses, overlaid transversely with two strips of planks for driving surfaces. The wood floor is 80 feet long, and begins six feet inside the east portal and four feet inside the west portal; the approaches are gravel.

On the exterior, the timbers pegged together to form the trusses and framing of the bridge are sheathed with unpainted boards-and-battens hung vertically. The siding stops short of the eaves to leave strip openings along the tops of the walls.

The gable ends are sheathed with unpainted flush boards hung vertically. The portal openings are rectangular with diagonal upper corners, which cover the first interior struts. The medium-pitch gable roof, which does not overhang the gable ends, is covered with standing seam metal sheeting.

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1. Robert L. Hagerman, Covered Bridges of Lamoille County, Robert L. Hagerman, Morrisville, Vt., 1972, p. 24.
2. Ibid., p. 24.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**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) 1868

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/Phi-             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | losophy  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | itarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

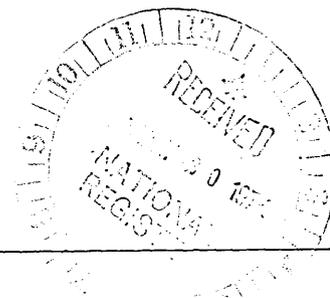
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Waterman Covered Bridge was built by George S. Mills in 1868.<sup>1</sup> The bridge has two structural sections, the principal span supported by queenpost trusses built of hand-hewn timbers and the secondary span framed with sawn timbers in post-and-beam construction. The structure has been allowed to deteriorate, and is threatened with demolition. The Waterman bridge is one of three covered wood bridges remaining in the town of Johnson.

The covered bridges of Vermont are among its most cherished and symbolic historic resources. About one hundred of the bridges still stand in the state, the highest concentration by area of covered bridges in the United States.<sup>2</sup> Many of these bridges have been altered only slightly, and many relate to other structures and villagescapes to form a unique historic environment. Recently, however, various forces have caused drastic changes in the state. The covered bridges have become subject to increasingly intense and detrimental effects of those changes. The Vermont Division of Historic Sites, therefore, wishes to extend the recognition and protection of the National Register of Historic Places to a majority of the remaining covered bridges.

1. Robert L. Hagerman, Covered Bridges of Lamoille County, Robert L. Hagerman, Morrisville, Vt., 1972, p. 23.

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

Hagerman, Robert L., Covered Bridges of Lamoille County, Robert L. Hagerman, Morrisville, Vt., 1972.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

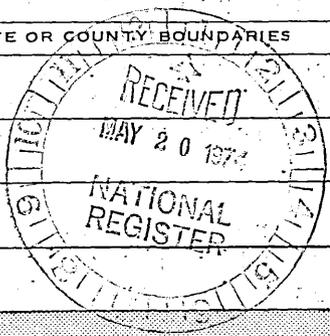
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44° 36' 33"	72° 41' 06"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

18/623740  
19-11930  
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, Historic Sites Researcher**

ORGANIZATION: **Vermont Division of Historic Sites** DATE: **5/3/74**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Pavilion Building**

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: William B. Priney

Title: Director of Historic Sites  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 5/14/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert A. Connally  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
Professional Services

Date: JUN 13 1974

ATTEST:  
Charles H. ...  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6-12-74