

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 11 1975
DATE ENTERED	MAR 26 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

* *

Lee's Creek Covered Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

Lee's Creek Covered Bridge

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

700 feet off Kentucky Rt. 8, on the Tuckahoe Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Dover

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

seventh

STATE

Kentucky

X VICINITY OF

CODE

021

COUNTY

Mason

CODE

161

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mason County

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mason County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Maysville

STATE
Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historical Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission, Wapping Street

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE
Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

__EXCELLENT
X GOOD
__FAIR
__DETERIORATED
__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

__UNALTERED
X ALTERED

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lee's Creek Covered Bridge at Dover is located about 700 feet off Kentucky Route #8 on the Tuckahoe Road.

The bridge appears to be in good condition. Constructed on the "queenpost" design with internal wind bracing, it crosses Lee's Creek in a single 63-foot span. The walls are vertically paralleled and the roof is of corrugated sheet metal. Steel guard rails lead up the approaches to the bridge and the asphalt pavement extends through the entire length of the bridge. The old stone abutments have been supplanted by reinforced concrete.

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 1835-1 1845 #7 p.2 BUILDER/ARCHITECT n/a

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ^{1/5/77}

The Lee's Creek Covered Bridge, built in 1835, is probably the oldest covered bridge in Kentucky. It has had two complete restorations, the first by the Bowers of Flemingsburg in 1928. The last restoration was in 1966 after a tornado struck the area. Restoration was carried out by the Kentucky Department of Highways at a cost of \$16,000 dollars.

Originally a toll bridge, it still serves the community of Dover without the toll-gate.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Allen, Richard S. Covered Bridges of the South. New York: Bonanza Books, 1970, p.47.
- Kentucky Covered Bridge Assn. Timbered Tunnel Talk. (November, 1971)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	2498100	4292730	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

John Johnson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

June 9, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

401 Wapping Street

TELEPHONE

564-4476 (502)

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

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.

~~____~~ SIGNATURE

Eldred W. Melton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer 7-9-75

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DATE

3/26/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

3-26-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Lee's Creek Covered Bridge
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

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The Lee's Creek (also called Dover) Covered Bridge in Mason County is 61 feet in length, according to Kentucky's Department of Transportation measurements. Although exact construction dates of Kentucky's covered bridges are often difficult to ascertain, it is thought the Lee's Creek bridge was built c. 1845 (Allen, p. 47).

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

At one time Kentucky had hundreds of covered bridges spanning her rivers. Just prior to World War II, sixty-five were still standing. By 1952, the numbers had shrunk to thirty-nine. Now only sixteen remain. These sixteen, which represent a variety of structural types, are concentrated in the central and northeast sections of the state in the small communities or rural areas of the state.

Many reasons have been offered to explain the construction of covered bridges in Kentucky during the 19th century. The road across the bridges were kept dry and free of snow in winter. Most important, however, was the protection the covering over the bridges provided against the deterioration of the wood. It permitted the timbered trusses and braces to season properly and kept water out of the joints. The life of the bridge was, therefore, significantly prolonged, averaging, generally seven to eight times that of one left uncovered.

Many of the covered bridges owe their present survival to modern spans constructed nearby that relieve the covered bridges of heavy traffic. Six are now closed to vehicular traffic although, like the others, they are visited by large numbers of tourists. All but one are publicly owned. Few are well maintained and most are in need of immediate repair or restoration if their preservation is to be secured.