

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Vermont
COUNTY:	Orange
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	SEP 17 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Thetford Center Covered Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Town road across Ompompanoosuc River at Thetford Center Village

CITY OR TOWN: Thetford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Vt. District Rep. Richard Mallary

STATE: Vermont

CODE: 50

COUNTY: Orange

CODE: 17

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)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Town of Thetford

STREET AND NUMBER: (no street number)

CITY OR TOWN: Thetford

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: Thetford

STATE: Vermont

CODE: 50

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Vermont Division of Historic Sites

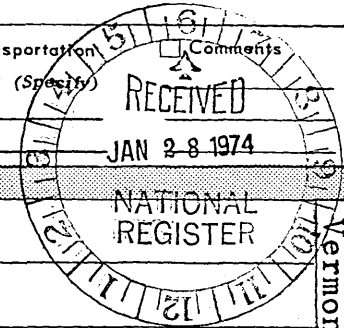
STREET AND NUMBER: Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier

STATE: Vermont

CODE: 50

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:	Vermont
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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 Thetford Center Covered Bridge consisted originally of a single span supported by two flanking timber Haupt trusses. In 1963 the bridge was altered significantly; the timber deck structure was replaced by four longitudinal steel beams and a central pier was built under the span. The Haupt trusses now carry only the superstructure of the bridge. Each truss combines a series of timber diagonals and uprights (similar to multiple kingposts) with a laminated plank arch; the arch comprises three layers of heavy planks pegged together vertically.

The abutments were built originally of irregular stone laid dry. During the structural alteration, both abutments were capped with concrete to receive the steel deck beams. The lower part of the west abutment has been faced with concrete. The narrow central pier is built of reinforced concrete.

The bridge is 128.5 feet long at floor level. The ends of the side walls flare upward so that the gable ends overhang the floor about one foot at each portal. The pier stands under the midpoint of the original span. The bridge is 20.5 feet wide and has an 18-foot roadway. The wood floor, which consists of planks laid on edge directly on the deck beams and transverse to them, begins seven feet inside each portal.

On the exterior, the timbers pegged together to form the trusses (and side walls) of the bridge are sheathed with unpainted flush boards hung vertically. One small rectangular window has been cut in the middle of each side wall. The gable ends are sheathed with flush vertical boards painted red. The portal openings are rectangular. The medium-pitch roof, which does not overhang the gables, is covered with corrugated metal sheeting.

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) **unknown**

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

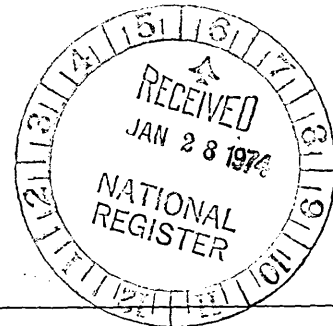
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Thetford Center Covered Bridge is unique in Vermont; it is the only covered wood bridge supported by Haupt patent trusses. According to Richard Sanders Allen, it is also "the only Haupt truss covered bridge in the Northeast (U.S.)."¹ Although altered so that the Haupt trusses no longer carry the deck, the bridge retains intact this unusual truss system. The Thetford Center bridge is one of two covered wood bridges remaining in the town of Thetford.

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.² Many of these bridges are integral parts of unique architectural environments whose physical setting and cultural context have been little altered until recently. Now, however, pervasive highway expansion, intensive commercial development, and physical neglect are changing drastically the historic environment and threatening the covered bridges. The Vermont Division of Historic Sites, therefore, wishes to extend the recognition and protection of the National Register to the majority of the surviving covered bridges, including the Thetford Center bridge.

1. R. S. Allen, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1957, p. 60.

2. Allen, p. 50.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

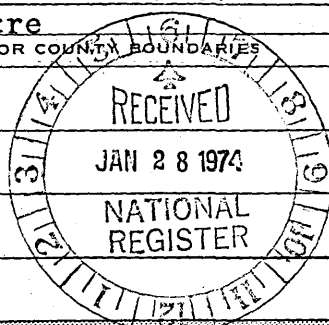
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 49' 56"	72° 15' 11"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

18/720850
4856650
C2

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: **1/16/74**

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 1/17/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

AR Martens
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 1/17/74

ATTEST:
Wm Henry L
Keeper of The National Register

Date 1-16-74