

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 9 1986

date entered MAY 8 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic, Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge

and or common Gilbertville Bridge

2. Location

street & number Old Gilbertville Road/Bridge Street N/A not for publication

city, town Ware/Hardwick N/A vicinity of

state MA code 025 county Hampshire Worcester code 015
027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status in use	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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 type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Bridge

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Ware/Town of Hardwick

street & number Ware Town Hall/Hardwick Town Hall

city, town Ware/Hardwick N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hampshire County Courthouse/Worcester County Courthouse

street & number King Street/2 Main Street

city, town Northampton/Worcester state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Comprehensive Survey of Ware has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 Inv. #901 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town 80 Boylston Street Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Ware - Hardwick Covered Bridge, Ware, Massachusetts

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered
as noted

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The covered bridge over the Ware River at the village of Gilbertsville, Massachusetts links the towns of Ware in Hampshire County and Hardwick in Worcester County. The single span is at right angles to the Old Gilbertsville Road from Ware Village; the road makes a sharp right turn into the bridge from the Ware side, and continues straight onto Bridge Street in Gilbertsville on the Hardwick side.

The bridge is a Town lattice truss, constructed on the principle patented by Ithiel Town in 1820. Its dimensions are approximately 25 by 137 feet. The continuous web of diagonal members that forms the trusses is pegged together with cylindrical wooden treenails, two at each intersection and three through the top and bottom chords. Both deck and superstructure have been reinforced with iron rods, bolts and tie bars.

The exterior cladding of the bridge consists of vertical planks extended from the bottom of the trusses to within a few feet of the eaves; above this point the trusses are exposed and light is admitted. The cladding is brought several yards into the tunnel at either end. The exterior siding was replaced as recently as 1954, but a number of planks are missing. The roof is asphalt and the deck is planked with boards laid at right angles to the line of traffic.

The portals of the bridge are shouldered, with vertical siding on the uprights and horizontal siding across the gables. The exterior is painted barn-red, trimmed with white on the Hardwick side. The portals are disfigured with graffiti, particularly on the more isolated Ware side.

8. Significance Ware - Hardwick Covered Bridge, Ware, Massachusetts

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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1886 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ware-Hardwick bridge at Gilbertsville has unusual significance as one of only four 19th century wooden bridges, roofed to protect their structural members from rain and snow, still standing in their original locations in Massachusetts.¹ The present rarity of such bridges in Massachusetts is in contrast to their former importance in the Commonwealth as elsewhere in 19th century New England. Timothy Palmer and William Howe, inventors of two of the early trussing systems, were natives of Massachusetts. Ithiel Town, who, in 1820, patented the "Town Lattice Mode" on which the Gilbertsville bridge is based, designed the impressive covered toll bridge which for 102 years spanned the Connecticut River at Springfield. In his book Covered Bridges of the Northeast, Richard Sanders Allen states that "well over 100 roofed spans were distributed over Massachusetts."² Of the various structural systems available, Town's lattice truss was particularly attractive to local builders; it departed from earlier systems which incorporated arches, and relied instead on a dense web of simple, diagonally crossing planks. As Allen points out, Town trusses continued to be erected in New England long after Ithiel Town's patent had expired. Two of the Commonwealth's four in situ covered bridges are constructed on the Town truss system; the Gilbertsville bridge, erected in the 1880s is evidence of the lingering appeal of the system. As a still-functional example of this important and now rare 19th century engineering type, the covered bridge at Gilbertsville is nominated to the National Register under criterion C, as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction.

"The beautiful manufacturing village of Gilbertsville"³ to which this bridge leads, was founded in 1860. In that year the George H. Gilbert Company, a woolen manufacturing firm in Ware Village, purchased a water power in the adjoining town of Hardwick. Four large mills and 200 tenements were reported for the village in an 1888-89 directory.

The 1886 date of the Gilbertsville Bridge appears in a number of secondary sources on covered bridges, as well as in the 1983 Ware Survey. No primary source for this date has been located, nor was reference to the bridge found in the Ware Town Records for the 1880s. However, there is a reference in an 1892 directory of Gilbertsville to Bridge Street as the name of the public way "from Highland Avenue to the covered bridge."⁴ The bridge can date no earlier than 1884, since a photograph published in 1885 and including an 1884 Congregational Parsonage, shows the present site of the bridge with a millpond, but without a span. The 1886 date, though it derives from an unspecified source, is therefore a reasonable one.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Ware

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UTM References

A

1	8	7	2	9	7	4	0	4	6	8	7	7	7	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property includes the covered bridge across the Ware River between the Old Gilbertville Road in the Town of Ware and Bridge Street in the village of Gilbertville, Town of Hardwick; the super structure of the bridge, its abutments and approaches are included in the nomination.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state Massachusetts code 025 county Hampshire code 015

state _____ code _____ county Worcester code 027

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia Wright

organization Historic Preservation Consultant to Ware date November, 1985
Historical Commission

street & number 16 Arnold Avenue 1-R telephone (413) 584-2770

city or town Northampton, state Massachusetts

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 Vallie A Talmage
Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission
title State Historic Preservation Officer date April 1, 1986

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

date 5/8/86

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Ware - Hardwick Covered Bridge Item number 8

Page 1

Ware and Hardwick, MA

FOOTNOTES

1. The others are also in Western Massachusetts, in the towns of Sheffield, Conway, and Lyonsville.
2. Allen, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, 1983, p. 68.
N.B.: Allen reported that over 500 covered bridges were built in Vermont, of which he catalogued over 90 survivors.
3. Directory of Ware and Gilbertsville, Thorndike and Three Rivers, 1888-89, p. 25.
4. Capron, R.E., ed., Directory and Handbook of Town of Ware, 1892.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Ware- Hardwick Covered Bridge Item number 9

Page 1

Ware and Hardwick, MA

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Allen, Richard Sanders, Covered Bridges of the Northeast (Revised Edition).
Brattleboro, Vermont: the Stephen Greene Press, 1983.

Capron, R.E., ed., Directory and Handbook of Town of Ware.
Ware, Massachusetts: 1982.

Directory of Ware and Gilbertsville, Thorndike and Three Rivers, for 1888-89.
Ware, Massachusetts, 1888.

Eddy, George W., Gilbertsville Illustrated. Ware, Massachusetts, 1885.

Hengen, Elizabeth Durfee, Ware: An Architectural and Historical Overview,
(Ware Comprehensive Survey), 1983. (copies on file with Massachusetts
Historical Commission, Boston, Ware Historical Commission, And Young
Men's Library Association, Ware Massachusetts).

Howard, Andrew, Covered Bridges of Massachusetts: a guide. Unionville,
Connecticut: The Village Press, 1978.

Wagemann, Clara, Covered Bridges of New England (Revised Edition). Rutland,
Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle Co., 1952.

86001006

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Ware--Hardwick Covered Bridge
Hampshire County (also in Worcester County)
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. APR 9 1986

Fed. Reg. Date 2/3/87

Date Due: 5/8/86 - 5/24/86

Action: ACCEPT 5/8/86

Entered in ~~this~~ RETURN
National Register REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



ROAD
UNDER REPAIR

ROAD
UNDER REPAIR
AT THEIR OWN RISK

LANDER
GIVES
HEAD

Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge
Ware and Hardwick, Mass.
Ware River between Old Gilbert-
ville Road (Ware) and Bridge
Street (Hardwick).

Photograph by: Patricia Wright
Date: July 1984

Location of Negative: Collectio
of Ware Historical Commission,
Ware, Massachusetts

Photo #1 of 1

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

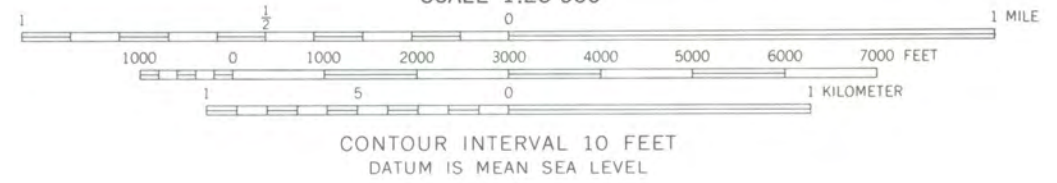
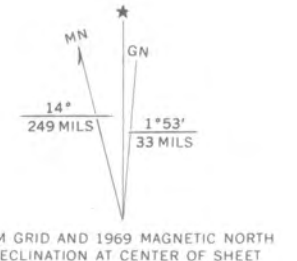
WARE QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge
Ware and Hardwick, Mass.
Over Ware River between Old
Gilbertville Road (Ware) and
Bridge Street (Hardwick)
Ware Quadrangle 1:25,000
UTM: 18/729740/4687770



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by plane-table surveys 1943-44. Revised from aerial
photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1969
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, Light-duty road, all weather,
hard surface, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, Unimproved road, fair or dry
weather
State Route

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject to
controlled inundation

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

WARE, MASS.
N4215-W7207.5/7.5
1969

AMS 6568 1 SW-SERIES V814



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Valerie A. Talmage

Executive Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

March 31, 1986

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of Interior, National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20012-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Ware, Church Street Historic District, Church Street between Park Avenue and Highland Street, 73 properties.

Ware, Ware Center Historic District, Route 9 east and west of Greenwich Plains Road, 20 properties.

Ware, Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge, Old Gilbertville Road/Bridge Street.

Ware, Ware Millyard Historic District, Roughly bounded by South Street, Ware River, Upper Dam Complex, Park Street, Otis Avenue and Church Street, 54 properties.

Ware, Ware Town Hall, Main and West Streets.

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah J. Zimmerman".

Sarah J. Zimmerman
Director, Preservation Planning
Massachusetts Historical Commission

SJZ/ljs



March 3, 1992

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

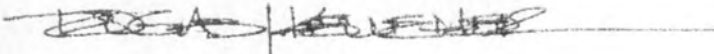
Dear Ms. Shull:

Recently, it was noticed that several National Register nominations are missing from our files, the missing nominations include the following:

Beacon Hill Hist. Dist. Boston (Suffolk County)	NHL 10/15/1966 NR H.D. 10/15/1966
USS Cassin Young Boston (Suffolk County)	NHL 1/14/1986 NR IND 1/14/1986
Ware-Hardwick Covered Bridge Ware (Hampshire County) Hardwick (Worcester County)	NR IND 5/8/1986
American Antiquarian Society Worcester (Worcester County)	NHL 11/24/1968 NR IND 11/24/1968
South Yarmouth-Bass River Hist. Dist. Yarmouth (Barnstable County)	NR H.D. 5/29/1990
Minuteman National Historic Park Concord (Middlesex County)	NHL 10/15/1966 NR IND 10/15/1966
Old Manse Concord (Middlesex County)	NHL 10/15/1966 NR IND 10/15/1966

Due to recent planning issues, we would greatly appreciate you forwarding complete copies of these nominations (including all maps and photos), to our office as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at this office.

Sincerely,


Douglas J. Kelleher
National Register Assistant
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director, State Historic Preservation Officer
80 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 (617) 727-8470

Office of the Secretary of State, Michael J. Connolly, Secretary

The letter
was
forwarded
to Hist. Div.
for
NHL
files.

BS.

3/6/92