

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Walton-Barrow
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: APR 14 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Kilgore's Mill Covered Bridge + mill site
AND/OR HISTORIC: Bethlehem Bridge, Apalachee River Bridge, Briscoe Mill Bridge

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Briscoe Mill Road
CITY OR TOWN: 3 1/2 miles southwest of Bethlehem, across Apalachee River
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr.
STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Walton-Barrow County CODE: 297

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY: Building, Structure
OWNERSHIP: Public
STATUS: Occupied In
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Unrestricted
PRESENT USE: Transportation

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Walton County, Barrow County, Court House Square
STREET AND NUMBER: Court House, Court Square, Winder, Georgia
CITY OR TOWN: Monroe, Georgia
STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

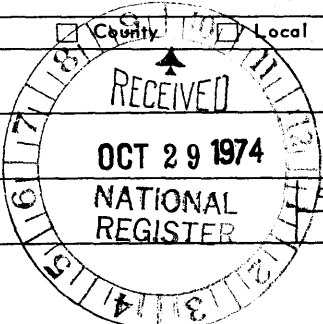
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Walton County
STREET AND NUMBER: Court House, Court Square
CITY OR TOWN: Monroe, Georgia
STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None
DATE OF SURVEY: County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Kilgore's Mill Covered Bridge spans the Apalachee River which forms the boundary between Walton and Barrow Counties, Georgia. The bridge is completely covered and extends 117 feet in length with only one span. The bridge is 16.5' wide and 15.5' high from the deck to the roof at the center of the bridge. The piers are made of native stone and held together with mortar or cement. Construction is of the Town Lattice type and all wood is rough sawn pine. The diagonal timbers are 2.5" x 10" and there are two pins or treenails at each intersection. The deck is covered with crossboards 2" x 10" in size and longitudinal runners of 2" x 12" are laid on top of these to provide a smoother roadway for traffic and to minimize wear on the deck. The sides are vertical boards extending the full height of the bridge. There are two lower chords made of timbers 2.5" x 10" doubled. The upper chord is made of the same size timbers and also doubled. The ends of the bridge are ceiled on the inside for a distance of nine feet to protect the timbers from the open weather. The portals are of the plain barn type and do not provide any overhang. Maximum vehicle clearance is about 10.5 feet. The roof does extend for about a foot over the portal on each end of the bridge. The roof is made of sheet tin and is in fair condition. The bridge is in good condition structurally, but needs some repairs to the roof, the siding, and the approach to the north end.

The Kilgore's Mill Covered Bridge is listed as No. 10-147-01 in the "World Guide to Covered Bridges," published by the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc., 1965 edition.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1874**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u> |
| <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

The Kilgore's Mill Covered Bridge was constructed in <sup>all cement</sup> 1874 by D. J. Thompson for the sum of \$256.00. Approval of the construction was given by the Commissioners of Walton County on October 6, 1874. This bridge of 1874 was constructed to replace an older bridge at the same location. Adjoining land was first granted to Isiah Sanders by lottery on July 25, 1822, and he subsequently established a mill nearby on the Apalachee River. In 1823 the land was deeded to Joseph James who in 1833 deeded the land to Willis Kilgore, Sr. The land remained in the Kilgore family for over 75 years and the Kilgores built a saw mill and grist mill nearby powered by a dam on the Apalachee River only a few yards downstream from the bridge. The area together with the bridge became known as Kilgore's Mill. The mills no longer stand and only remnants of the dam, sluice way and stone foundations can be seen today. In 1924, the adjoining land was deeded to E. M. and G. R. Briscoe who retained title until 1940. As a consequence, the bridge also became known as the Briscoe Mill Covered Bridge.

The unpaved country road serving the area and the route of which crosses the Apalachee River via this bridge is known as the Carl Davis Road in Walton County and the Briscoe Mill Road in Barrow County. Originally, the land on both sides of the Apalachee River in this area was in Walton County formed on December 19, 1818, from the Creek Cession of January 22, 1818. On July 7, 1914, Barrow County was formed and that area north of the Apalachee River in Walton County became a part of Barrow County. Thus, the ownership is now divided between the two counties and the maintenance responsibility is likewise divided.

The Kilgore's Mill Covered Bridge is one of 22 covered bridges remaining in Georgia and one of only 14 still in use. Thirteen of Georgia's remaining covered bridges are built of the Town Lattice design and the Kilgore's Mill Covered Bridge is one of them. The Town Truss was designed and patented in 1820 by Ithiel Town, an architect of New Haven, Connecticut. Town realized the need for a covered bridge truss which could be quickly built by a carpenter and his was the first truly American design. The design consists of a web of light planks crisscrossed at an angle of 45 to 60 degrees, like a lattice, and fastened together with wooden pins or treenails, at each intersection. It is the most popular design for covered bridges though the number standing grows less each year.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1894  
ND

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

World Guide to Covered Bridges, ed. Harold F. Eastman, Stow, Mass, 1965.  
 Covered Bridges of the South, Richard Sanders Allen. Brattleboro, Vt:  
 Stephen Greene Press, 1970.  
 Anita B. Sams, "Time Is Spanned By A Covered Bridge," The Walton Tribune,  
 Monroe, Ga., June 3, 1970, page 5-D.  
 Minutes of the Court of Ordinary, Walton County, 1868, page 487.  
 James G. Bogle, "The Vanishing Breed," Georgia Magazine, March 1972, page  
 16.  
 Old Covered Bridges in Georgia, pamphlet, Atlanta: Georgia State Parks Dept.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

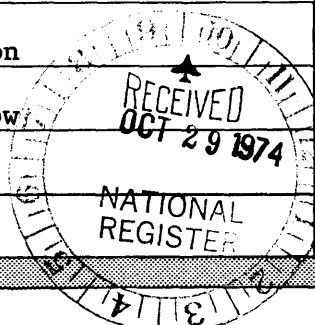
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	33 °	54 '	00 "
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	83 °	44 '	25 "
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

NO  
 WITH  
 CO

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre.. 9 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Georgia	13	Walton	297
Georgia	13	Barrow	013
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 James G. Bogle, Colonel, U.S. Army Ret., consultant to

ORGANIZATION: Historic Preservation Section, Department of Nat-  
 ural Resources, State of Georgia DATE: Sept. 9, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
270 Washington Street, S. W.

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

**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: Jackson O'Neal

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: October 21, 1974

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

A. B. Winters  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/14/75

ATTEST:

W. M. [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: APR 9 1975

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Georgia	
COUNTY	Walton-Barrow	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	14	DATE
APR 14 1975		

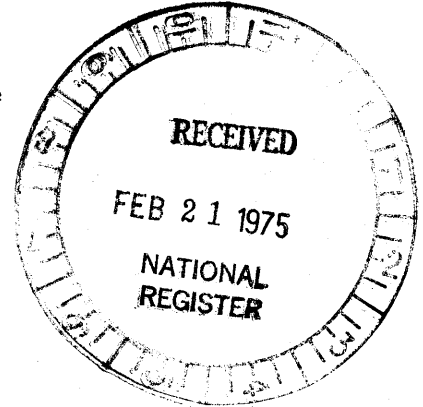
(Number all entries)

AMENDMENT

Kilgore's Mill Covered Bridge

4. Owner of Property - Additional

Mr. and Mrs. Howard D. Kinsey  
308 Crestview  
Monroe, Georgia 30655



7. Description:

The foundation ruins for the Kilgore's Mill Complex are approximately 150 feet downstream (east) of the covered bridge. Only a small portion of the corrugated piping and original raceway remain. The raceway is across the river (west) and close to the bridge. The mill foundation was made of local stones which have been scattered. The entire area is wooded.

The corner stones for the original miller's cottage are close to the mill site. (The structure was called the original cottage by the present landowner.) The house burned in February of 1974. It was a three-room frame building with a high loft, unfinished. It originally had two front rooms and one long room across the back. The left front room had a fireplace on the outside wall and all rooms had outside doors. There was no hallway. The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Kinsey, had made a fourth room and used the cottage occasionally.

8. Significance:

Kilgore's Mill was part of frontier Georgia. It apparently was built shortly after the Creeks lost their land following the end of the war of 1812, or as it is known regionally, the Creek Indian War. The Creeks signed a treaty with General Andrew Jackson in 1815, and through a second "treaty" ceded another track of land on January 22, 1818. The area of Walton County became part of Georgia then.

Although the early records are incomplete, there is a reference to a private road called "James' mill road," going to the Apalachee, in a survey made in 1819. (Wayfarers in Walton, 1967, Anita Sams, p. 56). Joseph James was in the area at that time, for he served as a member of the inferior court on June 5, 1820. (p.45).

In an article written for the Walton Tribune's Sesqui-Centennial edition of December, 1968, Ms. Sams wrote in detail about the covered bridge and mill. The land was drawn in the land lottery of 1820 by Josiah Sanders who sold it in 1823 to Joseph James for \$100 and the deed refers

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(Continuation Sheet) #2

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(Number all entries)

to the mill road.

James sold the mill to Willis Kilgore Sr. in the fall of 1833 and it stayed in the family for 56 years. Willis was sheriff of the county for two terms and served in the Georgia House of Representatives from 1845-8. He was a Walton County delegate to the Secession Convention at Milledgeville, then the state capitol, which was held in January, 1861. Although he owned 26 slaves, he twice voted against secession, but when it was apparent that the motion would carry, he voted affirmatively.

In 1849, there were 23 grist and 23 saw mills and five flour mills in Walton County, which was larger in size than it is now. George White, in his Statistics of the State of Georgia for 1849, wrote that there were six bridges "over the Alcovy, and six over the Apalachee." Land at that time ranged in value from \$2 to \$5 an acre. (p. 580-581).

9. Major Bibliographical References - Additional:


Hemperely Marion, Surveyor General's Office, personal communication.  
White, George, 1849, Statistics of Georgia, Savannah.  
Sams, Anita B., 1967, Wayfareres in Walton, Doraville, Ga.  
\_\_\_\_\_, Walton County Tribune, December 1968, Sesqui-Centennial Edition.

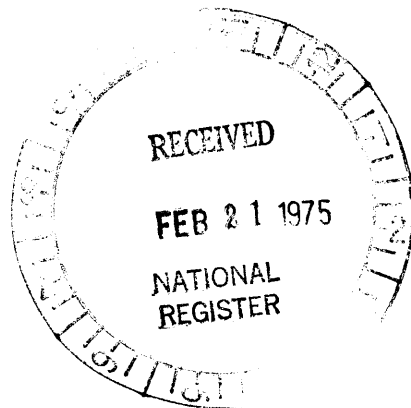
10. Geographical Data:

9 acres

Prepared by:

Marilyn Pennington  
Historic Preservation Section  
Department of Natural Resources  
February 6, 1975

  
Jackson O'Neal Lamb  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
February 7, 1975



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Walton-Barrow  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

AMENDMENT

Kilgore's Mill Covered Bridge  
Walton and Barrow Counties, Georgia

Significance

Further research by the Walton County Historical Society's past president, Jerry Forrester, has provided a new building date for the existing bridge. The date should be 1894, not 1874. Previous research included in the body of this nomination documents the previous bridges on this site. It is apparent from the information herein cited that the 1874 bridge was destroyed about March 30, 1894, when an inspection of the bridge was authorized by the court. A contract was let on July 16th, and the following information detailing the building of the present bridge comes from the Walton County, Georgia, Court of Ordinary (now Probate Court) Minutes for County Purposes (1892-97).

Entries Concerning Kilgore's Bridge

- 7/23/1894 - James Thompson was paid \$36.40 for 14,000 "yellow heart pine shingles" (p. 420)
- 8/04/1894 - N. R. Thompson was paid \$256.32 for 24,412 bd. ft. of lumber for "lattice bridge at Thompson's Mill" (p. 425) (use of lumber itemized in full)
- 8/14/1894 - J. T. Robertson was paid \$13.00 for the use of his buggy for inspecting bridges, among them Kilgore's Bridge (p. 430)
- 8/14/1894 - J. W. Braswell was paid \$8.00 for 900 "white oak pins" (p. 430)
- 8/15/1894 - R. J. Thompson was paid \$115.00 for building two piers according to a contract let on 7/16/1894 (p. 431) at public outcry. He was highest bidder.
- 8/24/1894 - J. M. Breedlove was paid \$80.79 for 7216 bd. ft. of lumber (p. 441) (use of lumber itemized in full)
- 9/03/1894 - James Thompson paid \$9.88 for 2800 shingles (p. 449)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Amendment ITEM NUMBER PAGE 2

9/07/1894 - J. M. Breedlove was paid \$10.07 for 806 bd. ft. of lumber (p. 451)

No entry was found to indicate the exact date of completion and no newspaper reference was found to substantiate either the destruction of the earlier bridge or the completion of the new one. Since this was a rural site, it might have been too far away for mention.

Major Bibliographical References

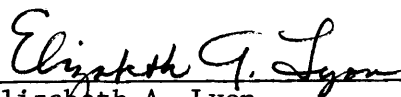
Walton County, Georgia, Court of Ordinary. Minutes for County Purposes 1892-97, entries for 1894, as cited in Section 8.

The Walton Tribune, (Monroe, Georgia) June 2, 1977, p. 2-A, "Covered Bridge Dated Too Early."

Prepared by:

Mr. Jerry Forrester  
Mr. Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.  
Historic Preservation Section  
Department of Natural Resources  
270 Washington Street, S. W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

January 25, 1978

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth A. Lyon  
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer