

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Vermont
 COUNTY: Washington
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: AUG 13 1974

1. NAME
 COMMON: Northfield Falls Covered Bridge
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: N of Northfield off VT 12
 Town road across Dog River at Northfield Falls village
 CITY OR TOWN: Northfield vicinity
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Vt. District
 STATE: Vermont CODE: 50 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 23

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <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 Northfield
 STREET AND NUMBER: (no street number)
 CITY OR TOWN: Northfield 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: Northfield STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Vermont Historic Sites & Structures Survey
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1973 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

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 Northfield Falls Covered Bridge consisted originally of a single span supported by two flanking timber Town lattice trusses. Recently a central pier has been constructed under the span to reinforce it. At the same time the wood deck structure was removed and replaced with four longitudinal steel beams. The timber trusses now carry only the superstructure of the bridge. Iron tie rods extend between the top chords immediately beneath the top beams to provide lateral bracing. Guy cables reach to the river banks from the upper southeast and southwest corners of the bridge to give additional lateral reinforcement.

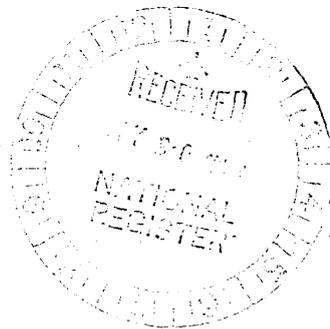
The structure rests on abutments built originally of stone blocks laid dry in regular courses. The west abutment has been capped with concrete, and the east abutment has been either faced or rebuilt with concrete. The central pier is built of reinforced concrete.

The Northfield Falls bridge is 137 feet long, now divided into two spans of equal length (68.5 feet). The bridge is 19.5 feet wide and has a 16-foot roadway. The wood floor, which begins four feet inside each portal, was relaid directly on the steel deck beams; it consists of planks placed on edge perpendicular to the trusses.

On the exterior, the heavy planks pegged together diagonally to form the trusses (and side walls) of the bridge are sheathed with flush boards hung vertically and painted red. Similar siding painted white protects the ends of the trusses immediately inside the portals. There are four large rectangular windows in each side wall, and the siding stops short of the eaves to leave a strip opening along the top of each wall.

The gable ends are also sheathed with flush boards hung vertically and painted red. The portal openings are rectangular. The medium-pitch gable roof 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) 1872

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

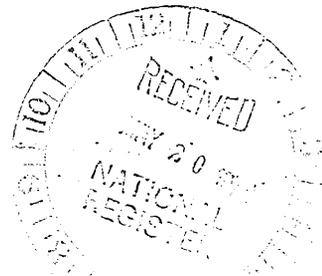
- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <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 | 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 Northfield Falls Covered Bridge is one of five covered wood bridges remaining on public highways in the town of Northfield, the second highest concentration by town of such bridges in Vermont. Three of those bridges -- including the Northfield Falls -- stand within one-quarter mile of one another along the same road, which leads west from the village of Northfield Falls. This is the only place in Vermont where one covered bridge (the Lower Cox Brook Bridge) is visible through the portal of another (the Northfield Falls Bridge).

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.¹ 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. 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.

Congdon, Herbert Wheaton, The Covered Bridge, Vermont Books, Middlebury, Vt., 1970.

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° 10' 20"	72° 39' 09"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

18/687460
4893150
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
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: 5/2/74

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 P. Pinney
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.

AR Weertman
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/13/74

ATTEST:
W. J. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 8-1-74