

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  
\* Mount Zion Covered Bridge  
AND/OR COMMON

Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Kentucky Rt. 458, across Little Beech Fork — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Mooresville — VICINITY OF 7  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE  
Kentucky CODE 021 COUNTY Washington CODE 229

**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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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  
Kentucky State Department of Highways

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Frankfort — VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Springfield 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

CITY, TOWN  
Frankfort STATE Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mount Zion Covered Bridge of Washington County is on Kentucky Route 458 across the Little Beech Fork, 2.2 miles north of the junction with Kentucky Route 55.

Utilizing the Burr truss design, Court records of 1871 show it "to be 280 feet long and 18 feet wide with two abutments and middle pier.... The exterior walls to be built vertically of oak and yellow poplar plank, the floor to be laid with Beech plank, two and one-half inches thick.... The bridge to be covered with a good shingle roof of yellow poplar."

The bridge is still open and maintained by the state with repairs forthcoming.

# 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 checked="" 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

1871

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

H. L. and William F. Barnes

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mount Zion Covered Bridge over the Beech Fork is the last of seven such structures standing at one time in Washington County. Presently, it is one of the longest multi-span bridges remaining in the state.

The contractors were H. L. and William F. Barnes of Mount Washington and the original cost was \$5,000. At the time the bridge was being built, the "Springfield and Chaplin Turnpike" had been surveyed and construction was underway. The bridge was an integral part of the Turnpike.

Completed on November 6, 1871, the Mount Zion Bridge has been serving the people of Washington County for over a century and is still in daily use.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allen, Richard S. Covered Bridges of the South. New York: Bonanza Books, 1970.  
 Kentucky Covered Bridge Association. Timbered Tunnel Talk. Newport, Kentucky  
 (various issues).  
 Washington County Courthouse Records. Court order Box 1871.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	6	6	5	3	4	5	0	4	1	8	7	9	5	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

C 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

D 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John M. Johnson

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

June, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

401 Wapping Street

TELEPHONE

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Cedric W. Milton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

7-9-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

3/26/96

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-25-76

Acting

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 10 1976

DATE ENTERED

Mt. Zion Covered Bridge

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

---

As measured by Kentucky's Department of Transportation, Mt. Zion Covered Bridge in Washington County is 211 feet in length.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 10 1976

DATE ENTERED

Mt. Zion Covered Bridge

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

In April 1871 the President of Springfield and Chaplin Turnpike Road Company, Joseph Grigsby, and the Company's directors came into Court to order the construction of a bridge over the Little Beech Fork "at some point within one mile of the mouth of Hayes still house branch" and asked for an appropriation of \$5000. The Court favored the petition and in October of the same year the Sheriff turned over ten percent of the money collected for the purpose (Order Book I, pp. 122, 165, 169). Soon after, the bridge was constructed of oak and yellow poplar with beech plank flooring and "a good Shingle Roof of yellow Poplar."

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.