

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only

received JUN 17 1980

date entered AUG 27 1980

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

1. Name

historic Meriden Bridge

and/or common Meriden Covered Bridge

2. Location *NW of Meriden*

street & number One mile north west of NH 120, Meriden Rd. at not for publication

Meriden
city, town Colby Hill and Mill Hollow
Plainfield vicinity of congressional district Second

state New Hampshire code 33 county Sullivan code 019

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Town of Plainfield

street & number Bonner Road

city, town Plainfield vicinity of state New Hampshire

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. none

street & number

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

New Hampshire's Historic
title Preservation Plan

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970 federal state county local

depository for survey records State of New Hampshire, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development

city, town PO Box 856 -- Concord state New Hampshire 03301

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

Multiple Kingpost Truss type all wood covered bridge, single span; outside length is 85 feet and 16 feet in width; the deck or roadway is 14 feet in width.

There are twenty-two panels, 36 inches wide, with twenty-three posts on a side. Center post is 6 inches X 10 inches others are 5½ inches X 7 inches, the braces are 4 inches X 6 inches. Top and bottom chords are joined to the posts by iron bolts.

The bridge was repaired in 1953 and again in 1963 at which time new cement abutments were made and the bridge was rebuilt, and steel beams were introduced to carry the load (15 tons). The high gable roof is covered with wood shingles. The exterior is sheathed with vertical plain butted boards, approximately 1/3 of the way up from the bottom chord (about 5 feet).

The portals are segmental/triangular in style, made up of plain boards butted vertically.

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/
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1880 **Builder/Architect** James F. Tasker

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Meriden Covered Bridge, constructed c. 1880, is significant in the areas of engineering and transportation.

It is particularly noteworthy as an example of the work of James F. Tasker of nearby Cornish, New Hampshire. Although unable to read or write, Tasker was a well-known bridge builder in the lower Connecticut River Valley. The Meriden Covered Bridge is an example of the multiple kingpost design developed by Tasker for use in spanning the more moderate crossings in the area.

The bridge has been an important element in the transportation network of Plainfield since its erection and while playing an important role in that respect it also maintains the character and setting of the area much the same as it was a century ago.

Keyworth states that the bridge was built in 1880 by James Tasker (1826-1903) for the sum of \$300 (Keyworth, Covered Bridges of New Hampshire, p. 54).

see also: The National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges World Guide to Covered Bridges (Number 29-10-08); the New Hampshire Department of Public Works and Highways (Number 157/121) and the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development, Survey of Covered Bridges (Number 24).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Child, William H. History of Cornish, New Hampshire 1763-1910, (Concord, NH, 1911) 2 Vols.
 Kenyon, Thedia C. New Hampshire's Covered Bridges, Wake-Brook House, rev. ed., p. 74 & 75.
 Keyworth, William G. The Covered Bridges of New Hampshire, p 54.
 White, W. Edward Covered Bridges of New Hampshire (Plymouth, NH) p. 25 (illus.)

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property *SEE 8-26-80 PHONE REPORT*

Quadrangle name North Hartland, NH-VT

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8	7	2	0	8	0	0	4	8	2	5	7	0	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

SEE 8-26-80 PHONE REPORT

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John H. Dryfhout

organization _____ date June/July 1974

street & number Rural Route 2 telephone _____

city or town Windsor state Vermont

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

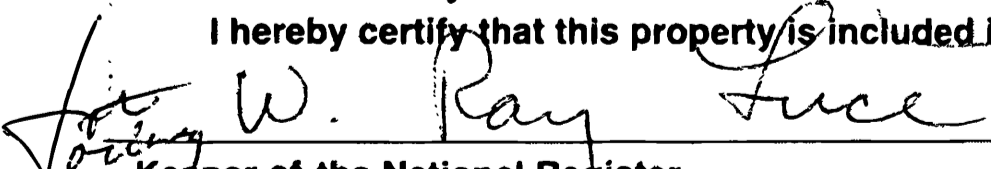
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development

title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date August 6, 1979

For HCRS use only

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

 W. Ray Luce date 8/27/80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:  date 8-26-80

Chief of Registration