

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Vermont  
 COUNTY: Franklin  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: 1974

**1. NAME**  
 COMMON: West Hill Covered Bridge  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**  
 STREET AND NUMBER: ~~Unused town road~~ (across West Hill Brook,) 3.2 miles south of Montgomery village  
 CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery  
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Vermont District  
 STATE: Vermont CODE: 50 COUNTY: Franklin CODE: 011

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>unused</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 OWNER'S NAME: Town of Montgomery  
 STREET AND NUMBER: (no street number)  
 CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery 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: Montgomery STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1974  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

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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 West Hill Covered Bridge consists of a single span supported by two flanking timber Town lattice trusses. The structure has not been reinforced by any of the various devices added to many other covered bridges in Vermont. The bridge rests on abutments built of irregular stone blocks laid dry; the north abutment has been faced with concrete.

The West Hill Bridge is 59 feet long overall and 19.5 feet wide; it has a 16-foot roadway. The wood floor, which consists of planks laid flat and perpendicular to the trusses, begins four feet inside each portal; the approaches are gravel.

On the exterior, the heavy planks pegged together diagonally to form the trusses (and side walls) of the bridge are sheathed with unpainted flush boards hung vertically. Similar siding protects the ends of the trusses immediately inside the portals. The siding stops short of the eaves to leave strip openings along the tops of the walls.

The gable ends are also sheathed with unpainted flush boards hung vertically. The portal openings have diagonal upper corners, which correspond to the line of the interior struts. The shallow-pitch gable roof is covered with standing seam metal sheeting painted red.



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**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) unknown 1860-90

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               | losophy  | _____                                    |
| <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 West Hill Covered Bridge crosses West Hill Brook in the West Hill district of Montgomery township. Five other covered wood bridges remain in the town, giving Montgomery the highest concentration of covered bridges by town in Vermont. Two brothers, Sheldon and Savannah Jewett of Montgomery, built all six of the bridges; the year of construction of the West Hill Bridge is unknown. The Jewetts used Town lattice trusses in all of the bridges, which also share common architectural design and similar dimensions (except for length).

Together with another bridge constructed by the Jewett brothers in the adjoining town of Enosburg, the Montgomery bridges constitute the most extensive surviving record of the work of any individual covered bridge builders who practiced their trade in Vermont. The complete inventory of bridges built by the Jewetts is unknown; Richard Sanders Allen writes that they built bridges "for more than thirty years."<sup>1</sup> The brothers prepared the timber for their bridges at their own mill, which stood near the West Hill 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.<sup>2</sup> 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., 1974, p. 60.

2. Ibid., p. 50.

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Allen, Richard Sanders, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1974.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

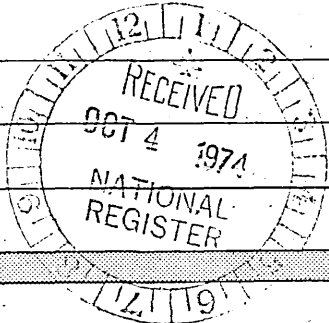
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44° 52' 04"	72° 38' 53"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

18/685800  
4970700  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Hugh H. Henry, Historic Sites Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Vermont Division of Historic Sites      DATE: 9/19/74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier      STATE: Vermont      CODE: 50

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>    State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>William B. Pruney</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director of Historic Sites</u> <u>State Historic Preservation</u> <u>Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>9/30/74</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>A. R. ...</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>DEC 31 1974</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Wm. ...</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>DEC 31 1974</u></p>
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