

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Vermont
COUNTY: Bennington
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE AUG 28 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Bennington Falls Covered Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Town road across Walloomsac River immediately west of Vermont-Route 67A at Paper Mill Village**

CITY OR TOWN: **Bennington** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: **Vermont** CODE: **50** COUNTY: **Bennington** CODE: **003**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <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)

Comments: **RECEIVED JUL 16 1973**

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Town of Bennington**

STREET AND NUMBER: **205 South Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Bennington** STATE: **Vermont** CODE: **50**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Office of Town Clerk**

STREET AND NUMBER: **205 South Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Bennington** STATE: **Vermont** CODE: **50**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey**

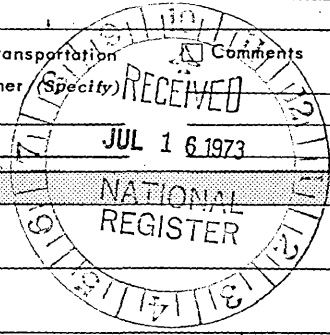
DATE OF SURVEY: **1973** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: **Vermont Division of Historic Sites**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Pavilion Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Montpelier** STATE: **Vermont** CODE: **50**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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 Bennington Falls Covered Bridge consists of a single span supported by two flanking timber Town lattice trusses. Many of the planks in the trusses have been doubled for reinforcement, and additional floor beams have been placed in the structure. The ends of the bridge rest on abutments built of stone slabs which have been partially faced with concrete. The bridge is 125 feet long and 18.5 feet wide, with a 15-foot roadway.

On the exterior, the large planks pegged together diagonally to form the trusses (and side walls) of the bridge are sheathed with novelty siding hung horizontally. Flush vertical boards protect the ends of the trusses immediately inside the portals. The gables are sheathed with flush boards hung horizontally. The exterior siding is painted dark red; the siding inside the portals is painted white to increase visibility.

Beginning eight feet from each end of the bridge, the horizontal siding reaches only six feet above the floor, leaving the upper sides of the trusses exposed. The overhang of the roof protects the open trusswork. The roof is covered with wood shingles.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

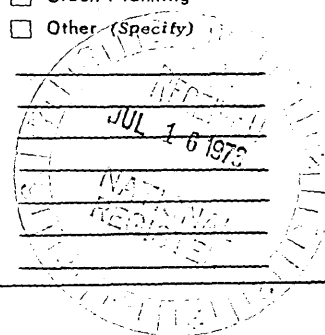
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<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) **1889**

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Bennington Falls Covered Bridge, the longest covered bridge in Bennington County, was constructed by Charles F. Sears in 1889.¹ Sears belonged to a locally prominent family of bridge builders; his father, Benjamin, probably built another of the three surviving covered bridges in Bennington township. Together the three bridges, which cross the same river within two miles of one another, constitute an important resource of transport and engineering history in an area which possesses outstanding examples of other types of historic resources.

The covered bridges of Vermont are among its most cherished and symbolic historic resources. About one hundred bridges still stand in the state, the greatest concentration by area of covered bridges in the country.² Many of these bridges are integral parts of unique architectural environments whose physical setting and cultural context have been little altered until recently. However, extensive highway construction programs are now drastically changing the historic environment of the state. The Vermont Division of Historic Sites wishes to extend the recognition and protection of the National Register to the majority of the surviving covered bridges, including the Bennington Falls bridge.

1. John Spargo, Covered Wooden Bridges of Bennington County, Bennington Historical Museum and Art Gallery, Bennington, Vt., 1953, p. 17.

2. R. S. Allen, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1957, p. 50.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Spargo, John, Covered Wooden Bridges of Bennington County, Bennington Historical Museum and Art Gallery, Bennington, Vt., 1953.

Allen, Richard Sanders, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1957.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

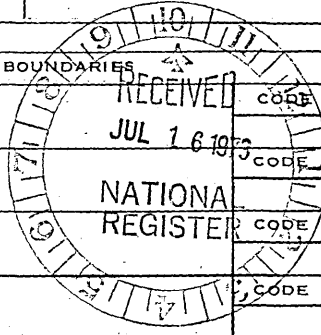
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		42° 54' 46"	73° 14' 03"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

UTM
18/044140
4752400
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Hugh H. Henry, Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Vermont Division of Historic Sites DATE: June 14, 1973

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. Pinney</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director of Historic Sites</u> <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>July 11, 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert W. Kelly</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>8/28/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>8/28/73</u></p>
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