

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Oglethorpe
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUL 1 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
~~Big Clouds Creek Covered Bridge~~

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Howard's Covered Bridge

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
3 Miles Southeast of Smithsonia on ^{SR} ~~State Route~~ S2164 ^{over Big Clouds Creek}

CITY OR TOWN:
Smithsonia

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Oglethorpe CODE: 221

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied In <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied Use <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Oglethorpe County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Oglethorpe County Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Lexington

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Oglethorpe County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Oglethorpe County Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Lexington

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

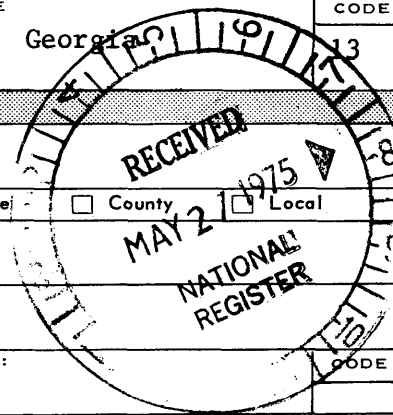
DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Oglethorpe
ENTRY NUMBER: 11
DATE: 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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

Big Clouds Creek Covered Bridge spans Big Clouds Creek in Oglethorpe County, about three miles southeast of Smithsonia, Georgia, on State Route S2164, an unpaved road. The bridge is completely covered and extends 161 feet in length with one span. Each end of the bridge has an uncovered approach, constructed of wood, 15 feet long. The bridge is 16 feet wide and the full height of the bridge at center is 16½ feet. Vehicle clearance is 11 feet.

Construction is of the Town Lattice design made of rough sawn heart pine. The diagonals are made of 3 x 10 inch timbers and the truss on each side is 14½ feet high. There are two pins at each intersection. There are two lower chords and one upper chord each made of 3 x 10 inch timbers and doubled. The lower chord on the west side, about 60 feet from the north end, is broken and a temporary crib of timbers has been placed underneath to support this side of the bridge. There is a list at this point and the bridge is somewhat weakened because of this. Originally, this bridge had a board or wooden shingle roof. The present roof is of metal and in good condition. This is the only change that has been made to its original appearance.

Each end of this bridge rests on a local stone pier held together with cement.

The sides are covered with pine boards and batten. The floor is decked with 3 x 10 inch timbers and there are longitudinal runners of random width 3 inch boards of oak with some as wide as 20 inches. The portals are plain and there is a one foot overhang at the end and along the sides of this bridge. The floor sills are 4 x 10 inch timbers with joists of 3 x 6 inch timbers laid on top to support the floor.

This bridge is in fair condition and needs some repairs to the lower chord on the west side to make it structurally sound. The bridge is in use and sustains a moderate amount of traffic.

Big Clouds Creek Covered Bridge is listed as No. 10-109-01 in the "World Guide to Covered Bridges," published by the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc., 1972 edition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1905

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | | <u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Big Clouds Creek Covered Bridge was constructed in 1904-05 under the supervision of a Mr. Hunt using county convict labor. Hunt had learned how to construct a Town Lattice bridge from Washington King, the builder of a number of covered bridges in Georgia and the son of Horace King, a former slave, who also built many covered bridges in Georgia. Rudolph T. Tucker, who until recently lived within 200 yards of this bridge for some 88 years, recalls vividly the day it was completed, March 5, 1905. This was four days after his 20th birthday. All of the lumber used in constructing this bridge is heart pine and was obtained in South Georgia. It was shipped by rail to Smithsonia and from there carried by wagon to the bridge site.

This bridge is located in an historic section of Oglethorpe County which was created in 1793 and is one of Georgia's early counties. The Howard family settled in the area south of Big Clouds Creek in the early 1800's and over the years the bridge has been known by the family name. On the north side of Big Clouds Creek, James Monroe Smith (1839-1915) came into the area after the Civil War to build up a large plantation and "acquire all the land next to his." His success is attested to by the fact that at the time of his death in 1915 he had over 20,000 acres of land under cultivation and had accumulated an estate valued at over two and a half million dollars by investments and farming. He created the town of Smithonia (changed to Smithsonia by the U. S. Postal Department) and had his own standard gauge steam railroad connecting his farm complex with the Georgia Railroad at Dunlap near Crawford, Georgia. The lumber for this covered bridge was shipped in over his railroad, the Smithonia and Dunlap Railroad.

Big Clouds Creek Covered Bridge is one of 21 covered bridges remaining in Georgia and one of only 13 still in use. Thirteen of Georgia's remaining covered bridges are built of the Town Lattice design and the Big Clouds Creek Covered Bridge is one of these. The Town Truss was designed and patented in 1820 by Ithiel Town, an architect of New Haven, Connecticut. Town realized the need for a covered bridge truss which could be quickly built by a carpenter and his was the first truly American design. The design consists of a web of light planks crisscrossed at an angle of 45 to 60 degrees, like a lattice, and fastened together with wooden pins or trunnels at each intersection. It is the most popular design for covered bridges. The Town Lattice design could be "built by the mile and cut off by the yard."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Covered Bridges of the South, Richard Sanders Allen. Brattleboro, Vt.: Stephen Greene Press, 1970.
 World Guide to Covered Bridges, ed. Oscar F. Lane. Boston, Mass., 1972
 Old Covered Bridges in Georgia, pamphlet, Atlanta: Georgia State Parks Dept.
 Interview with Rudolph T. Tucker of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, Nov. 21, 1974.
 James Monroe Smith, Georgia Planter, E. Merton Coulter. Athens, Ga.: University of Georgia Press, 1961.
 James G. Bogle, "The Vanishing Breed," Georgia Magazine, March 1972, p. 16.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

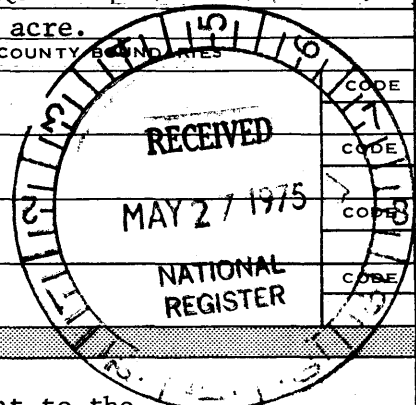
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	33°	59'	00"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	83°	08'	00"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

17-32926 - 3762440 ac

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Less than 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: **James G. Bogle, Colonel, U. S. Army Ret., consultant to the**

ORGANIZATION **Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, State of Georgia,** DATE **Dec. 9, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **270 Washington Street, S. W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Atlanta** STATE **Georgia** CODE **13**

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 Jackson O'Neal Lamb
 Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date May 15, 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/1/75

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **JUN 27 1975**