

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Scott Covered Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Former town road across West River immediately west of Vermont Route 30, 1.5 miles west of Townshend village.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Townshend

STATE: Vermont CODE: 50 COUNTY: Windham CODE: 025

**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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" 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) (closed to vehicles)

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Vermont Division of Historic Sites

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Pavilion Building

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

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

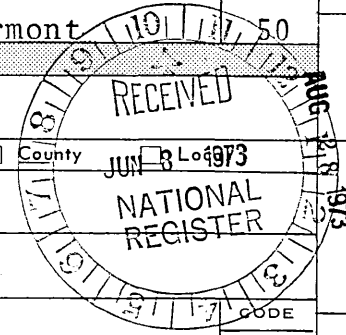
DATE OF SURVEY: 1973     Federal     State     County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Vermont Division of Historic Sites

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Vermont

COUNTY: Windham

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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 Scott Covered Bridge consists of three spans, totaling 277 feet in length. The main (easterly) span is supported by two flanking timber Town lattice trusses, reinforced by wood laminated plank arches; the two lesser (westerly) spans are supported by kingpost through trusses. Between the abutments, the spans rest on two piers, with the Town lattice span extending 166 feet to the easterly pier and the kingpost spans extending from that pier 111 feet over the westerly pier. The kingpost spans are of unequal length; the easterly (abutting the Town lattice span) is 46 feet long, while the westerly is 65 feet long. The bridge is 20 feet wide, with a roadway of 16 feet.

Constructed in 1870, the Scott bridge was originally covered only over the main lattice truss span.<sup>1</sup> The kingpost section remained open only three years. The arches which reinforce the main span were also added after the completion of the original structure. Each arch consists of 12 layers of lapped laminated planks.

The abutments and piers of the bridge are constructed of stone blocks without mortar. In 1915 concrete facing was applied to the upstream parts of the piers. In 1961 a temporary bent of steel beams supported by log cribbing was built under the center of the main span for reinforcement. This followed the partial collapse into reverse camber of the southern arch near its eastern end, caused by heavy truck traffic. Two guy cables have been strung from the northeastern corner of the bridge to the eastern river bank to give lateral support to the superstructure.

On the exterior, the large planks pegged together diagonally to form the trusses (and side walls) of the main span are sheathed with flush boards hung vertically as are the sides of the kingpost spans. There are no windows or openings presently in the sides of the bridge because they were recently eliminated when the siding was replaced. The gable ends of the bridge are flat and sheathed with vertical flush boards. None of the wooden siding is painted. The roof of the bridge, which was originally shingled in wood, has been covered with corrugated metal sheeting and painted green.

1. Victor Morse (rev. by R. S. Allen), Windham County's Famous Covered Bridges (Brattleboro, Vt.: The Stephen Greene Press, 1960), pp. 30-31.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. 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) 1870

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

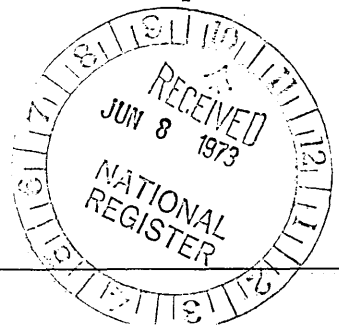
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Scott Covered Bridge is the longest covered wooden highway bridge wholly within the state of Vermont. The easternmost span of 166 feet supported by Town lattice trusses is the longest single covered wooden span in the state.<sup>1</sup> The Scott bridge holds special interest for being a combination of three structural systems -- Town lattice truss, laminated plank arch, and kingpost through truss.

The Scott bridge has withstood several major floods that destroyed most of the other covered bridges in the West River valley. A large flood-control dam has been constructed about one-half mile upstream of the bridge, and although it detracts considerably from the scenic environment of the structure, it should spare the bridge from destruction by future floods.

In 1955 the Town of Townshend deeded the Scott bridge to the Vermont Historic Sites Commission (now the Division of Historic Sites). The Division has undertaken a program of repair and maintenance of the bridge, with the intent of preserving it as an extraordinary example of Vermont bridge engineering and architecture of the 19th century.

1. Victor Morse (rev. by R. S. Allen), Windham County's Famous Covered Bridges (Brattleboro, Vt: The Stephen Greene Press, 1960), p. 31.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Morse, Victor (rev. by R. S. Allen). Windham County's Famous Covered Bridges. Brattleboro, Vermont: The Stephen Greene Press, 1960.

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

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OTM REF 10-1-75 urn

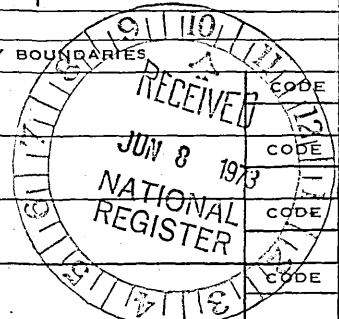
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		43° 02' 56"	72° 41' 48"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Hugh Howard Henry, Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Vermont Division of Historic Sites      DATE: May 8, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier      STATE: Vermont      CODE: 50

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: William A. Purney

Title: Director of Historic Sites  
State Historic Preservation  
Officer

Date: June 1, 1973

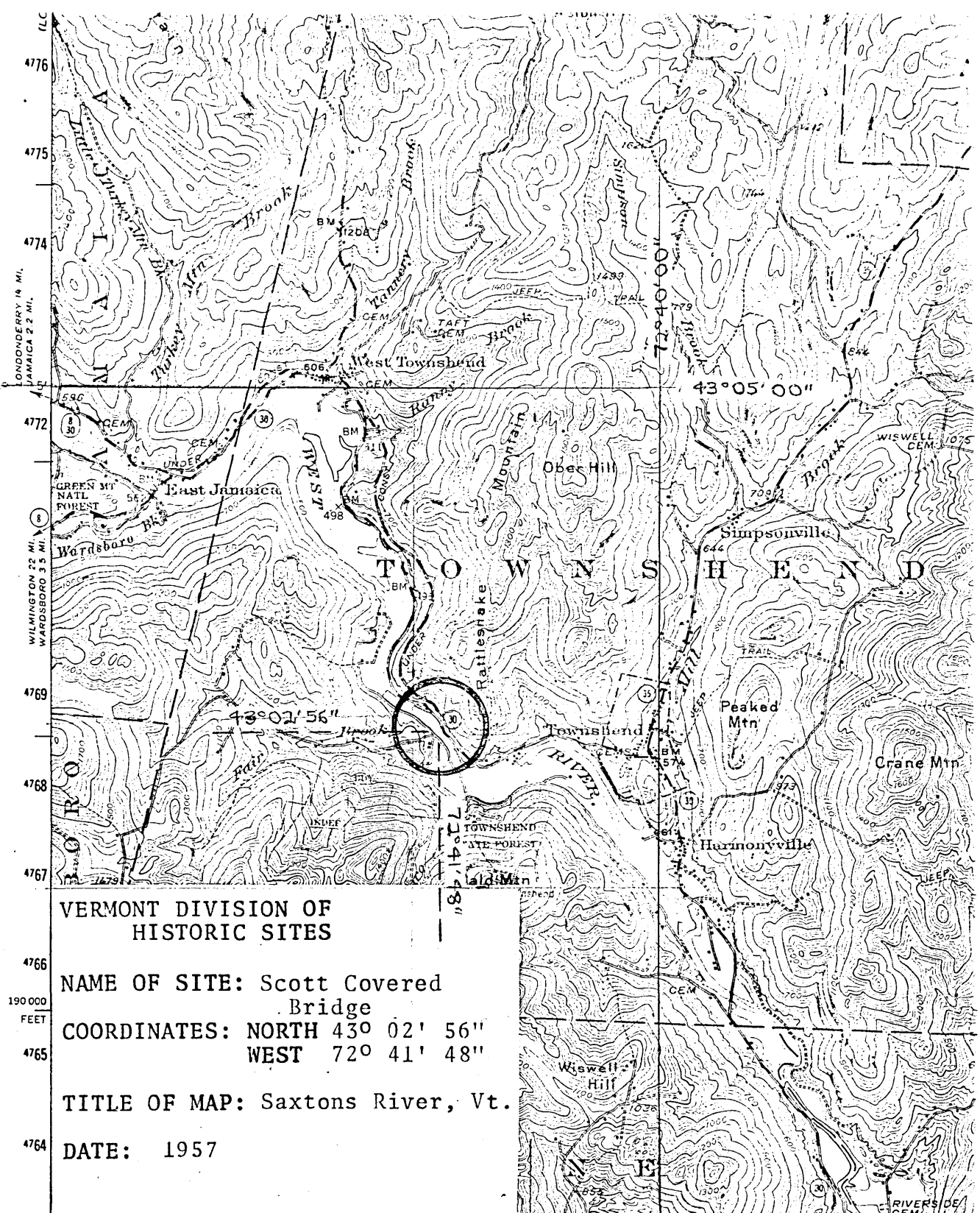
NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 8/28/73

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register  
Date: 8/22/73



VERMONT DIVISION OF  
HISTORIC SITES

NAME OF SITE: Scott Covered  
Bridge

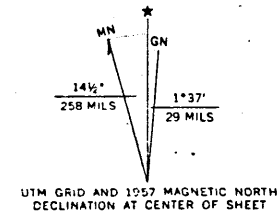
COORDINATES: NORTH 43° 02' 56"  
WEST 72° 41' 48"

TITLE OF MAP: Saxtons River, Vt.

DATE: 1957

43°00' 72°45' 684 685 440 000 FEET 687 688 689 72°40' NEWFANE 1 MI BRATTLEBORO 13 MI (BRATTLEBORO 6466)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
Topography by planetable surveys 1928, 1929, and 1930  
Culture revised 1957  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Vermont coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue



RECEIVED  
JUN 8 1973  
NATIONAL REGISTER  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

(WILMINGTON)  
6469 IV