

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Vermont  
 COUNTY: Addison  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: SEP 10 1974

1. NAME  
 COMMON: Pulp Mill Covered Bridge  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Town road across Otter Creek, 1.0 mile northwest of Middlebury Village NW of Middlebury off VT 23  
 CITY OR TOWN: vicinity Middlebury-Weybridge town boundary  
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Vt. District Rep. Richard Mallary  
 STATE: Vermont CODE: 50 COUNTY: Addison CODE: 01

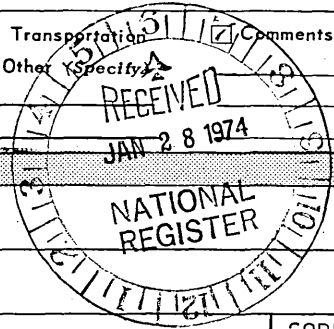
3. CLASSIFICATION

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 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)			Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
<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: Towns of Middlebury and Weybridge  
 STREET AND NUMBER: (no street numbers)  
 CITY OR TOWN: Middlebury and Weybridge  
 STATE: Vermont CODE: 50

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Offices of Town Clerks  
 STREET AND NUMBER: (no street numbers)  
 CITY OR TOWN: Middlebury and Weybridge  
 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



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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 Pulp Mill Covered Bridge consisted originally of a dual-lane single span supported by two timber Burr arch trusses flanking a multiple kingpost truss between the roadways. The bridge has been considerably reinforced since its construction. Two piers have been built under the bridge, transforming it into a three-span structure (although the trusses have not been altered significantly).

In 1859 or 1860, four laminated (ten-layer) plank arches, each of which extends the entire original span and is anchored in the abutments, were added to augment the two original single-timber arches.<sup>1</sup> The two outer laminated arches, which are directly above the original arches against the inner sides of the outer trusses, rise to the eaves of the bridge; the two inner laminated arches rise nearly to the ridge beam on either side of the center truss. The arches do not have framing beneath them, in contrast to applications of the Burr truss in some other bridges.

The abutments of the bridge are built of stone slabs, which subsequently have been faced with concrete. The piers are built of irregular stone and also have been partly faced with concrete. The piers are surmounted by timber cribbings which support the bottom chords of the trusses.<sup>2</sup>

The overall length of the bridge is 199 feet. The trusses extend 181 feet; the remaining length occurs in the post-and-beam entries, which extend 8.5 feet at the east end and 9.5 feet at the west end of the bridge. The outside width of the bridge is 26 feet. The twin roadways are each 10 feet wide between the inner and outer arches. The wood floor consists of planks laid flat and perpendicular to the trusses, with strips of planks overlaid transversely for the driving surfaces. The wood floor corresponds to the truss length of the bridge; the entries are paved.

On the exterior, the heavy timbers pegged together to form the trusses (and side walls) of the bridge are sheathed with unpainted flush boards hung vertically. 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 shallow-pitch gable roof is now covered with standing seam metal sheeting.

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 1. H. W. Congdon, The Covered Bridge, Vermont Books, Middlebury, Vt., 1970, p. 31.

2. The abutments and piers also carry (adjacent to the south side of the bridge) a separate steel frame truss which supports a utility pipe.

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) **circa 1820**

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"/> 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"/> Social/Humanitarian       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pulp Mill Covered Bridge is the last dual-lane or "double-barreled" covered wood bridge to carry a public highway in Vermont, and one of two such bridges to survive in the state. In 1957 there were only six other double-barreled covered bridges remaining in the United States.<sup>1</sup> The Pulp Mill Bridge is also the longest Burr truss bridge surviving in Vermont.

According to Herbert Wheaton Congdon, the Pulp Mill Bridge was probably built about 1820.<sup>2</sup> This date ranks the Pulp Mill Bridge as the oldest covered bridge in Vermont, at least among those whose dates have been documented. Despite its age, the bridge continues to carry much local traffic on a paved road between Middlebury and Weybridge. Those towns also share ownership of the bridge, for it crosses the town boundary along the channel of Otter Creek.

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.<sup>3</sup> Many of these bridges are integral parts of unique architectural environments whose physical setting and cultural context have been little altered until recently. Now, however, pervasive highway expansion, intensive commercial development, and physical neglect are changing drastically the historic environment and threatening the covered bridges. The Vermont Division of Historic Sites, therefore, wishes to extend the recognition and protection of the National Register to the majority of the surviving covered bridges, including the Pulp Mill bridge.

1. R. S. Allen, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1957, p. 58.

2. H. W. Congdon, The Covered Bridge, Vermont Books, Middlebury, Vt., 1970, p. 30.

3. Allen, p. 50.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allen, Richard Sanders, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1957.  
 Congdon, Herbert Wheaton, The Covered Bridge, Vermont Books, Middlebury, Vt., 1970.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

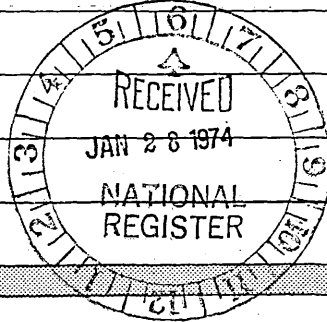
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44° 01' 29"	73° 10' 41"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM  
18/646020  
480000  
270

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **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:  
**Hugh H. Henry, Historic Sites Researcher**

ORGANIZATION: **Vermont Division of Historic Sites**      DATE: **1/8/74**

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 B. Pinney

Title Director of Historic Sites  
State Historic Preservation  
Officer

Date 1/17/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

AK Wooten  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/10/74

ATTEST:

Charles Henry  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 9.6.74