

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Vermont
COUNTY: Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE SEP 6 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Great Eddy Covered Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: *E of VT 100*  
Town road across Mad River at Waitsfield village

CITY OR TOWN: Waitsfield

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Vt. District  
Rep. Richard Mallary

STATE Vermont	CODE 50	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 23
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
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**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Town of Waitsfield

STREET AND NUMBER:  
(no street number)

CITY OR TOWN: Waitsfield

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: Waitsfield

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

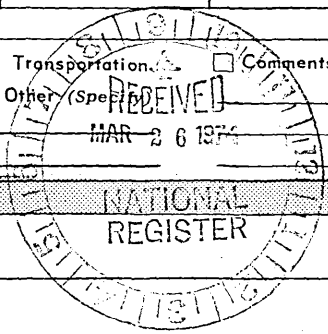
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier

STATE: Vermont

CODE: 50

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Vermont
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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
	(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 Great Eddy covered bridge consists of a single span supported by two flanking timber Burr trusses; an outside covered walkway is attached to the east side of the bridge. Each truss incorporates an arch built of two arcs of single heavy planks, with one mounted on each side of the multiple kingposts and braces, and the pair bolted together through the upright members of the truss. Two laminated stringers have been added to the underside of the deck beams parallel to the trusses for reinforcement; each stringer comprises a number of shorter timbers tie-bolted together.

In 1973 the Great Eddy bridge received extensive repairs. The attached walkway was restored in the place of an earlier one which had been removed. The deck structure and flooring, upper lateral bracing, and knee braces were completely replaced. The new wood floor consists of planks laid on edge and parallel to the trusses. The new knee braces are authentic ship's knees hewn from tree crotches.

The structure rests on abutments built originally of irregular stone laid dry. The north abutment stands on a prominent outcrop of bedrock which juts into the course of the river, causing the eddy after which the bridge is named; that abutment has been faced with concrete. In 1973 the south abutment was mostly rebuilt in concrete, the upper part consisting of cantilevered reinforced concrete arms bearing timber blocks to support the bottom chords of the trusses.

The Great Eddy bridge is 105 feet long at floor level. The ends of the side walls flare outward to meet the gable ends which overhang the floor four feet at each portal. The bridge is 18.5 feet wide and has a 15.5-foot roadway; the outside walkway is 5.5 feet wide.

On the exterior, the heavy timbers pegged and bolted together to form the trusses (and side walls) of the bridge are sheathed on the west side with flush boards hung vertically and stained gray. The east truss stands exposed above flush boards hung vertically which reach about four feet from the floor. The exterior of the walkway has similar siding to about the same height; the upper half of its outer wall is open. All of the sheathing on the bridge was replaced in 1973.

The gable ends are sheathed with flush planking hung vertically and stained gray. The sheathing curves outward to the eaves from the west sides of the portal openings. The portal openings are rectangular except for curved upper corners. The walkway openings are rectangular except for curved upper corners next to the east truss.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

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COUNTY	
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**Section 7**

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

The shallow-pitch gable roof is covered with standing seam metal sheeting. In 1973 the east slope of the roof was extended on the same pitch to cover the rebuilt walkway. That slope of the roof has an extraordinarily wide overhang to protect the exposed upper framing of the walkway.



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) 1833

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

The Great Eddy covered bridge is probably the second oldest covered wood bridge in Vermont, at least among those whose dates have been documented. Records of the Town of Waitsfield indicate that the bridge was built in 1833; only the Pulp Mill bridge in Middlebury is probably older. Although the Pulp Mill bridge is also the longest Burr truss bridge remaining in the state, it has been reinforced with two intermediate piers. The Great Eddy bridge now has the longest clear span of any Burr truss bridge in Vermont.

The Great Eddy bridge constitutes an outstanding example of functional preservation of an historic structure. By 1972 the bridge had deteriorated to an extent that required either major repairs or outright replacement. The residents of Waitsfield chose the former course and in 1973 the bridge received the necessary repairs. The basic original structure remains intact and continues to carry the load of the bridge.

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>1</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 Great Eddy covered bridge.

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

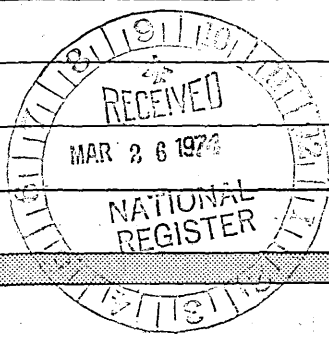
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	44	11	22
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	72	49	25
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

18/673920  
1875000  
09

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 H. Henry, Historic Sites Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Vermont Division of Historic Sites DATE: 3/1/74

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input 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>3/19/74</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>W. B. Pinney</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>9/6/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Charles Henry</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>5.6.74</u></p>
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