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The West Dummerston Covered Bridge is supported by two flanking timber Town lattice trusses. The structure is built in two spans, resting on a central pier, extending a combined length of 280 feet. The pier and the abutments supporting the ends of the bridge are constructed of stone blocks. The abutments are anchored to the underlying bedrock with iron reinforcing rods. 1

On the exterior, the large planks pegged together diagonally to form the trusses (and side walls) of the bridge are sheathed with flush boards hung vertically. The rectangular openings in the side walls near the ends of the bridge were added early in the automobile era to provide increased visibility for oncoming traffic. The diamond-shaped windows were added sometime after the rectangular openings to allow more light to enter the bridge's interior.

The ends of the bridge were originally flat and were sheathed with horizontal siding of flush boards. Now, however, the gable ends overhang the bridge entrances, and clapboards have replaced the flush boards. Both ends of the bridge and the wooden siding which protects the exposed trusses just inside the entrances have been painted white. The roof of the bridge, originally shingled in wood, has been overlaid with corregated metal sheathing.

Around 1942 the bridge deck underwent extensive repairs including replacement of both structural members and deck planking. This was done to accommodate heavier vehicular traffic.

1. Information provided by Clifford Emery, Road Commissioner of the Town of Dummerston, Dummerston Center, Vermont & RECEIVED

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Conservation	☐ Music	Transportation	

The West Dummerston Covered Bridge spans the West River and is the longest covered highway bridge wholly within the State of Vermont: The structure is the outstanding engineering landmark of the West River Valley.

The bridge was constructed in 1872 by master carpenter Caleb B. Lamson and is the only known example of his work surviving in Windham County.

Vermont's covered bridges are among the state's most cherished and symbolic historic resources. Over a hundred bridges still stand and many are an integral part of unique architectural environments whose setting and context have been little altered. In view of the extensive highway programs which are drastically changing the visual environment of the state, the Division hopes to extend National Register protection and recognition to the majority of these important structures.

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

Richard Sanders Allen. Covered Bridges of the Northeast.
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Form No. 10-301 Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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Form 10-300 (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NEWER FORM

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Windham		
FOR NPS US	E ONLY	
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	(Type all entries - complete	te applicable sections)				
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	AND/OR HISTORIC:	i				
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3.	CLASSIFICATION					
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	☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence	Transportation	☐ Comments		
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The West Dummerston Covered Bridge is supported by two flanking timber Town lattice trusses. The bridge is built in two spans, resting on a central pier, that extend a combined length of 267 feet along the floor. The westerly span is 143 feet long, and the easterly is 124 feet. The gable ends overhang the floor at each end of the bridge by two feet; hence, along the top of the trusses, the bridge is 271 feet long. The bridge is 22 feet wide, with an 18-foot roadway. The pier and the abutments supporting the ends of the bridge are constructed of stone blocks. The abutments are anchored to the underlying bedrock with iron reinforcing rods.

On the exterior, the large planks pegged together diagonally to form the trusses (and side walls) of the bridge are sheathed with flush boards hung vertically. Rectangular openings in the side walls near each corner of the bridge were added early in the automobile era to provide increased visibility of on-coming traffic. Six diamond-shaped windows were later cut in each side of the bridge to allow more light to enter the interior.

The ends of the bridge were originally flat and sheathed with horizontal siding of flush boards. Now, however, the gable ends overhang the portals, and clapboards have replaced the flush boards. Both ends of the bridge and the wooden siding which protects the ends of the trusses immediately inside the portals have been painted white. The roof of the bridge, originally shingled in wood, has been covered with corrugated metal sheeting. The floor of the bridge has been paved to impede damage from weathering.

About 1942 the bridge deck underwent extensive repairs including replacement both of structural members and deck planking. Two laminated stringers have been added to the underside of the floor parallel to the trusses for reinforcement. Each stringer consists of short timbers tie-bolted together. This was done to strengthen the bridge for heavier vehicular traffic.

or which

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		:	1
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century	
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☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-		
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Communications	☐ Military	☐ Theater		
Conservation	☐ Music	X Transportation		

The West Dummerston Covered Bridge is the second longest covered wooden highway bridge wholly within the state of Vermont, and the longest covered bridge still open to traffic. Constructed in 1872 by Caleb B. Lamson, a locally prominent bridge builder, the West Dummerston bridge is the only known example of his work to survive. While some reinforcement has been added to the floor of the bridge, its structure has not been significantly altered from its original condition. The vehicular load limit of ten tons currently allowed across the bridge attests to its structural

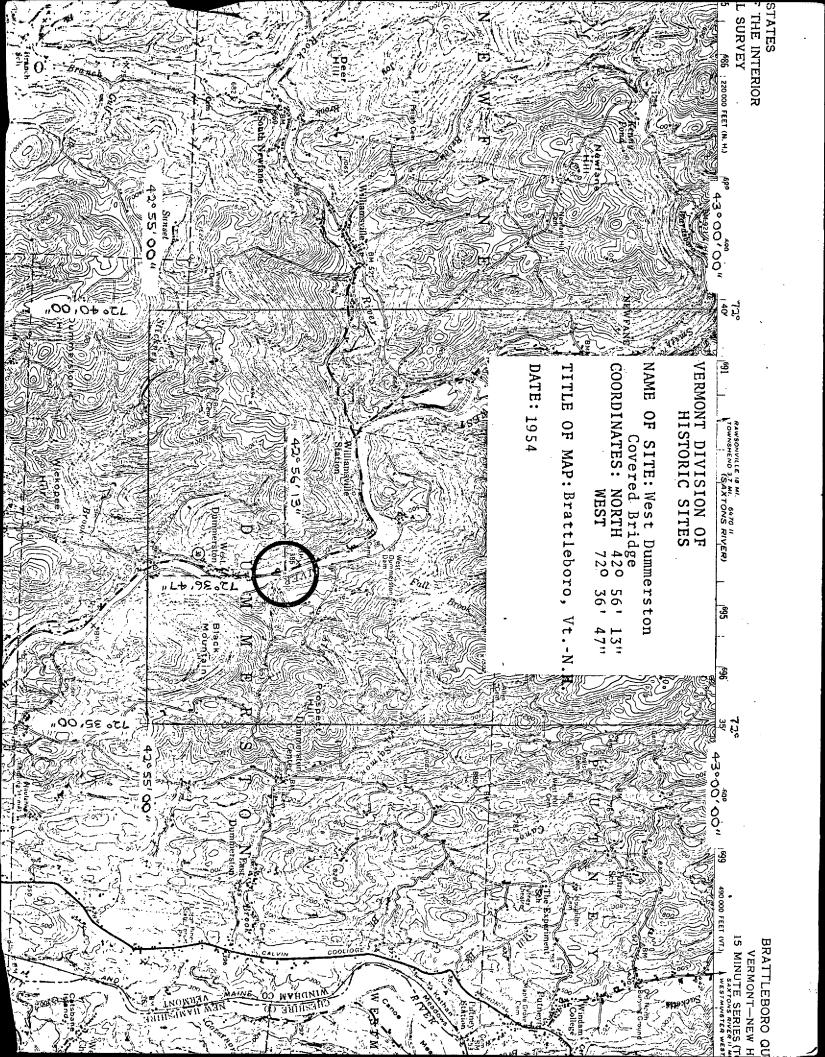
soundness and to the ability of its builder.

The covered bridges of Vermont are among its most cherished and symbolic historic resources. About one hundred bridges still stand in the state, probably the greatest concentration by area of covered bridges in the country. 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 hopes to extend the recognition and protection of the National Register to the majority of the surviving covered bridges, including the West Dummerston bridge.

- 1. Victor Morse (rev. by R. S. Allen), Windham County's Famous Covered Bridges (Brattleboro, Vt: The Stephen Greene Press, 1960), p. 10.
- 2. R. S. Allen, Covered Bridges of the Northeast (Brattleboro, Vt.: The Stephen Greene Press, 1957), p. 50.

9.	MAJOR	BIBLIOG	RAPHIC	AL RE	FERENCE	S									
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	As the	designate	ed State	Liaiso	n Officer f	or the	Na-								
ļ	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											d in the			
	evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set														
•	forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:								Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation						
	National State K Local														
	Name William B. Prinney/								Date						
									ATTEST:						
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Date



Form No. 10-301 STATE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Rev. 7-72 Vermont NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COUNTY NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Windham PROPERTY MAP FORM FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE (Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map) NAME West Dummerston Covered Bridge COMMON: AND/OR HISTORIC: 2. LOCATION Town road across West River immediately east of STREET AND NUMBER: Vermont Route 30, 0.5 mile north of West Dummerston village CITY OR TOWN: Dummerston STATE: COUNTY: CODE CODE 50 Windham 025 Vermont 3. MAP REFERENCE SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 15 minute series (topographic) - Brattleboro, VT.-N.H. L:62,500 SCALE: DATE: 1954 4. REQUIREMENTS TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. Property broundaries where required.
 - 2. North arrow.

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3. Latitude and longitude reference.