

PH 367354

DATA SHEET

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	New Hampshire
COUNTY:	Coos
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	DEC 12 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:	Mount Orne Covered Bridge
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Mount Orne Bridge

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: SW of ...			
Across Connecticut River between N.H. Route 135 and Lunenburg, Vt. town road			
CITY OR TOWN: Lancaster Lunenburg		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second Vermont	
STATE: New Hampshire Vermont	CODE: 33,50	COUNTY: Coos Essex	CODE: 007,009

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	<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) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:	Towns of Lancaster, N. H. and Lunenburg, Vt.		
STREET AND NUMBER:	(no street numbers)		
CITY OR TOWN:	Lancaster Lunenburg	STATE: New Hampshire Vermont	CODE: 33,50

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:	Coos County Registry of Deeds, Coos County Courthouse		
STREET AND NUMBER:	P.O. Box 286, 148 Main Street		
CITY OR TOWN:	Lancaster	STATE: New Hampshire	CODE: 33

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:	(See Continuation Sheet #1)		
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New Hampshire

COUNTY: Coos

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 Mount Orne Covered Bridge crosses the Connecticut River between Lancaster, New Hampshire and Lunenburg, Vermont. The low water line on the west (Vermont) side of the river marks the boundary between the states. Most of the bridge, therefore, stands in New Hampshire; the state boundary sign is mounted 32 feet inside the west (Vermont) portal. Owing to its interstate location and ownership, the Mount Orne Bridge is being nominated concurrently by New Hampshire and Vermont.

Present Physical Appearance

The Mount Orne Bridge consists of two spans, each of which is supported by two flanking wood-iron Howe trusses. The principal iron components of the trusses are the paired tension rods which connect the top and bottom chords between adjoining panels of criss-crossed wood compression members. The trusses lack the Howe patent iron angle blocks to accept the ends of the compression members; wood angle blocks serve in their place. Iron tension rods also connect horizontally the top chords and the bottom chords to increase the lateral rigidity of the structure.

The structure rests on abutments and central pier which are constructed of stone. The upper half of the east abutment has been faced with concrete; the rest of the abutment consists of irregular stone blocks mortared together. The pier is built of stone slabs which have also been faced with concrete. On its upstream (north) side, the pier flares outward toward the river bed to deflect floating debris and ice. The west abutment consists of stone slabs mortared together; the upper third of it has also been faced with concrete.

The Mount Orne Bridge has an overall length of 267 feet, divided into two nearly equal spans of 133 feet (east) and 134 feet (west). The bridge has an overall width of 20.5 feet, with a 15.5-foot roadway. The floor (and road surface) consists of planks laid on edge and parallel to the trusses. The current legal load limit posted on the bridge is six tons.

On the exterior, the trusses (and side walls) of the bridge are sheathed with unpainted flush boards hung vertically. Similar siding protects the ends of the trusses immediately inside the portals. 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 portal openings are rectangular.

A medium-pitch gable roof covers the entire bridge, with overhangs both at the eaves and the gables. The roof is sheathed with corrugated metal sheeting.

(Continued on Continuation Sheet #2)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1911

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 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

Transportation

The Mount Orne Covered Bridge was built across the Connecticut River between Lancaster, New Hampshire and Lunenburg, Vermont to replace an earlier bridge on the site which was destroyed by the flood of 1905. The Berlin Iron Bridge Company of Berlin, Connecticut completed the Mount Orne Bridge in 1911. The towns of Lancaster and Lunenburg shared the construction costs of the interstate bridge, and continue to contribute equally to its maintenance.¹ The Mount Orne Bridge is the only crossing of the Connecticut River directly between those towns.

Engineering

The Mount Orne Bridge and another covered bridge across the Connecticut River about 37 miles to the north at Columbia, New Hampshire are the only highway bridges remaining in the state of New Hampshire which are supported by Howe trusses. (One other highway bridge of the same type remains in Vermont at Stowe.) The Mount Orne and Columbia bridges, which were completed in successive years (1911-12), are also the last covered bridges built on public highways during the historic period of covered bridge construction in New Hampshire and Vermont, which began about 1820.

The Howe truss, which was introduced about 1840 with its combination of wood and iron structural members, represents the transition from wood to iron bridges. The lower initial cost of the Howe structure compared with that of wholly iron or steel construction undoubtedly accounts for its extraordinarily late use at the two lightly traveled crossings served by the Mount Orne and Columbia bridges. The Mount Orne Bridge is reported to have cost only \$6,678 despite damage caused by flooding during its construction.²

¹W. Edward White, Covered Bridges of New Hampshire (Littleton, N. H.: Courier Printing Co., 1942), 47.

²Thedia Cox Kenyon, New Hampshire's Covered Bridges (Sanbornville, N. H.: Wake-Brook House, 1966), 87.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) Allen, Richard Sanders. Covered Bridges of the Northeast. Brattleboro, Vt.: The Stephen Greene Press, 1974.
- 2) Congdon, Herbert Wheaton. The Covered Bridge. Middlebury, Vt.: Vermont Books, 1970.
- 3) Kenyon, Thedia Cox. New Hampshire's Covered Bridges. Sanbornville, N. H.: Wake-Brook House, 1966.
- 4) White, W. Edward. Covered Bridges of New Hampshire. Littleton, N. H.: Courier Printing Co., 1942.

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° 27' 38"	71° 39' 12"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		gone 19		
SE	° ' "	° ' "		E-288-925	N-4926-250	
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
New Hampshire	33	Coos	007
Vermont	50	Essex	009
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Hugh H. Henry, Historic Sites Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Vermont Division of Historic Sites DATE: 27 June 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
Pavilion Building

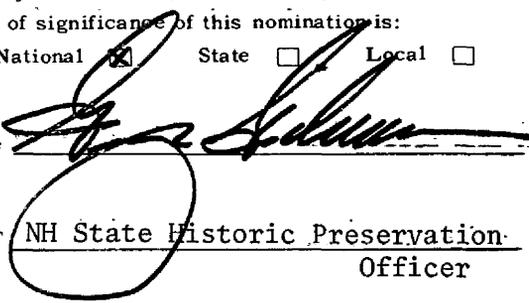
CITY OR TOWN: Montpelier STATE: Vermont 05602 CODE: 50

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:

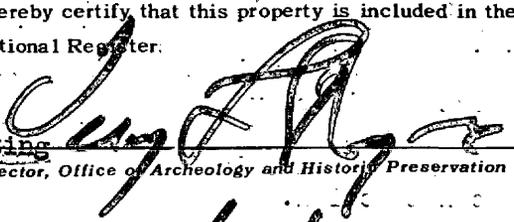
National State Local

Name: 

Title: NH State Historic Preservation Officer

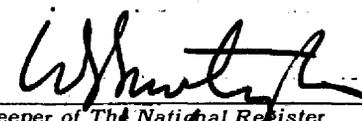
Date: May 12, 1975

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


Acting Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/12/96

ATTEST:


Keeper of the National Register

Date: 12/6/96

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Coos	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 12 1976

(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

New Hampshire's Historic Preservation Plan
1970, x State
New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development
P.O. Box 856, State House Annex, 25 Capitol Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301, 33

Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey
1974, x State
Vermont Division of Historic Sites
Pavilion Building
Montpelier, Vermont 05602, 50



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Coos	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 12 1976

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

The Mount Orne Bridge has the numbers (New Hampshire) 29-04-08 and (Vermont) 45-05-03 in the World Guide to Covered Bridges published by the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges. The New Hampshire Department of Public Works and Highways has assigned the number 039/105 to the bridge, and the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development has assigned the number 30 to it.

Original Physical Appearance

It is not known definitely how the original physical appearance of the Mount Orne Bridge differed from its present appearance.



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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10.

PAGE 3.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA, continued

10.2 UTM References

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
19	2.88.925	49.26.250