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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name West Milton Bridge

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Town Highway 40 NA not for publication

city or town Milton NA vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Chittenden code 007 zip code 05468

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally;  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Eric Roberts Dep. SHPD 7/30/92  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Alonzo Egan Entered in the National Register Date of Action 9/8/92

West Milton Bridge  
Name of Property

Chittenden County, Vermont  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
1	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
Metal Truss, Masonry and Concrete  
Bridges in Vermont

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/Road-related  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/Road-related  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Double-span Pennsylvania  
through-truss bridge  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone  
walls \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

roof \_\_\_\_\_  
other Steel  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet for description

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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West Milton Bridge  
Milton, Chittenden Co., Vermont

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The West Milton Pennsylvania through-truss bridge crosses the Lamoille River in two spans on Town Highway 40 in Milton, Vermont. Constructed in 1902 and a survivor of the 1927 flood, the West Milton bridge is one of the few extant Pennsylvania trusses in the state. A variant of the Parker truss, the Pennsylvania has, in addition to the Parker's polygonal top chord, both sub-struts and sub-ties for greater stiffness and strength. Each of the bridge's two steel spans is 162 feet long and its overall length is 329 feet; it is 18 feet wide and has a portal clearance of 14 feet. Like a great many bridges in Vermont, this one was erected by United Construction Company of Albany, New York from materials fabricated by the American Bridge Company. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Crossing the Lamoille River in the village of West Milton, this single-lane Pennsylvania through-truss bridge has inclined end panels and rests on ashlar abutments, to rise 16 feet above the water. Its two identical riveted steel spans are 162 feet long and 18 feet wide with a portal clearance of 14 feet. The bridge's polygonal top chords are made of 14 inch by 10 inch box girders of back-to-back channels with a continuous plate on top and lacing at the bottom and are tied together with struts reinforced by crossed-angle lateral bracing. The portal struts and sway bracing are panels of angled lattice. The bottom chord is made up of paired angles with lacing at the bottom, except for the center panels where the lacing is replaced by stay plates. The hip verticals, major diagonals, and sub-verticals are all paired angles with stay plates. The major verticals and horizontal stiffeners are two sets of paired angles with lacing and the struts are also paired angles with lacing.

The floor system consists of rolled I-section floor beams and stringers, some of which have been reinforced with new stringers of the same dimension laid side-by-side with the old. The deck is of planks set on their edges. A decorative railing runs the length of each side; its lattice pattern of flat bars is set with a rosette at each crossing.

A builder's plate mounted on the entrance reads "1902 / The United Construction Co. / Contractors / Albany, NY / American Bridge Company / Builders New York."

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Engineering  
Transportation

**Period of Significance**

1902

**Significant Dates**

1902

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA

**Architect/Builder**

United Construction Company

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

West Milton Bridge  
Name of Property

Chittenden County, Vermont  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	6 4 5 0 2 0	4 9 4 3 5 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jane Williamson, Historic Preservation Program

organization University of Vermont date April 1992

street & number Wheeler House telephone 802-656-3180

city or town Burlington state Vermont zip code 05401

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Milton

street & number Milton Town Office telephone 802-893-6655

city or town Milton state Vermont zip code 05468

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1West Milton Bridge  
Milton, Chittenden Co., Vermont

Constructed in 1902, the double-span Pennsylvania through-truss bridge that crosses the Lamoille River on Town Highway 40 in the West Milton area of Milton, Vermont is significant both as one of the few Pennsylvania trusses and double spans in the state and as one of the earlier trusses of its size, and thus qualifies under National Register criterion C. It also qualifies under criterion A at the state and local level for its contribution to the history of transportation development in Vermont. It is being nominated as part of the multiple property documentation form "Metal Truss, Masonry and Concrete Bridges in Vermont"; the property type is metal truss bridge. The bridge is intact with an identifiable, functioning truss system and it retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

A variant of the Parker truss, the Pennsylvania was the result of the railroad's need for trusses capable of carrying greater loads. A major advance came in the 1870s when bridge engineers developed sub-struts and sub-ties, both of which serve to stiffen the truss under heavy moving loads and are employed in the Pennsylvania truss. The polygonal top chord also adds to the strength of the Pennsylvania truss, making it safe for spans of more than 150 feet, as in the West Milton bridge. The truss takes its name from the Pennsylvania Railroad, where it was used extensively.

The Pennsylvania truss was commonly employed for spans of up to 200 feet, but the Lamoille River is more than 300 feet wide at the crossing in West Milton, so a double span bridge was needed. This adds to the bridge's significance and also gives it an imposing visual presence.

This graceful, double-span Pennsylvania truss is the third bridge to cross the Lamoille River in the historically important area of West Milton. The first part of Milton to be settled, West Milton developed on both sides of the river and for many years was the area of most concentrated development in the town. The 1867 Beers Atlas shows a cluster of approximately a dozen residences with a cheese factory, a school, and two churches on one side of the Lamoille and two stores and a post office on the other. A bridge was an early necessity and the original covered bridge was built in 1835. Rebuilt in the 1860s, the covered bridge was destroyed by high water and ice on March 2, 1902, at which time it was replaced by the existing Pennsylvania through truss.

Although Vermont had established a Highway Commission before the turn of the century, state funding for bridges was still a few years off in 1902 when the West Milton bridge was built. Purchased by the town of Milton, the bridge was erected by the United Construction Company of Albany, New York from materials fabricated by the American Bridge Company. The Milton town report for 1903 shows payments of approximately \$17,000 to United Construction, which won many contracts in Vermont and, as far as is known, always purchased materials from American Bridge.

The West Milton bridge is also notable as a survivor of the devastating 1927 Vermont flood--the only bridge in Milton to do so. Torrential rains fell onto frozen soil in November of 1927 swelling rivers throughout the state and leading to the destruction of 1,200 bridges.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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West Milton Bridge  
Milton, Chittenden Co., Vermont

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Bibliography

Annual Report of the Selectmen and Other Officers of the Town of Milton, Vermont for the Year Ending February 15, 1903. Milton, The Rays Press, 1903.

Beers, F. W. Atlas of Chittenden County, Vermont. Rutland, Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1971.

Holleneck, Barbara F. Milton's Story. Milton Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 6-7.

Jackson, Kathryn. The Milton Story. Essex Junction, Essex Publishing Company, 1963, p. 14.

Wright, Mrs. F. C. History of Milton, Vermont. typescript, Wilbur Collection, University of Vermont, 1941.

Boundary Description and Justification

The boundary for this property is the bridge and its abutments. The bridge crosses the Lamoille River in the village of West Milton in the town of Milton, Vermont, at the UTM Reference Point: 18/645020/4943500.

The boundary includes all the land historically associated with the bridge.