

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| STATE:<br>Vermont  |             |
| COUNTY:<br>Windsor |             |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY   |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER       | DATE        |
|                    | AUG 28 1973 |

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Taftsville Covered Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *E of U. Woodstock 003* Town road across Ottauquechee River immediately north of U.S. Route 4 at Taftsville village

CITY OR TOWN:  
Woodstock

STATE: Vermont CODE: 50 COUNTY: Windsor CODE: 027

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP  | STATUS   | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC  |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both                                    | Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  |  |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)  |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Town of Woodstock

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Town Hall

CITY OR TOWN:  
Woodstock

STATE:  
Vermont

CODE:  
50

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Office of Town Clerk

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Town Hall

CITY OR TOWN:  
Woodstock

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

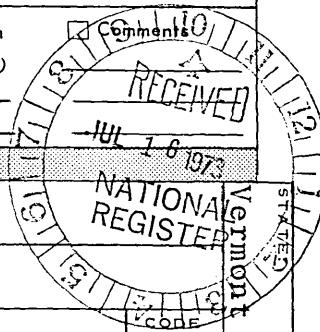
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Pavilion Building

CITY OR TOWN:  
Montpelier

STATE:  
Vermont

CODE:  
50

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



COUNTY: Windsor

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: AUG 28 1973

DATE:

| 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)   |
|  | <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   |   |
| <p>The Taftsville Covered Bridge consists of two spans, totaling 189 feet in length, supported by flanking timber queenpost through trusses augmented by laminated plank arches. The two spans are unequal in length: the southerly reaches 89 feet to the center pier, and the northerly extends 100 feet to the north abutment. The bridge is 20 feet wide, with a 16-foot roadway.</p> <p>The laminated arches, which were added to the bridge after its construction (perhaps by its original builder),<sup>1</sup> differ from one span to the other. The arch of the shorter southerly span consists of ten layers of lapped planks and rises nearly to the upper lateral bracing inside the bridge. The arch of the longer northerly span consists of twelve layers of lapped planks and rises only to the level of the openings that extend nearly the length of the side walls at shoulder height. The ends of the arches are embedded in the abutments and pier and are visible below the bridge. The abutments and pier are built of stone slabs without mortar, although the lower part of the pier has been faced with concrete.</p> <p>The floors of both spans have been reinforced with two laminated stringers parallel to the trusses. Each stringer consists of short timbers which are tie-bolted together. During repair work in 1952-53, triangular steel knee braces were added to the upper lateral bracing inside the bridge.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>On the exterior, the timbers which form the queenpost trusses (and side walls) of the bridge are sheathed with flush boards hung vertically. Similar siding protects the ends of the trusses immediately inside the portals. The gables, which overhang the bridge floor by about five feet at each end, are also sheathed with flush vertical boards. All of the siding is painted red. The roof of the bridge is covered with standing seam metal sheeting.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>1. R. S. Allen, <u>Rare Old Covered Bridges of Windsor County</u>, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1962, p. 39.</p> <p>2. R. S. Allen, <u>Rare Old Covered Bridges of Windsor County</u>, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1962, p. 41.</p> |   |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**4. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1836

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/Phi-             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy                | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> itarian                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

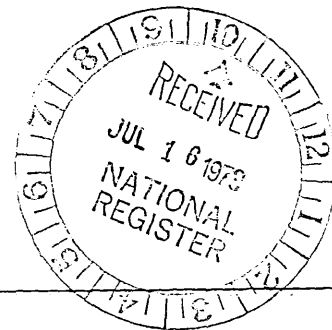
The Taftsville bridge is one of the most extraordinary covered bridges in Vermont. Constructed in 1836 by Solomon Emmons, the bridge is the third oldest covered bridge in the state among those whose dates have been documented.<sup>1</sup> Structurally the Taftsville bridge is unique, being a combination of queen-post through trusses with laminated plank arches. Despite its age, the bridge has not been extensively altered.

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>2</sup> 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 wishes to extend the recognition and protection of the National Register to the majority of the surviving covered bridges, including the Taftsville bridge.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. R. S. Allen, Rare Old Covered Bridges of Windsor County, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1962, p. 39.

2. R. S. Allen, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1957, p. 50.



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Allen, Richard Sanders, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1957.

Allen, Richard Sanders, Rare Old Covered Bridges of Windsor County, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt., 1962.

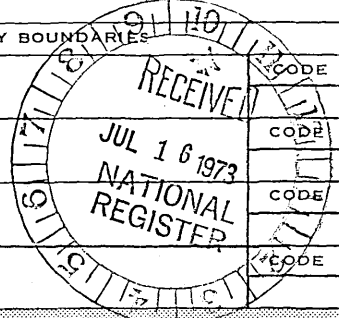
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | 43° 37' 51"   | 72° 28' 06"             |  |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one acre**

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |



U17M  
15/76/240  
4834760  
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Hugh H. Henry, Researcher**

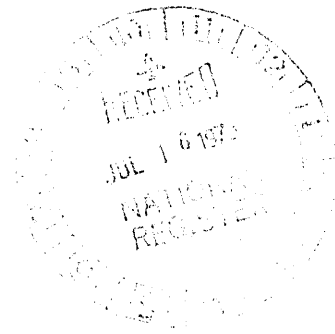
ORGANIZATION: **Vermont Division of Historic Sites**      DATE: **May 10, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Pavilion Building**

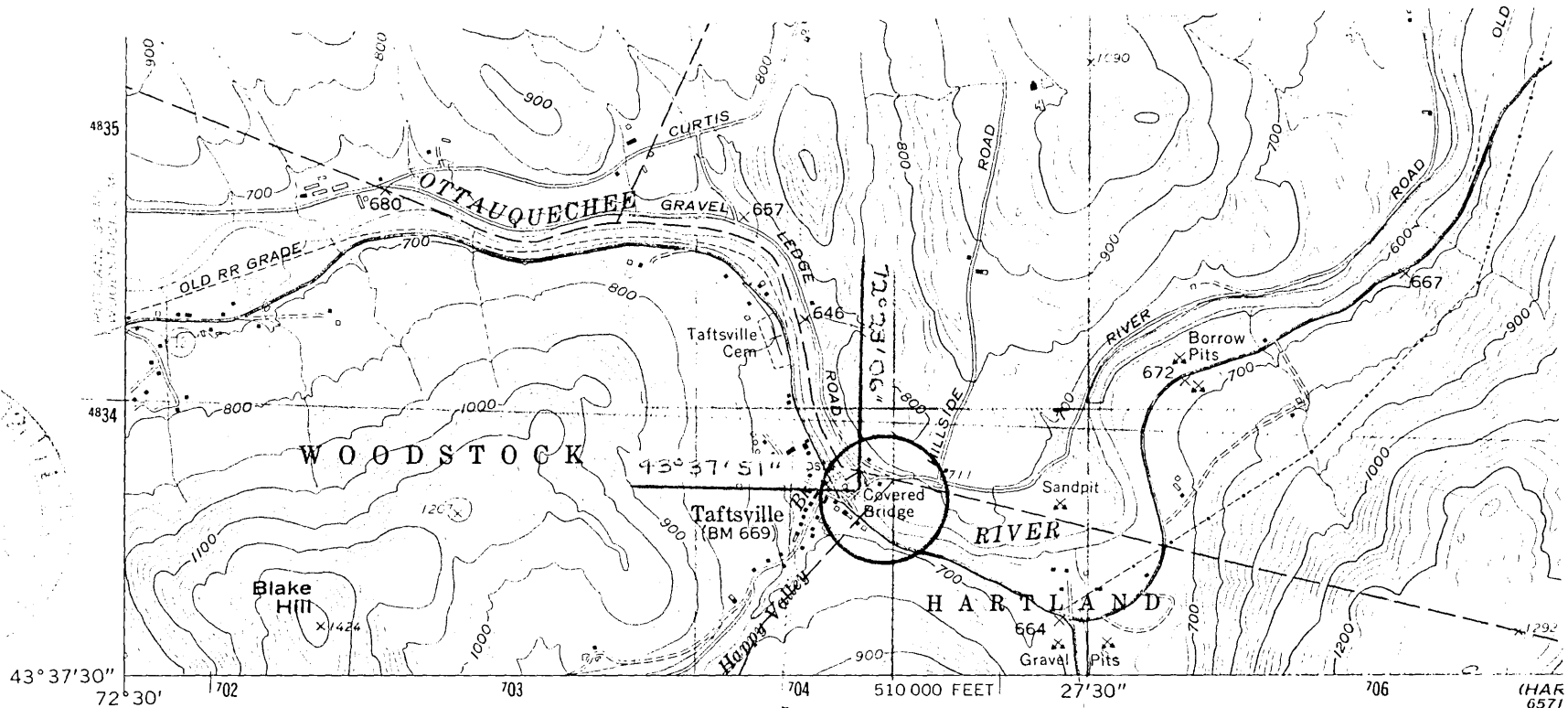
CITY OR TOWN: **Montpelier**      STATE: **Vermont**      CODE: **50**

**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. Brimley</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director of Historic Sites</u><br/><u>State Historic Preservation</u><br/><u>Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>July 11, 1973</u></p> | <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert M. Utley</u><br/>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>8/28/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u><br/>Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>8/28/73</u></p> |
|--|---|



(WOODSTOCK SOUTH)  
6471 II SE



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods

Aerial photographs taken 1956. Field check 1959

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

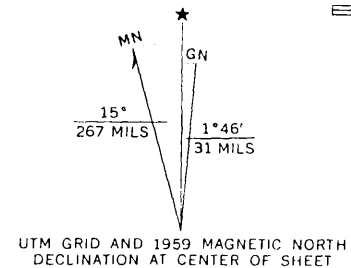
10,000-foot grid based on Vermont coordinate system

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,

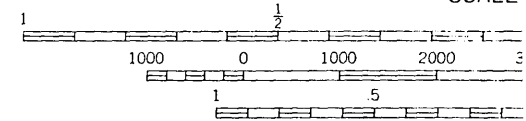
zone 18, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Area covered by dashed light-blue pattern is subject to controlled inundation to 567 feet



UTM GRID AND 1959 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



(HAR 6571)

SCALE

CONTOUR INT  
DATUM IS ME

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIC  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAP:

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

|                  |         |         |
|------------------|---------|---------|
| STATE            | Vermont |         |
| COUNTY           | Windsor |         |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |         |         |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | 206     | 28 15/5 |
| DATE             |         |         |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

|  |      |         |      |
|--|------|---------|------|
| <b>1. NAME</b>   |      |         |      |
| COMMON: Taftsville Covered Bridge  |      |         |      |
| AND/OR HISTORIC:   |      |         |      |
| <b>2. LOCATION</b>   |      |         |      |
| STREET AND NUMBER: Town road across Ottauquechee River immediately north of U.S. Route 4 at Taftsville village |      |         |      |
| CITY OR TOWN: Woodstock  |      |         |      |
| STATE:   | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| Vermont  | 50   | Windsor | 027  |
| <b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>  |      |         |      |
| SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series (topographic) - Quechee, Vt.  |      |         |      |
| SCALE: 1:24,000  |      |         |      |
| DATE: 1959   |      |         |      |
| <b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>   |      |         |      |
| TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS   |      |         |      |
| 1. Property boundaries where required.   |      |         |      |
| 2. North arrow.  |      |         |      |
| 3. Latitude and longitude reference.   |      |         |      |

