

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCERS use only

received NOV 15 1979

date entered FEB 29 1980

1. Name

historic WEST SWANZEY COVERED BRIDGE

and/or common WEST SWANZEY (THOMPSON) BRIDGE

2. Location

street & number Main Street _____ not for publication

city, town West Swanzey _____ vicinity of congressional district Second

state New Hampshire code 33 county Cheshire code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted <small>Limit: 6 tons</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Swanzey

street & number Town Offices

city, town Swanzey _____ vicinity of state New Hampshire 03431

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cheshire County Registry of Deeds
Cheshire County Courthouse

street & number 12 Court Street

city, town Keene _____ state New Hampshire 03431

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NH Historic Preservation Plan has this property been determined eligible? yes nodate 1970 _____ federal state _____ county _____ localdepository for survey records State of New Hampshire
Dept. Resources & Economic Development

city, town Concord _____ state New Hampshire 03301

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Spanning the Ashuelot River in West Swanzey village, this double-span bridge with center pier is located on a surfaced town road just east of Winchester Street off NH Route 10. (National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges World Guide to Covered Bridges number 29-03-04; New Hampshire Department of Public Works and Highways number 093/124; New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development number 5.)

Originally built in 1832 under the supervision of Zadoc Taft, master workman, at a cost of \$523.27, this bridge occupies a central village site and, typical of bridges located in towns, was originally equipped with two sidewalks, of which only one remains. It probably retains much of its original appearance. A picturesque example of the popular Ithiel Town Truss construction, it has fine proportions and an especially attractive facade with balancing overhang roadway and pedestrian walkway arches. Partially open sides expose the web of heavy planks crisscrossed in a lattice-like web. The bridge has a length of 155' with stone abutments and central pier. It has been quite carefully maintained; repairs costing \$431.58 were made in 1859 and nearly \$2,000 was spent on it in 1888. Most recently when discovered unsafe, it was closed briefly and a \$17,000 renovation was undertaken in 1973, which included a new floor, roof and supporting beams. The bolts, replacing wooden trunnel pins and other supporting additions, give evidence of continued repair and maintenance of this important structure.

The site of this bridge in proximity of a busy textile mill and near village stores, fire station, and school has put heavy demands upon it and, although limited to 6 tons, school busses and other heavy vehicles crossing the single-lane bridge are an increasing problem to its preservation. Fortunately, plans are being made for another bridge nearby to take heavy traffic from daily use of the older one.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1832 **Builder/Architect** ZADOC TAFT

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Engineering: Among the picturesque covered bridges of New Hampshire, all significant documents in the annals of American engineering history, the West Swanzey Covered Bridge is one of the finest and an excellent illustration of the Town Truss design in one of its best Granite State applications. The crossed planks, forming a lattice-like web fastened together with wooden pins or trunnels, provided an efficient but structurally indeterminate construction design, which is especially important historically in such a well-proportioned example as the West Swanzey Covered Bridge. The bridge has the added value of illustrating a bridge construction within a busy village, a rare type today as all covered bridges face serious preservation challenges of an "endangered species."

Transportation: An important transportation link between two parts of West Swanzey village, this bridge is a vital part of the town's transportation system, serving as a connecting link for the village and greater township as well. Its role is due to be supplemented by another, modern bridge nearby, now being planned. Retention of the West Swanzey Covered Bridge is essential; its transportation role and local historic importance combine to make it one of the few covered bridges still actively in service, an important distinction for any structure and certainly deserving of preservation as part of the community scene.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Allen, Richard Sanders. Covered Bridges of the Northeast. rev. ed. (Brattleboro, VT: Stephen Greene Press, 1974.)
 Avery, Floyd L. Report of Covered Bridges in New Hampshire, rev. October, 1965. (Concord, NH: NH Department Public Works & Highways, 1965).

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property + 1 acre

Quadrangle name Keene, NH

Quadrangle scale 15'

UMT References

A

1	8
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7	1	8	2	2	0
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4	7	4	9	8	1	1	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

A rectangular parcel approximately 132' in length east and west and 25' in width north and south, centered on the bridge and with sides parallel to the axes of the bridge.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David R. Proper, Curator
 organization Historical Society of Cheshire County date June 20, 1974
 street & number 51 South Lincoln Street telephone
 city or town Keene state New Hampshire 03431

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Theodore Natho, acting
 Commissioner, NH Department Resources & Economic Development
 title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date August 6, 1979

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Sally J. Olden date 2/29/80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Bill Belovich date Feb 22, 1980
 Chief of Registration

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

NOV 15 1979

DATE ENTERED

FEB 29 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)

Kenyon, Thedia Cox. New Hampshire's Covered Bridges. rev. ed., with appendix.
(n.p., Wake-Brook House, n.d.).

Keyworth, William Gordon. The Covered Bridges of New Hampshire, (n.p., 1972?).

National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges, Inc. World Guide to Covered
Bridges, ed. by Oscar F. Lane, rev. April 1, 1972. (n.p., 1972).

NH Division of Economic Development. The Covered Bridges of New Hampshire, (Concord,
New Hampshire, 1973).

Read, Benjamin. The History of Swanzey, New Hampshire, From 1734 to 1890. (Salem,
Mass., Salem Press Publishing and Printing Co., 1892).

Smith, Marjorie W. "Swanzey's Covered Bridges," Granite State Vacationer, August
17-23, 1973, pp. 27-28.

White, W. Edward. Covered Bridges of New Hampshire. (Plymouth, New Hampshire, n.d.).

Works Progress Administration, New Hampshire. New Hampshire, A Guide to the Granite State.
(Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 19380, pg. 344.

Property West Swanzey Covered Bridge
State NH (Cheshire) Working Number 11-15-79 2760

TECHNICAL
Photos 2
Maps 1

signature

CONTROL

HISTORIAN

*COVERED BRIDGE WHICH IS FINE EXAMPLE OF
TOWN TRUSS DESIGN; ALSO SIGNIFICANT FOR LOCAL
TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATIONS.*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*ACCEPT
Mick Donohue
1/19/80*

(SIGNATURE?)

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back 1.16.80 Entered _____
Federal Register Entry _____ Re-submit 2.13.80

INT:2106-74

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE NOMINATION IS RESUBMITTED.

7 Description: _____

3 Statement of Significance: _____

9 Bibliography: _____

10 Geographical Data -- Acreage: _____
UTM Reference(s): _____
Verbal Boundary Description: _____

12 Certification: _____
Photographic Coverage: _____
Map Coverage: _____

Other: Please have State Historic Preservation Officer sign nomination

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Selous Byers on the National Register staff, telephone 202-343-7461

Thank you for your attention to the above items.

Sally G. Orlin
Chief, Branch of Registration

Date: 1/15/80

Property West Swaney Covered Bridge

2nd Control

State NH (Cheshire) Working Number 11.15.79.2760

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 2
Maps 1

HISTORIAN

ACCORDING TO ACTING KEEPER'S ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
GUIDELINES (2/22/80), we do not have to notify this owner. Accept

Significant as example of Town Truss design
and as local transportation link.

Belovich
2/22/80

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

~~To HAER~~
Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered FEB 29 1980

Federal Register Entry 2-3-81

Re-submit _____



LIMIT
6 TON

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM: NEW HAMPSHIRE

Historic Name: West Swanzey Covered Bridge (Thompson Bridge)
Common Name: West Swanzey Covered Bridge
NR District: NA
Address: Main Street *Cheshire Co.*
City/Town/State: West Swanzey, New Hampshire
Photographer: David R. Proper
Keene, NH
Negative with: David R. Proper

NOV 15 1979

I certify that the appearance of
this structure has not changed since
this photo was taken.

Ande Ray Wilson 11/7/79

FEB 29 1980

Description: Exterior view, portal



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM: NEW HAMPSHIRE

Historic Name: West Swanzeý Covered Bridge (Thompson Bridge)
Common Name: West Swanzeý Covered Bridge
NR District: NA
Address: Main Street
City/Town/State: West Swanzeý, New Hampshire
Photographer: David R. Proper
Negative with: David R. Proper

Cheshire County NOV 15 1979

I certify that the appearance of this structure has not changed since this photo was taken.

Wida Ray Wilson

FEB 29 1980

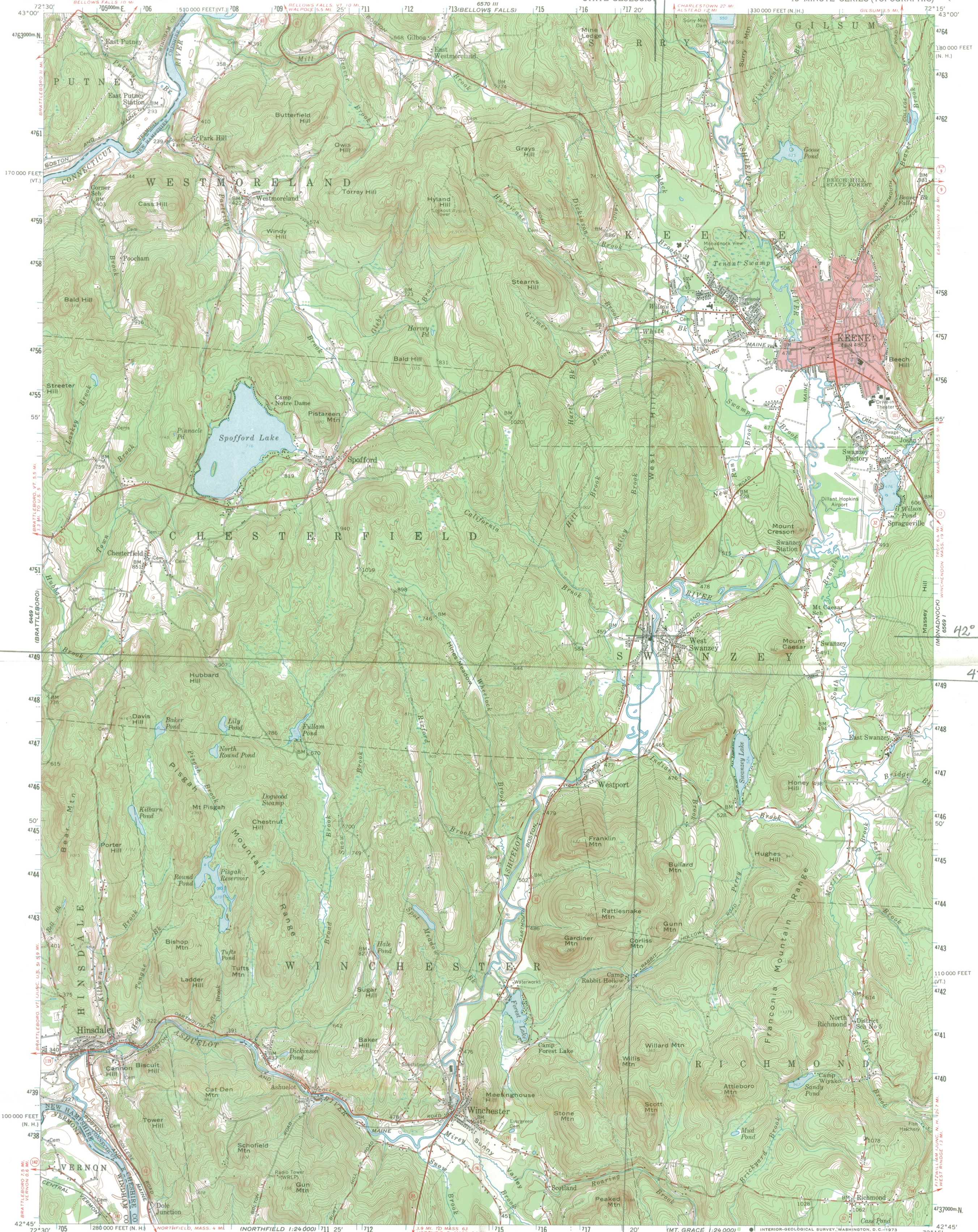
11/7/79

Description: Interior view, showing Town Truss construction

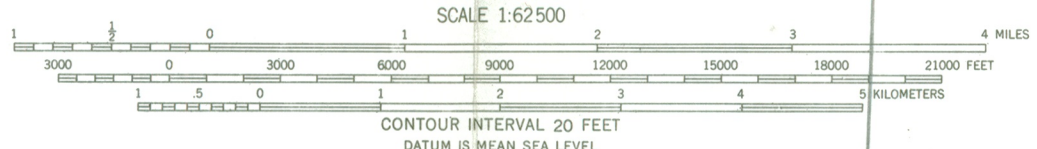
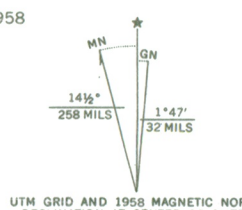
Photographer facing N NE E SE S SW W NW

Photo Date: 6/74

Photo Number 2 of 2



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by planimeter surveys 1932. Culture revised 1958
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on New Hampshire and Vermont
coordinate systems
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown



FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



NAME: WEST SWANZEY COVERED BRIDGE
NR DISTRICT:
CITY/TOWN/STATE: WEST SWANZEY, NH

UTM ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 18	7-18-220	47-49-810
B		
C		
D		



FEB 29 1980

West Swanzy
CB

Swanzy, 6.30.76

TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE:

- I/we favor the proposed nomination to the National Register of
SAWYERS CROSSING CB, WEST SWANZEY CB, STATE CB.
- I/we do not favor the proposed nomination
- I/we have no opinion about the proposed nomination
- I/we wish to submit additional information

COMMENTS:

DATE:

6/30/76

Name: *Selectmen of Swanzy*
Address: *Btx 12 East Swanzy NH*





NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GEORGE GILMAN
COMMISSIONER

TELEPHONE 603 271-2411

November 7, 1979

Ms. Carol Shull
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service
US Department of Interior
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

As New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer, I am pleased to nominate to the National Register of Historic Places the West Swanzey Covered Bridge in West Swanzey, New Hampshire.

The National Register Inventory-Nomination form for the structure, prepared by David R. Proper, has been reviewed and approved by the Preservation Advisory Council and the New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Review Board. The Selectmen of Swanzey have been notified and their comments are attached.

Sincerely,

Theodore Natti, Acting Commissioner
(for)
George Gilman, Commissioner
NH State Historic Preservation Officer

bf

encs



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW HAMPSHIRE

Date Entered

FEB 29 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
West Swanzey Covered Bridge	West Swanzey Cheshire County
Town Hall and Courthouse	Newport Sullivan County
Salmon Falls Mill Historic District	Rollinsford Strafford County
Religious Society of Friends Meetinghouse	Dover Strafford County

Also Notified

Honorable Gordon J. Humphrey

Honorable John A. Durkin
Honorable James C. Cleveland
Honorable Norman E. D'Amours

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. George Gilman
Commissioner, Department of
Resources & Economic Development
P.O. Box 856
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

NR Byers/bjr 3/4/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.