

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

7. SIMPSON CREEK COVERED BRIDGE (ALIAS W.T. LAW COVERED BRIDGE)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Secondary Route 24/2 at junction of Secondary Route 24  
at Holen Mill across Simpson Creek

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

X VICINITY OF Bridgeport

1

STATE

West Virginia

CODE  
54

COUNTY  
Harrison

CODE  
033

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED in service	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

West Virginia Department of Highways

STREET & NUMBER

1900 Washington Street, East

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia 25305

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harrison County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Clarksburg

STATE

West Virginia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 2 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE 1888
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The W. T. Law Covered Bridge is 14 feet-3 inches wide and is 75.2 feet in length. It has red board-and-batten siding and a corrugated metal roof. The trusses which are of the multiple kingpost type, have nine panels, measuring 11.9 feet in height. All panels are approximately 8 feet-4 inches long. The 7 x 8 inch diagonals fit flush against the top and bottom chords, which are comprised of two-6 x 8 inch and two-6 x 9½ inch members respectively, and into small three sided notches made in the 7 x 10 inch verticals. The center panel of the bridge has no diagonal bracing, which was a common mode of design for timber bridges of the multiple kingpost type that had an odd number of panels (1). Because the center panel is unbraced, it must resist loading through the bending of the cords, relying on their continuity (i.e. the top and bottom chords are continuous and therefore do not act as members of a pin-connected truss) for stability. The joggle splice pieces, which splice the components of the bottom chord together are noteworthy.

The bridge still functions with no evidence of modern reinforcement.

8 SIGNI  
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# 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 checked="" 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      1881      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Asa S. Hugill

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Thomas S. Spates, appointed by the Harrison County Court as a commissioner to examine a site, prepare specifications, and receive bids for the construction of a bridge across Simpson Creek near Shinns Mills, made a report to the court on September 9, 1881 concerning his progress. After he informed the court that Asa S. Hugill submitted the lowest bid, (\$700.00 for the woodwork and \$4.00/perch for the wingwalls and abutments), the court awarded Mr. Hugill the contract. The same day, the court appointed Thomas S. Spates to superintend the construction of the bridge, and ordered that John Lowe be awarded \$40.00 for land taken for right-of-way.

On December 6, 1881, following Spates' report to the court that Hugill had built the bridge according to the plans and specifications, the court ordered that Hugill be paid a total of \$1483.00, \$442.00 of which was to be given to John Lowe. Spates was paid \$30.00 for his services as a commissioner (2).

A flood washed out the bridge in July, 1999. The bridge was brought back upstream and reconstructed at its present location, which is approximately one-half mile below its original site.

The W. T. Law Covered Bridge is one of the three remaining covered bridges in Harrison County, and the only covered bridge in West Virginia that has multiple kingpost trusses with diagonals absent in the center panels. As a rule of thumb, wooden arches were constructed on bridges which were to have spans approaching 80 feet to avoid excessive deflections. The W. T. Law bridge is significant in that it comes close to the 80 foot span length and does not have stiffening wooden arches.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. "American Wooden Bridges," Committee on History and Heritage of American Civil Engineering, ASCE, Historical Publication No. 4, New York, NY, 1976, p. 131.
2. General Order Book #1, Harrison County Court, pp. 94, 107.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Not applicable

UTM REFERENCES Quad name Clarksburg

Quad. scale 1:24000

A 

1	7
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5	6	2	1	0	0
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4	3	5	1	0	6	8
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

E.L. Kemp, Professor of The History of Science & Technology and of Civil Engineering

ORGANIZATION

DATE

West Virginia University

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

14 Woodburn Hall, Town Campus

(304) 293-3867

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Morgantown

West Virginia 26506

## 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 National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

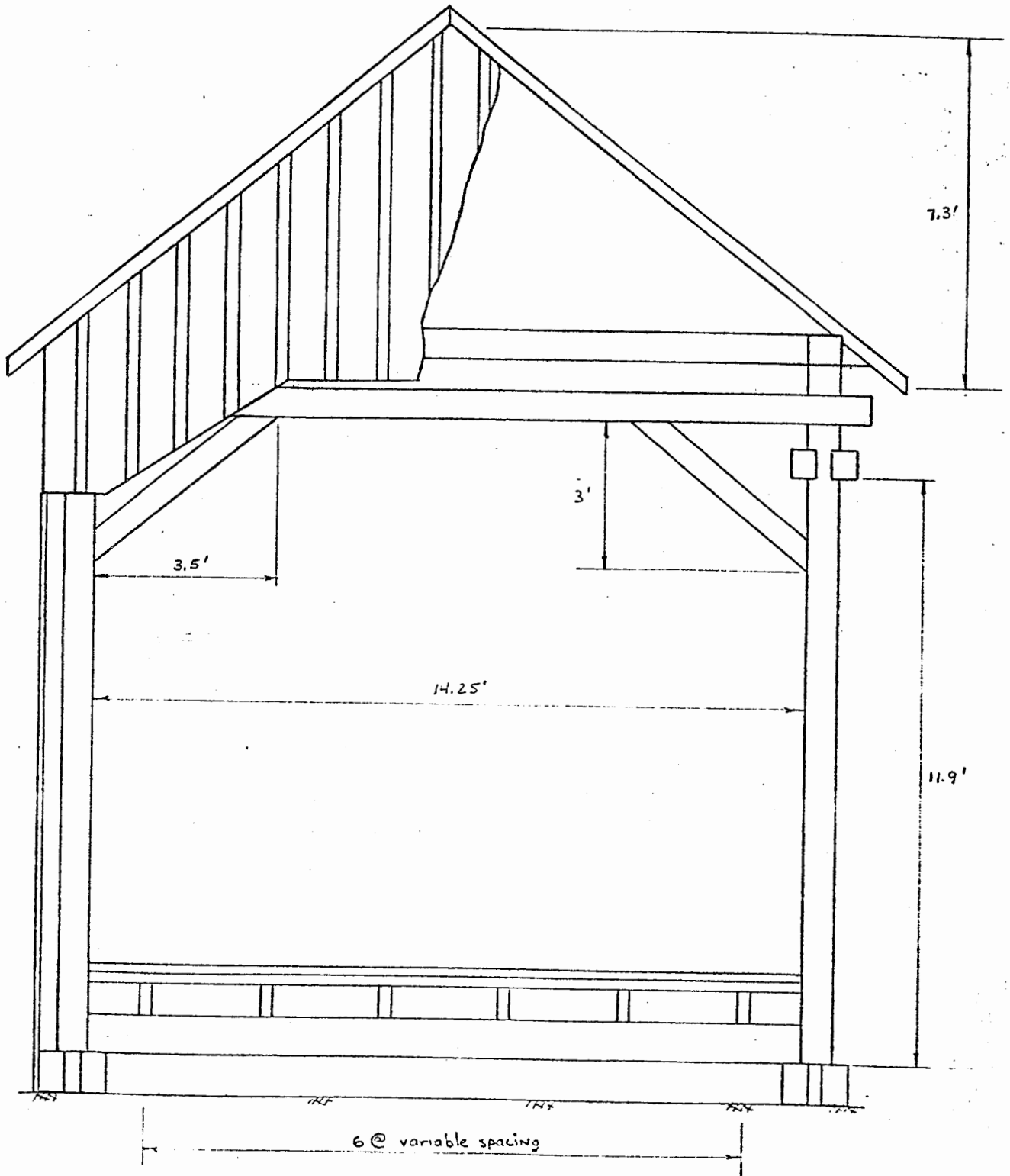
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

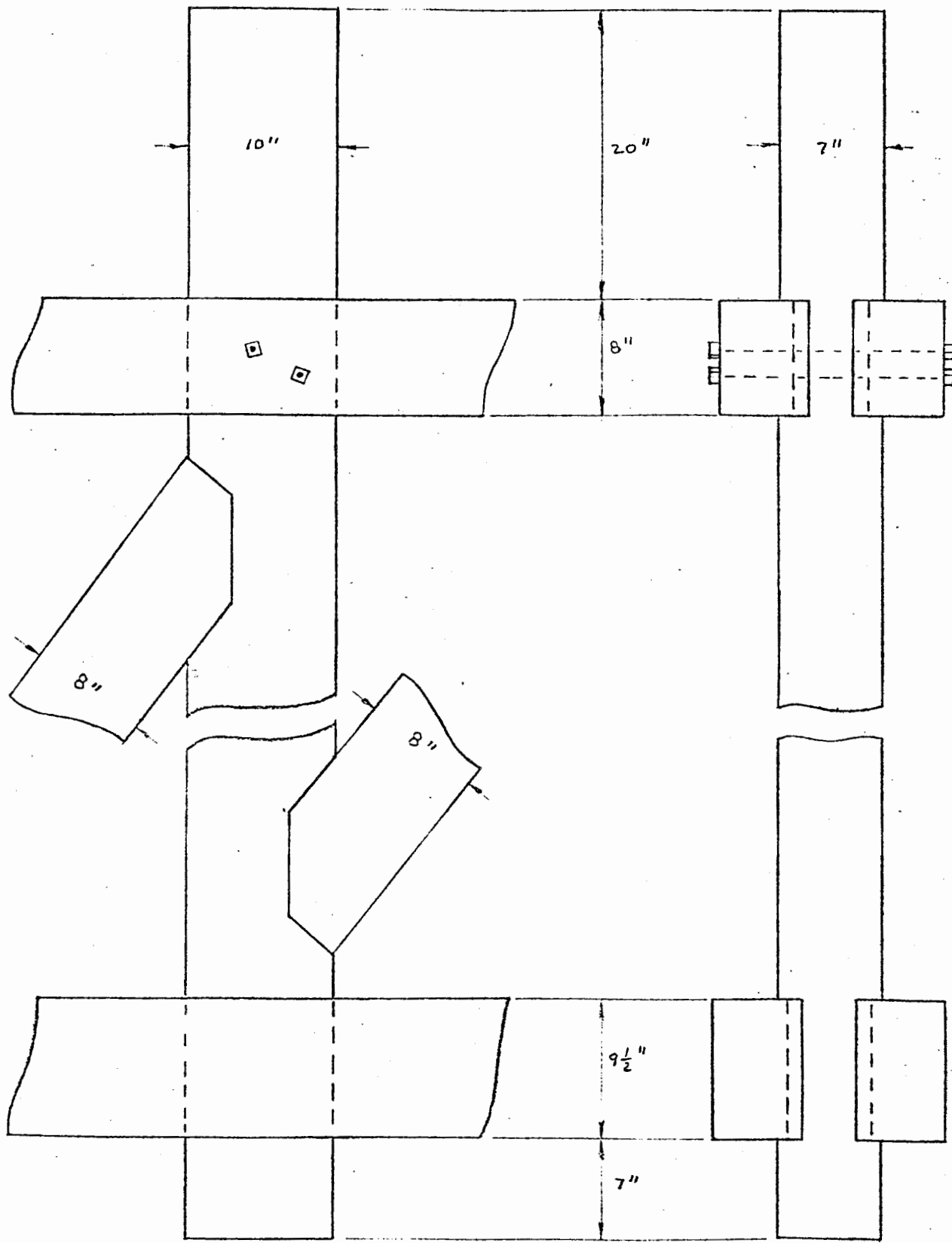
ATTEST

DATE

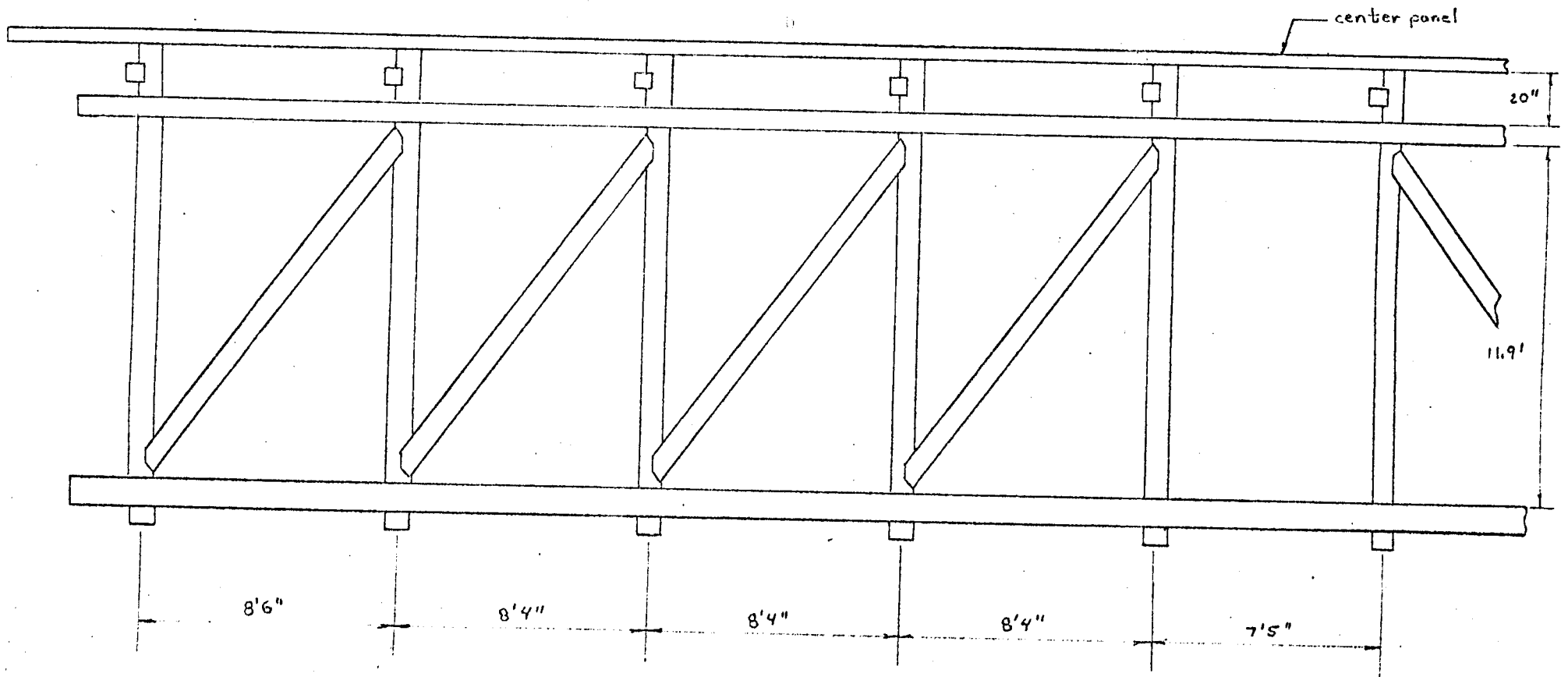
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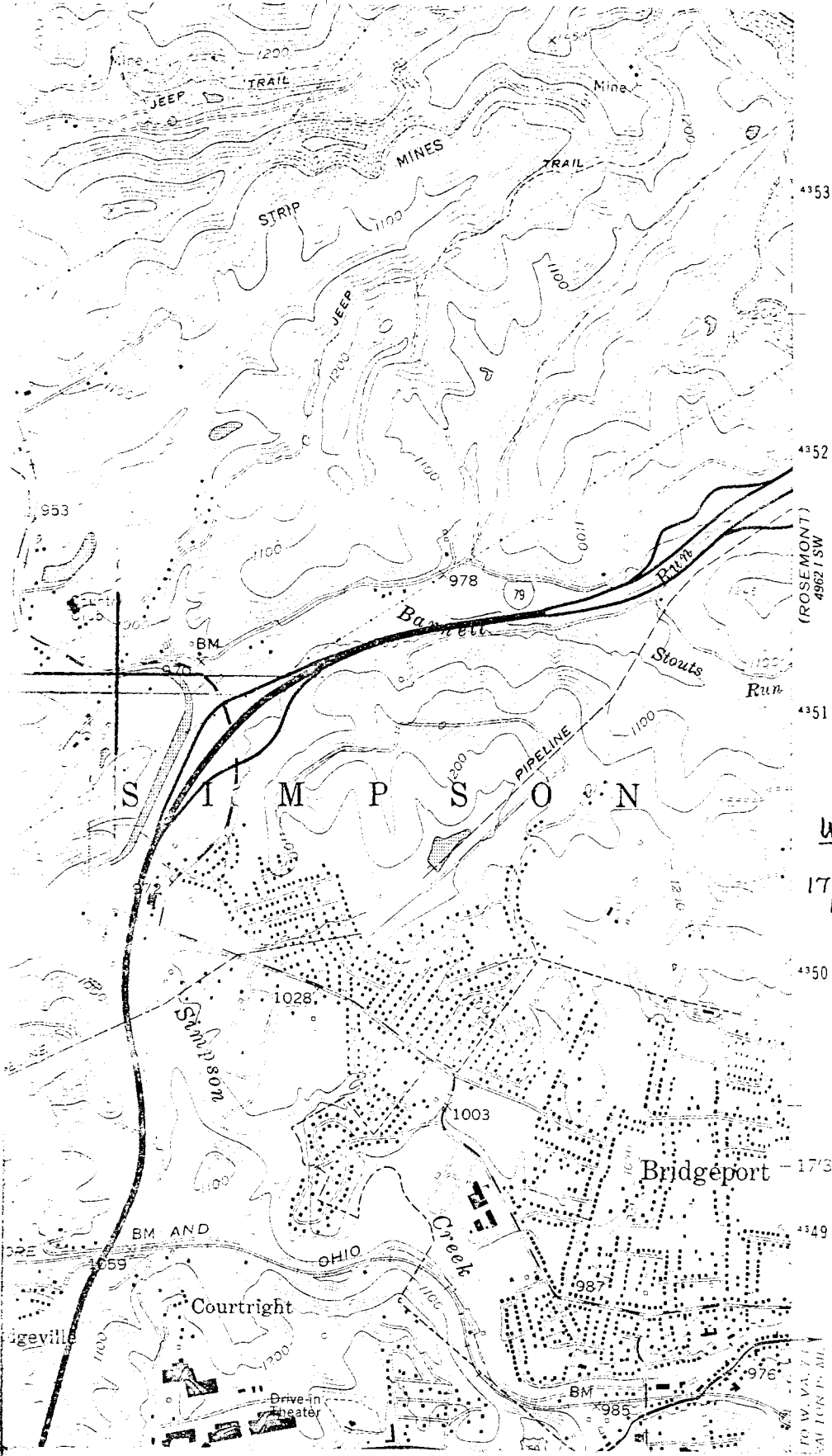
8. SIMPSON CREEK COVERED BRIDGE



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7.  
 SIMPSON CREEK  
 COVERED BRIDGE  
 BRIDGEPORT  
 VICINITY  
 HARRISON COUNTY  
 WEST VIRGINIA

UTM  
 17 | 562 100 | 4351 068

