

Covered Bridge
West Hopkinton, N.H.

HABS NH-30

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PHOTOGRAPHS AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Hampshire

Historic American Buildings Survey
Eugene W. Clark, Deputy Officer
Durham, New Hampshire

HABS
NH
7. 11. 1935
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COVERED BRIDGE

West Hopkinton, Merrimack County, New Hampshire

Called "New Bridge" or "Hennicker New Bridge"

<u>Late Owner</u>	Town of Hopkinton
<u>Date of Erection</u>	1863
<u>Architect</u>	Unknown
<u>Builder</u>	Unknown
<u>Present Condition</u>	Damaged in flood of 1935 and taken down the following year after the present bridge built adjoining it to the north was ready for traffic.
<u>Materials of Construction</u>	Stone piers with wood lattice and arch.
<u>Other Existing Records</u>	Life and Times of Hopkinton by C. C. Lord. Concord 1890

COVERED BRIDGE

This Covered Bridge in Hopkinton called the New Bridge or the Hennicker New Bridge seems to have derived its name from the name of the road, the New Road between Hennicker and Hopkinton, was proposed before 1842.

In that year Hopkinton objected to proposed lay out, but on August 18, 1844, "The selectmen were then instructed to build the road laid out upon the petition of L. Smith and others, the building of it to be sold at the lowest price by auction; that a covered bridge be built across the river, with a span not exceeding 150 feet, with stone abutments; the work of constructing both the road and the bridge was to begin immediately. It is noticeable in this connection that the bridge was to be "built on the Ex plan," referring, doubtless, to the diagonal arrangement of its timbers. The selectmen were authorized to hire any sum of money not exceeding \$5,000, to defray the expenses of the town that year.

On the 15th of the next October, the town reconsidered so much of the foregoing action as related to the bridge over the Contoocook river on the new Henniker and Hopkinton road, and voted that the structure should be an arched one of stone.

It is possible that stone arched bridge was similar to those built in Hillsboro illustrated in the HABS project number NH 32. If so this Bridge was less fortunate than some of the Hillsboro Bridges for it was carried away by the freshet of the spring of 1852.

It was eleven years later on the 14th day of May, 1863, that "The town voted to build a wooden bridge, on stone abutments over the Contoocook river, on the new road to Henniker, and the selectmen were instructed to decide upon the plan of the bridge and receive proposals for building it. They were also empowered to hire a sum of money not exceeding \$2,500 for the purpose.

This bridge damaged in the freshets of 1936 (1935?) is the bridge recorded. In damaged condition it

Covered Bridge

accomodated traffic untill a new bridge was built slightly to the north of it thus completing in a crippled condition sixty-four years of service.

Reference

Life and Times of Hopkinton

C. C. Lord

Page 137 1842

Page 139 1844

Page 160 1863

Page 560 Name

Prepared by E. W. Clark, District Officer, December 1937

revised June 20, 1938
WPC