UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

NAME

HISTORIC

/4. DENTS RUN COVERED BRIDGE

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Secondary Route 43/4 at junction
of Secondary Route 43 crossing Dents Run

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

West Virginia

CODE 54

COUNTY

Monongalia

CODE 061

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDINGS

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

occupied in service

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES, RESTRICTED

YES, UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDEN

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

West Virginia Department of Highways

STREET & NUMBER

1900 Washington Street, East

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Monongalia County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

High Street

CITY, TOWN

Huntingtown

STATE

West Virginia

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

None
The Dents Run Covered Bridge is 12 feet 10 inches wide and the bottom chord is 40 feet long making one of the shortest extant covered bridges in West Virginia. It has lap siding painted red and a standing seam metal roof. The truss is of the kingpost type and has two 9 x 9 inch diagonals extending from the notched ends of the 9½ x 13½ bottom chord to the mortise and tenon joint of the 8½ x 12½ inch centerpost. Braces, 6 3/4 inches square, extend from two feet above the base of the centerpost to about the middle of the diagonals. Metal straps bolted to the centerpost help to secure the centerpost to the bottom chord. Other metal tension straps, extending from the transverse roof beam to the transverse floor beam, on both trusses, support the transverse floor beam on which the stringers rest. Unique components not found on any other existing covered bridge in West Virginia are the U-shaped iron hangers, spaced on three foot centers and bolted to the bottom chord. It is thought that the hangers functioned as supports for transverse floor beams that once supported wooden stringers. 9½ x 11 inch timbers have been spliced to the bottom chords on the west side of the bridge, probably in an attempt to strengthen the members, and six American Standard I-beam stringers, placed on the abutments and supported at mid-span by a transverse floor beam support the deck and have replaced the original timber stringers.
On March 5, 1889, Martin P. Fox and others filed petitions with the Monongalia County Court to build a bridge across Dents Run at or near the residence of Edward W. Brand, near Laurel Point. Brand, a member of the court, was appointed to contract for the construction of the bridge. On June 6, 1889, Brand reported that he had contracted with W. A. Loar to build a bridge for $448.00 ($198.00 for stonework and $250.00 for the woodwork). After the contract was approved, Brand was appointed to superintend the construction of the bridge. Loar constructed the stone abutments (1) and William and Joseph Mercer built the superstructure (2). On December 3, 1889 the courts ordered that $448 be paid to W. A. Loar for the construction of the bridge (1).

The West Virginia Department of Highways placed steel I beams under the deck of the bridge to give the bridge additional strength. A controversy developed in late 1972 and 1973 when Dippel and Dippel Coal Company wanted to open a coal mine and subsequently use the bridge in transporting coal across Dents Run. Area residents protested and the coal company constructed a concrete bridge nearby (2).

The Dents Run Covered Bridge is the only remaining covered bridge in Monongalia County and one of two covered bridges left in West Virginia which utilize the kingpost truss design.
2. "Register May List Covered Bridge in County," The Dominion Post, 24 April 1968.

### GEOGRAPHERICAL DATA

| ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY | Not Applicable |
| QUADRANGLE NAME | Riverville |
| CITY OR TOWN | Morgantown, West Virginia |

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATE</td>
<td>CODE</td>
<td>COUNTY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-605), 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.
17. DENTS RUN COVERED BRIDGE
17. DENTS RUN COVERED BRIDGE
17. DENTS RUN COVERED BRIDGE