NAME
HISTORIC
12. LAUREL CREEK COVERED BRIDGE
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
Secondary Route 23/4 at junction of Secondary Route 219/11 crossing Laurel Creek

CITY, TOWN
VINCIETY OF
West Virginia Lillydale

STATE
West Virginia

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
- DISTRICT
- BUILDING
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

STATUS
- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

PRESENT USE
- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- OTHER

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
West Virginia Department of Highways

STREET & NUMBER
1900 Washington Street, East

CITY, TOWN
Charleston

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Nonroco County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Union

STATE
West Virginia

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITION FOR SURVEY RECORDS

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE
The Laurel Creek Covered Bridge is 13 feet-2½ inches wide and has the smallest span of all West Virginia's covered bridges with a bottom chord length of 24.5 feet. The covering consists of wooden siding painted barn red and a galvanized metal roof, which replaced the original roof of chestnut shakes.

Having no verticals, the truss is comprised of two 5 x 9 3/4 inch diagonals extending from the ends of the dual membered bottom chord to a point six feet above the bottom chord, where the separation between the diagonals is approximately five feet. A metal tension rod is looped around the transverse floor beam (located below the bottom chord at midspan) and is bolted to the top ends of the diagonals. A single metal rod extends from the transverse floor beam to the center of the top chord and is bolted to the top chord and the transverse floor beam. Two diagonal braces extend from the top of the diagonals to the ends of the longitudinal roof beam. The deck, once supported on 3 x 12 inch wooden stringers, now rests on seven 6½ x 12 inch wide flange stringers.
SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-1999
- 2000-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- ARCHITECTURE
- ARCHITECTURE-HISTORIC
- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICAL GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC CATES

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On July 19, 1910, J. C. McLaugherty (the county road engineer), H. W. Peck and Robert Arnott were appointed commissioners to locate a site for and estimate the cost of building a bridge across Laurel Creek near Robert Arnott's residence. After the commissioners made a report of their findings to the court on August 26, 1910, the court ordered that a covered bridge with stone abutments be built at the site selected near Robert Arnott's (1).

Lewis Miller built the stone abutments and the superstructure was built by Robert Arnott. The oak timbers obtained for building the superstructure were seasoned approximately one year before they were used. Lou Wickline fashioned the chestnut shakes, which originally covered the roof and the iron work was done in Roanoke (2). On August 22, 1911 the court ordered that Robert Arnott be paid out of the county treasury for the construction of the bridge (3). The total cost of construction was $355.00 (2).

The Laurel Creek Covered Bridge as the oldest covered bridge in West Virginia and the use of metal tension rods in its construction is typical of the bridges found in the southern part of the state. It is one of the two remaining covered bridges in Monroe County.
**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Order Book #4, Monroe County, p. 49, 70, 154.
2. Interview with Lucille and Lee Arnott, August 20, 1979.

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### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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<td>NORTHING</td>
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**QUADRANGLE SCALE** 1:24000

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>CODE</th>
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**FORM PREPARED BY**

**NAME / TITLE**
E.L. Kemp, Professor History of Science & Technology and of Civil Engineering

**ORGANIZATION**
West Virginia University

**STREET & NUMBER**
G14 Woodburn Hall, Town Campus

**TELEPHONE**
(304) 293-3867

**CITY OR TOWN**
Morgantown

**STATE**
West Virginia

**CODE**
26606

**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.

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE**

**TITLE**

**DATE**

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**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

**DATE**

**ATTEST**

**CHIEF OF REGISTRATION**

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**DATE**

GPO 921-003
15. LAUREL CREEK COVERED BRIDGE
15. LAUREL CREEK COVERED BRIDGE