**NAME**

HISTORIC

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

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

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

CITY, TOWN  Bridgeport

STATE  West Virginia

CODE  54

COUNTY  Harrison

CODE  033

**CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS IN SERVICE</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>DISTRICT</em></td>
<td><em>PUBLIC</em></td>
<td><em>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</em></td>
<td><em>AGRICULTURE</em></td>
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<td><em>BUILDING(S)</em></td>
<td><em>PRIVATE</em></td>
<td><em>IN PROGRESS</em></td>
<td><em>COMMERCIAL</em></td>
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<td><em>STRUCTURE</em></td>
<td><em>PRIVATE</em></td>
<td><em>BEING CONSIDERED</em></td>
<td><em>EDUCATIONAL</em></td>
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<td><em>SITE</em></td>
<td><em>PRIVATE</em></td>
<td><em>IN PROCESS</em></td>
<td><em>PRIVATE RESIDENCE</em></td>
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<td><em>OBJECT</em></td>
<td><em>PRIVATE</em></td>
<td><em>BEING CONSIDERED</em></td>
<td><em>RELIGIOUS</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  West Virginia Department of Highways

STREET & NUMBER  1900 Washington Street, East

CITY, TOWN  Charleston

STATE  West Virginia

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  Harrison County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  Clarksburg

STATE  West Virginia

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  None

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE
DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

X UNALTERED
- ALTERED
- ORIGINAL SITE
X MOVED
DATE 1888

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.
SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC</th>
<th>ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC</th>
<th>COMMUNITY PLANNING</th>
<th>LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE</th>
<th>RELIGION</th>
<th>SCIENCE</th>
<th>SCULPTURE</th>
<th>SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN</th>
<th>THEATER</th>
<th>TRANSPORTATION</th>
<th>OTHER (SPECIFY)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>PREHISTORIC</em></td>
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SPECIFIC DATES 1881

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 Shinn's 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.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


2. General Order Book #1, Harrison County Court, pp. 94, 107.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Not applicable

UTM REFERENCES

Quad name: Clarksburg
Quad. scale: 1:24000

ZONE   EASTING   NORTING
A [1,7] 56,241,060 43,331,468
B [ ] [ ] [ ]
C [ ] [ ] [ ]
D [ ] [ ] [ ]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE   CODE    COUNTY   CODE

STATE   CODE    COUNTY   CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION
West Virginia University

STREET & NUMBER
14 Woodburn Hall, Town Campus

CITY OR TOWN
Morgantown

STATE
West Virginia

CODE
26506

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 1956 (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

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
8. SIMPSON CREEK COVERED BRIDGE
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