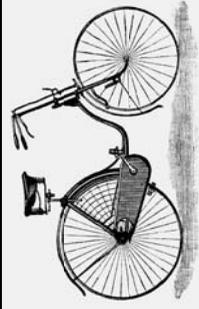


# Campton's 3 Covered Bridge Bicycle Tour



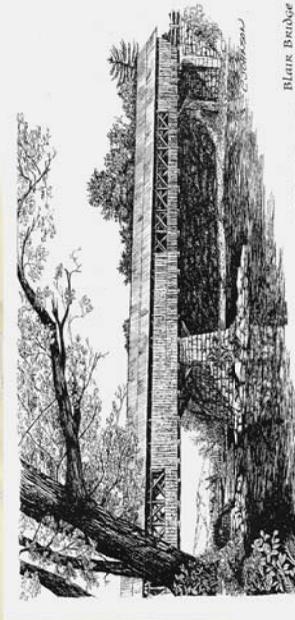
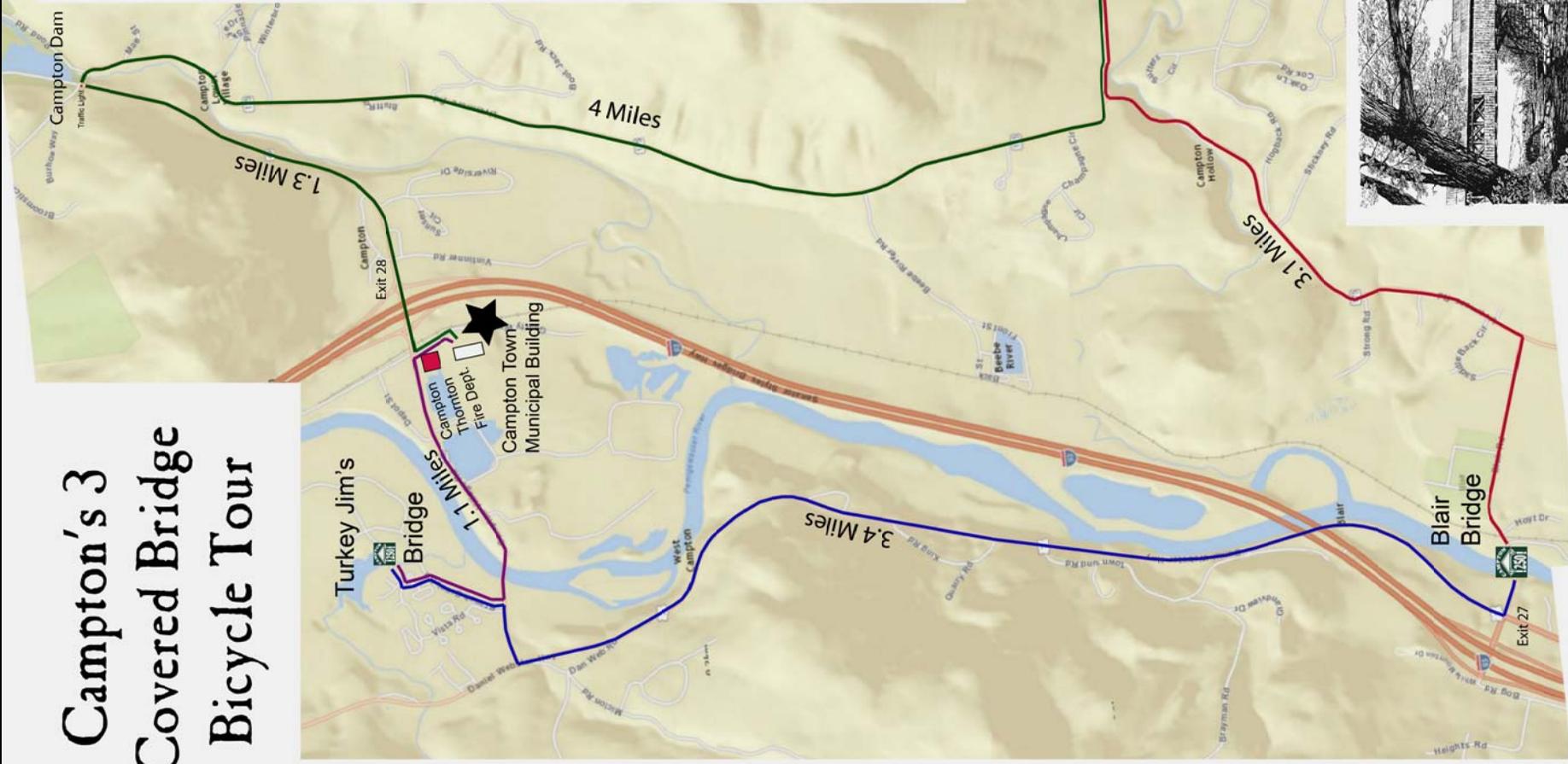
## Bike Safety

**Wear a Properly Fitted Helmet.**  
**Watch for and Avoid Road Hazards**  
**Go With the Traffic Flow.**  
**Obey All Traffic Laws.**  
**Be Predictable.**  
**Look Before Turning.**  
**Yield to Traffic When Appropriate.**



## Distances:

**Town Office to Campton Dam -- 1.3 miles**  
**Campton Dam to Bump Bridge -- 4 miles**  
**Bump Bridge to Blair Bridge -- 3.1 miles**  
**Blair Bridge to Turkey Jim Bridge -- 3.4 miles**  
**Turkey Jim Bridge to Town Office -- 1.1 miles**

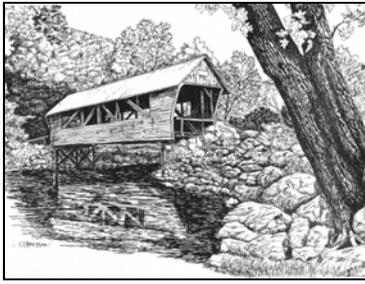


## Route of the tour

1. **Parking:** Campton Town Municipal Building - Gearty Road (west side of 193 Exit 28) best to park on the dirt lot next to the railroad track, across from the paved Municipal Building lot.
1. **Municipal Building to Campton Dam** -- 1.3 miles. North on Gearty Way to intersection of NH 49. Right turn on NH 49. Stay on NH 49 until stop light at Campton Dam. Be aware that traffic can be heavy on this section of highway, especially near the 193 Exits.
2. **Campton Dam to Bump Bridge** -- 4 miles. Turn right at the light onto NH 175. Follow NH 175 south for 2.8 miles to the intersection of NH 175 and Perch Pond Road. The last 3/4 of mile to the intersection on NH 175 is an uphill grade. The intersection with Perch Pond Road is just after a sharp left hand turn. Continue on Perch Pond Road for .4 (four tenths) of a mile, then turn right following Perch Pond Road. Bump Covered Bridge will be on the left in .8 (eight tenths) of a mile.
3. **Bump Bridge to Blair Bridge** -- 3.1 miles. Retrace the Perch Pond Road back to the intersection of NH 175. (at the "bear") Turn left on NH 175 - down the hill - and follow to the intersection of Blair Road (1.5 miles). Turn right onto Blair Road and continue to the Blair Covered Bridge.
4. **Blair Bridge to Turkey Jim Bridge** -- 3.4 miles. Cross the Covered Bridge and up Blair Road to the flashing traffic light. (Intersection of Blair Road and NH Route 3) Turn right onto NH 3 and continue north on NH 3 for 2.8 miles to the intersection of NH 49. Turn right onto NH 49. In less than a 1/4 mile turn left onto Branch Brook Road. Because Turkey Jim Bridge is on private property, it is advisable to get permission to view the bridge from the campground owners at the campground store. Follow Branch Brook Road to the store. Folks at the store can give you directions to the bridge - it's located off Dogwood Circle.
5. **Turkey Jim to Campton Municipal Building** -- 1.1 mile. Return to NH 49 on Branch Brook Road. Turn left on NH 49. Follow NH 49 about a mile to Gearty Way (by the Fire Station). Right turn on Gearty Way and the parking area.

## Bump Bridge

Bump Bridge is located off Perch Pond Road in Campton. The original bridge at this site, spanning



the Beebe River, was built in 1877. It was once known as the Webber Bridge. It was built using the Queenpost construction technique. The original bridge was 85' long, including abutments, with spans of 8', 62', and 8'. The width of the bridge was 16', with a roadway of 13'. Virtual clearance was 11' 7". Bump Bridge rested on timber "horses" (bents) instead of stone. It is unique in that it has horizontal clapboards, rather than vertical. Around 1971, the bridge had deteriorated. The selectmen examined it to see if it could be kept going for a few more years. Arnold Graton offered to repair it for \$2,500, and propped it up for the winter. In the Spring, it had fallen apart, and was closed. The bottom framing was completely rotted beyond repair.

At the same time, the Town was negotiating with the state to do some restoration work on Blair Bridge. Graton agreed to match the state price, assuming that the profit on Blair would be enough to replace Bump for \$2,500. He ended up borrowing \$10,000 to rebuild Bump, and received his \$2,500 from the Town. This new Bump Bridge is 68' 4" long with a clear span of 61' 6". The width is 16' 9", and the roadway 13' 4". Vertical clearance is 11' 4". It has a capacity of 3 tons, and is posted for cars only. It was constructed in a manner replicating the traditional style of covered bridges. Another unique aspect of Bump Bridge is that it was pulled into place by a group of Boy Scouts and others. Bump Covered Bridge is World Guide # 29-05-08, and New Hampshire #43.

## Blair Bridge

The Blair Covered Bridge spans the Pemigwasset River. The site was originally a ford between two sections of the Town of Campton. The center of town was on the east side, where the Town House is located. The west side was known as the Blair section. The bridge was initially prompted by an incident where the local doctor was crossing the stream on horseback, and was caught in a flood. He survived, but the horse was lost. The first bridge here was built in 1829 at a cost of \$1,000. It was destroyed in 1868 by an arsonist, Lem Palmer who claimed that God told him to do it. Even though he confessed, he was not convicted because there were no witnesses.



The present bridge was erected in 1870, and includes one timber from the original. Blair Bridge employs a truss design patented by Col. Stephen H. Long. It has two clear spans of 193'3" and 131'0". At a total length of 292'10", it is the second largest covered bridge entirely within the boundaries of the State of New Hampshire. It is posted for a maximum weight of 3 tons, and has a maximum vertical clearance of 13'3". By 1977, dirt and dampness had caused some decay. The four corners were re-built by Milton Graton at a cost of \$59,379. The East end was raised 8 inches, and new oak floor joists were added to support truck travel.

"Super storm" Irene in 2011 caused damage to the upstream side of the bridge. In 2013 Arnold Graton and crew did extensive work on the bridge; replaced old abutments, rebuilt the center pier, added another structural layer to the arches, and recambered the road bed by lifting the entire 293 feet of the bridge 6" off the foundation then installed new wedges and finally lowered the entire bridge back down on the foundation. The final restoration included new siding, a metal roof, an oak

road bed and installed safety features not on the original bridge. Now the bridge rating has been upgraded to 6 tons. It is the last remaining covered bridge in the state to have been constructed using Long's patented design. Blair Bridge is #41 on the New Hampshire registry.



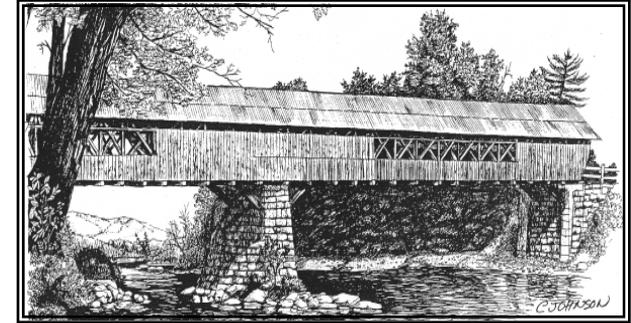
## Turkey Jim's Bridge

This covered Bridge is on the property of the Branch Brook Campground. It is off N.H. Route 49, between routes 193 and U.S. 3.

The first covered bridge built here was constructed in 1874. It was of Queenpost type of construction, was 60' long, 15' wide, and had a roadbed of 12'. In the early 1900's Jim Cummings farmed on either side of the bridge. One of his major products was turkeys, hence the name "Turkey Jim's Bridge". In 1958, the town Road Agent found a decaying bottom chord of the bridge, and changed the safe operating capacity from 6 to 2 tons, but still kept it listed as a town road. To restore the bridge, the town would have had to pay 40% of the cost (\$3,400), and the state 60% (\$5,100). After several conferences, bridge builder Milton Graton agreed to do the repairs for \$3,700. The new bridge had a clear span of 52' 3", and a 15 ton load limit. Its' width was 14' 9", with a roadway of 12', and a vertical clearance of 9' 11". In 1964, Turkey Jim's Bridge was carried downstream by a flood, but it was hauled back and re-installed.

As with the Blair Bridge, super storm Irene also damaged Turkey Jim's Bridge so severely it had to be destroyed and a new bridge erected in its place. The entire cost of replacing the bridge was privately funded. The work was done by Stan Graton, grandson of Milton Graton, over the course of two years. Today, it is closed to vehicular traffic. Turkey Jim's Bridge is World Guide Number 29-05-07. It is recorded as New Hampshire bridge number 42. This bridge is on the private property of Branch Brook Campground. It may be accessed by checking in at the office.

# Campton's 3 Covered Bridge Bike Tour



At one time Campton had more than seven covered bridges. Over the years these old covered bridges were replaced by metal bridges. Today Campton has three remaining covered bridges — Turkey Jim's, Bump, and Blair. Campton makes every effort to maintain these historic landmarks.

The purpose of this guide is to allow the cyclist to enjoy these treasures and provide some historic background on each bridge. The map on the back should provide enough route information to find your way there. Enjoy and safe riding!

### Bike Safety

**Wear a Properly Fitted Bicycle Helmet.**

**Watch for and Avoid Road Hazards**

**Go With the Traffic Flow.**

**Obey All Traffic Laws.**

