

Campton Historical Society



This informational brochure was produced by the Campton Historical Society, founded in 1991 to preserve the community's heritage, and to recognize and protect significant historic structures and sites.

The Society's headquarters is the 1855 Town House, located one mile north of Blair Road and Route 175.

For further information, write to us at PO. Box 160, Campton, NH 03223, or log on to our web site page www.CamptonHistorical.org



Town of Campton, New Hampshire HISTORIC SITE SERIES

Site #7

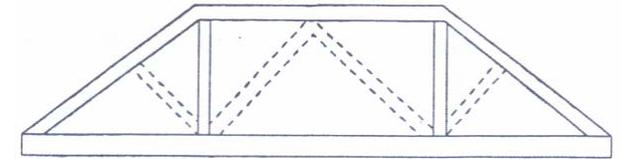


Bump Bridge is located off Perch Pond Road in Campton. From the traffic light at the intersection of Routes 49 and 175, go over the bridge, and travel south on route 175 for 2.9 miles. Bear left at the Chalet Shop onto Perch Pond Road. After .4 mile, this turns sharply to the right. From this turn, it is .8 mile to the bridge.

This brochure is underwritten by:

BUMP BRIDGE

Campton, New Hampshire



QUEENPOST

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 do Bump, and received his \$2,500 from the Town. Several years later (1977) he restored Blair Bridge for \$59,739.

The 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. This may be the first and only time in history when this happened.

Bump Covered Bridge is World Guide # 29-05-08, and New Hampshire #43.

