



## 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 P.O. Box 160, Campton, NH 03223, or visit our web site at [www.CamptonHistorical.org](http://www.CamptonHistorical.org)

# Town of Campton, New Hampshire HISTORIC SITE SERIES

Site #8

## 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 I93 and U.S. 3.

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## Turkey Jim's Bridge

It is said that in the early 1800's, a freshet created a 75 acre island in the West Branch Brook. 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'.

Around the turn of the century, farmer Jim Cummings purchased the entire island for his farm. One of his major products was turkeys, hence the name "Turkey Jim's Bridge". Later, the property was owned by a Mr. Stephan, who operated a lodging know as "Stephan Motel".

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. The motel owner demanded repairs for business and fire protection reasons. 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. He had found some Georgia Pine from an abandoned railroad, and was able to salvage the siding, roof, and some other pieces of the bridge. 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. 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.

In 2008, it will be eligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

This bridge is on the private property of Branch Brook Campground. It may be accessed by checking in at the office.

