

Covered Bridge Locations:



Bennington County Covered Bridges Guide brought to you by:

- ⑥ The Vermont Covered Bridge Museum 802-442-7158
- ⑦ The Bennington Museum 802-442-1571
"Step Into Vermont's Story"
www.benningtonmuseum.org
- ⑧ Park-McCullough Historic Estate 802-442-5441
Discover this fabulous time-capsule still in its original 800-acre setting, constructed with a fortune from California's gold rush. Guided tours include our 35-room Victorian Governor's mansion, 1865 Carriage Barn & collections of fine antiques, furnishings and carriages. www.parkmccullough.org
- ? Bennington Area Chamber of Commerce 800-229-0252

We invite you to learn more about covered bridges!



⑥ The Vermont Covered Bridge Museum At the Bennington Center for the Arts

- Learn how and why covered bridges were made
- Historic photos and dioramas of Vermont bridges
- Eric Sloane paintings and studies of covered bridges
- Interactive computers - "build and test a bridge" game for the 19th and 20th century
- A working covered bridge railroad layout
- See the PBS film - "America's Covered Bridges"
- A small theatre shows the film documentary, Covered Bridges of Vermont, from the archives of the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges.
- Museum shop full of bridge memorabilia.
- Four fine art galleries of the natural world
 - Native American collection
 - Scholz master bird carvings
 - Eric Sloane collection
 - Wildlife art collection

Route 9 west at 44 Gypsy Lane, Bennington Vermont
Open Tuesday-Sunday 10:00am - 5:00pm; May-Dec. 23

Open Weekends January-April
Admission fee. Tour groups welcomed.

802-442-7158

www.vermontcoveredbridgemuseum.org
www.museumofthecoveredbridges.org

Covered Bridges Of Bennington County



Vermont

Discover 5 covered bridges in Bennington County. This driving tour will take you back to a time when covered bridges were seen as a necessity rather than a quaint structure. Crossing a covered bridge is like entering a portal of time, transporting you back to the days of horse and buggy. Vermont's covered bridges span time and progress, linking more than just the opposite banks of a river or stream.

Enjoy the Covered Bridges of Bennington County.

Enjoy Five Covered Bridges in Bennington County

① Silk Road Bridge

This bridge spans the Wallomsac River and was built about 1840 probably by Benjamin Sears. The original name for this bridge was the Locust Grove Bridge.

Located just across from the entrance to Bennington College on Route 67A. Dimensions: 88 feet long, 14.25 feet wide, 10 feet high at truss, 11.9 feet high at center.



② Paper Mill Village Bridge

The Paper Mill Village Bridge spans the Walloomsac River. It was originally named for a 1790 paper mill that was one of the state's first. This bridge was built by the son of Benjamin Sears, who built the Silk Road Bridge.

The Paper Mill Village Bridge area provides enough room for tour buses to park and unload passengers offering photo opportunities to tour participants. Catch a glimpse of the waterfall below.

Route 67A .5 mile west of the Silk Road Bridge (watch for sign). Dimensions: 125.5 feet long, 14.25 feet wide, 8.67 feet high at truss, 11.17 feet high at center.



③ Henry Bridge



This bridge received its name from Elnathan Henry who bought the land from James Breckenridge and constructed the Henry House in 1769.

The Henry House operates today as a Bed and Breakfast Inn and is located directly across from the bridge.

The Henry Bridge spans the Wallomsac River. The original bridge was constructed in 1840. In 1989 a complete restructuring was done by Blow and Cote, Inc.

Located just off Route 67A- turn left on Murphy Road (watch for signs). Dimensions: 117 feet long, 11.8 feet wide, 8.7 feet high

④ Chiselsville Bridge

The name Chiselsville Bridge comes from a former chisel factory nearby, but the bridge was previously named *High Bridge* and the *Roaring Branch Bridge*.

The Chiselsville Bridge spans the Roaring Branch Brook and was built by Daniel Oatman in 1870. At that time, the cost to build this bridge was \$2,307.31 including the builder's fee.

The Chiselsville Bridge survived the flood of 1927, which destroyed hundreds of Vermont covered bridges. It appears that the strategic placement of this bridge allowed the flooded Roaring Branch Brook to pass harmlessly underneath.

Just off Route 7A in Arlington. Turn right onto East Arlington Road 1.9 miles to bridge. Dimensions 117 feet long, 11.8 feet wide, 8.7 feet high at truss, 10.9 feet high at center.



⑤ West Arlington Bridge

This bridge spans the Battenkill River which is well known by canoeists, kayakers and fly fisherman. The Battenkill is also famous for some great swimming holes. In addition, inner tube rides along the Battenkill are popular during the summer months.

The West Arlington Bridge is one of Vermont's best loved and most photographed covered bridges. The picturesque setting includes views of a local church steeple and the former home of artist Norman Rockwell. Rockwell's home is now known as the Inn on Covered Bridge Green and operates as a Bed & Breakfast Inn.

Take a left off Route 7A in Arlington onto Route 515 west 4.4 miles on left side.



Covered Bridge Facts



You may pass through All Five Bennington County Covered Bridges in a standard size automobile - one lane only.

Bridges were covered to keep the wood dry and thereby avoid rot. This became the trend in 1805 when a bridge designed by Timothy Palmer, an architect proved most durable.

Most covered bridges are painted red because iron ochre was an inexpensive pigment.

Here is an early recipe for bridge paint: 2 qts skim milk, buttermilk or whey; 8 oz newly slaked lime, 6oz oil from ground flaxseed, 2oz turpentine; 1.5lbs pulverized ochre.

The most common type of covered bridge is Town Lattice. All Bennington County Bridges are of this type.