

## Montgomery's Covered Bridges 1863-1890

Montgomery is known as Vermont's Covered Bridge Capital. Our unique geography required many bridges, and as recently as the 1940s there were 12 covered bridges within the Town's limits.

Most of the covered bridges were built in the boom times after the Civil War allowing farmers and loggers access to land otherwise out of reach. As such, they were signs of the post war recovery, hope, and prosperity. They also played other roles in the life of the area's citizens, including playgrounds, diving boards, advertising centers, shelters, and locations to discretely steal a kiss.



The "Highway Bridge" formerly over the Trout River at the intersection of Routes 118 & 242. Today's Sylvester's Market would be on the far side.

Today there are six covered bridges within the Town's limits and one which straddles the town line with Enosburg, all built by Montgomery's Jewett Brothers, the most of any town in the country. One spans the West Hill Brook, one spans the Black Falls Brook, and the rest span the Trout River.



Sheldon and Savanard Jewett (back row right) built all of the remaining covered bridges in Montgomery. They operated a sawmill on West Hill which enabled them to mill the wood to their specific requirements. Hemlock was the wood of choice because of its strength and durability. The structural design of the bridges, based on Ithial Town's lattice truss, accommodated the weight of snow, wagons loaded with butter tubs, and logging vehicles. They were enclosed, or covered, to protect the massive beams from the weather.

The brothers started by positioning the main bearing beams across the stream onto a pier foundation on each end and supported with temporary posts into the river beds. Next the trusses were moved into position and the top beams tied. Finally the roof was secured.

Modern requirements for larger loads, better safety, and cheaper maintenance all contribute to the bridges' declining numbers. Still these beautiful structures serve us well and link us to our heritage. For many, they remind us of a time when life seemed slower and less complicated.



Restored Hutchins Bridge over the South Branch of the Trout River, Montgomery, VT. October 2009

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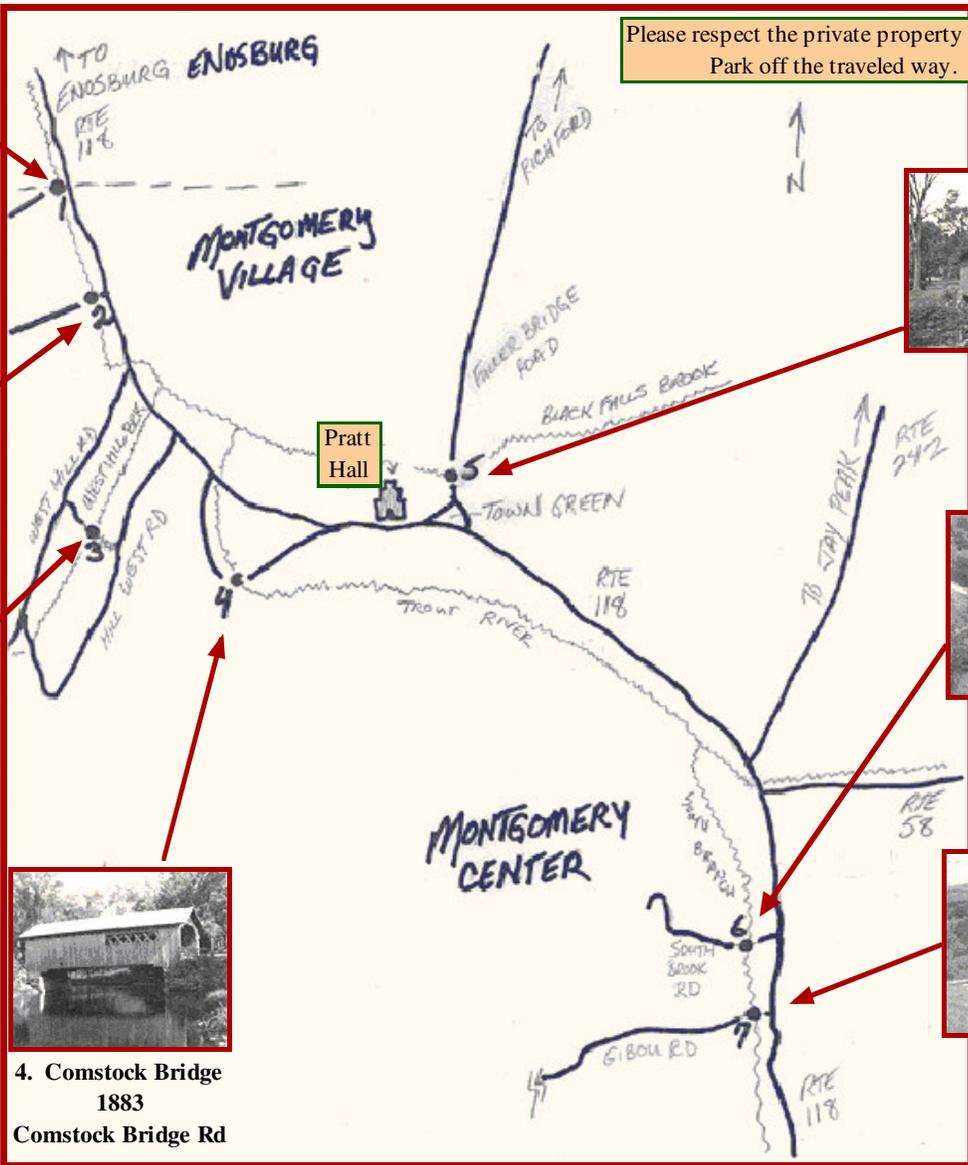
**1. Hopkins Bridge**  
1875  
Rte 118 & Hopkins Rd



**2. Longley Bridge**  
1863  
Rte 118 & Longley Brdg Rd



**3. Creamery Bridge**  
1883  
Go 2.6 miles on West Hill Rd then turn left on Creamery Bridge Rd



Please respect the private property around our covered bridges.  
Park off the traveled way. Be alert and safe.



**5. Fuller Bridge**  
1890  
Fuller Bridge Rd



**6. Hutchins Bridge**  
1883  
Hutchins Bridge Rd



**7. Hectorville Bridge**  
1883  
Gibou Rd  
Removed / In Storage