

HORTON MILL BRIDGE  
National Covered Bridges Recording Project  
Spanning Little Warrior River  
Oneonta  
Blount County  
Alabama

HAER No. AL-203

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20240

ADDENDUM TO:  
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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# HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

## ADDENDUM TO HORTON MILL BRIDGE

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**Location:** Spanning Calvert Prong Little Warrior River at Horton's Mill Road, just off State Highway 75, Oneonta vicinity, Blount County, Alabama

Horton Mill Bridge is located at latitude: 34.007644, longitude: -86.448625. The coordinate represents the structure's north portal. This coordinate was obtained using Google Earth imagery dated June 26, 2012. There is no restriction on the release of this location to the public.

**Structural Type:** Town lattice truss covered bridge

**Date of Construction:** 1935

**Designer/Builder:** Zelma C. Tidwell, Locust Fork, Alabama

**Present Owner:** Alabama Historical Commission

**Previous Use:** Vehicular bridge

**Present Use:** Vehicular bridge

**Significance:** The Horton Mill Bridge is one of three surviving covered bridges in Blount County, Alabama, one of the last strongholds of covered bridge building in the United States. Spanning an impressive 70-foot-deep gorge, the structure is noteworthy as the nation's "highest" covered bridge.

**Historian:** Researched and written by Lola Bennett, March 2003

**Project Information:** The National Covered Bridges Recording Project is part of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), a long-range program to document historically significant engineering and industrial works in the United States. HAER is administered by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, a division of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Federal Highway Administration funded the project.

## **Chronology**

- 1818 Blount County established by the Territorial Legislature
- 1819 Alabama becomes 22nd state admitted to the Union
- 1820 Ithiel Town patents Town lattice truss
- c1830 Alabama's first covered bridge constructed over Black Warrior River at Tuscaloosa
- 1890 Blount County population 15,369
- 1894 Second bridge built near this site
- 1902 Zelma Tidwell born at Locust Fork, Alabama
- 1930 Easley Bridge constructed
- 1932 Nectar Bridge constructed
- 1933 Zelma Tidwell becomes foreman of Blount County bridge crew
- 1933 Tyre Green Bridge construction
- 1933 Swann Bridge constructed
- 1935 Horton Mill Bridge constructed (third bridge at its site)
- 1936 Blount County stops building covered bridges
- 1967 Blount County Commissioners vote to repair and preserve covered bridges
- 1971 Horton Mill Bridge listed in the National Register of Historic Places
- 1987 Zelma Tidwell dies at Locust Fork, Alabama
- 1990 Horton Mill Bridge rehabilitated
- 2003 Horton Mill Bridge recorded by the Historic American Engineering Record

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