

# 7 West Dummerston Covered Bridge:

## East West Road, West Dummerston, Vermont

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Third time might be the charm for some, but in West Dummerston, number four was the key.

Standing as Vermont's longest covered bridge, spanning 271 feet across the West River, the West Dummerston's Covered Bridge remains a useful part of everyday life when traveling between Route 5 and Route 30. But it isn't the original bridge to cross the West River. The first uncovered bridge was built about a quarter mile upstream from the present structure but washed away in the 1826 spring floods. The second version, also uncovered, was built on the same abutments and washed away in an 1839 flood. The third version, named The Milk Plant Covered Bridge, was built downstream from the first two versions, but suffered the same fate, washing away during "The Great Flood" of October 3, 1869.



The fourth and current structure was built in 1872 by Caleb Lamson, a 22-year old bridge builder, at a cost of \$7,777.08. While the structure has survived the years, it did not come without tragedy. During its construction, the bridge collapsed when scaffolding holding up the structure failed to hold

the weight, killing one worker and injuring another. Today, the West Dummerston Bridge is the last remaining example of Lamson's talents.



In November 1993, the bridge was closed for safety concerns. However, a 1998 major renovation project, costing \$621,000, included replacing lattice members, floor and roof beams, and bracing, reopening the bridge to all traffic use.

The West Dummerston Covered Bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 8, 1973.

### **Sources:**

<http://www.crjc.org/heritage/V03-5.htm>

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