

# 92 Happy Corner Covered Bridge

Hill-Danforth Road, Pittsburg, New Hampshire

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Happy Corner Covered Bridge...the name itself beckons, “*Come visit me*”. According to local lore, at the time of its construction, one of the nearby residents was an older gentleman who enjoyed music and dancing. He would entertain the locals with parties, creating a “happy time” singing and dancing to the music playing on his Victor Victrola phonograph. Eventually, the area was known as Happy Corner, and the bridge, built in the mid-1800s across Perry Stream, would evoke the memories as Happy Corner Covered Bridge.

When it was built, Happy Corner was a busy part of Pittsburg, with a saw mill, starch mill, post office, general store, barbershop, the Temperance Hall, and Danforth School. Located two hundred yards east of NH Route 3 and six miles north of Pittsburg, Happy Corner Covered Bridge crosses Perry Stream on Hill Road.

Built in the Paddleford truss style, the bridge is 60’6” long, with a clear span of 55’9”. It is 19’5” wide with a 15’6” wide roadway, clearing 12’4” high. The Paddleford truss style was an adaptation of the Long truss bridge, designed by Peter Paddleford of Littleton, NH. While similar to the Long truss, Paddleford maintained he did not copy the original design, but never applied for a patent for his new style, and it was subsequently used quite frequently in New Hampshire and Vermont. However, this style of bridge typically needed added supports in the years following construction, as seen with the additional arches that were added at the Happy Corner Covered Bridge.

Happy Corner Covered Bridge is one of the oldest covered bridges in New Hampshire and is now closed to motorized traffic. In the 1960’s, the bridge was repaired by the State of New Hampshire for \$12,000, jointly funded by the State and the Town of Pittsburg. The bridge is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sources:

Peter Paddleford. (2013, March 16). In *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 15:45, June 17, 2013, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter\\_Paddleford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Paddleford)

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