

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 thirteen covered bridges within the Town's limits. Today there are six covered bridges within the Town's limits and one which straddles the town line with Enosburg, the most of any town in the country.



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

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

The past is closer than you think...



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. Next the trusses were moved into position and the top beams tied. Finally the roof was secured.

Comstock Bridge under construction



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A Community Effort

Founded in 1974, the Society through the generosity and hard work of its members, bought and restored the former Episcopal Church. Built in 1835 its stained glass windows, original interior, and clock tower remain a community treasure. Renamed Pratt Hall, the church now serves as a venue for concerts, speakers, and other community events. It also houses a growing collection of artifacts from Montgomery's past.

The purpose of the Montgomery Historical Society is to:

- preserve Pratt Hall, artifacts, structures and memorabilia of historical interest to residents of Montgomery and friends of the area;
- provide a venue for local exhibits and for artisans to share their talents;
- sponsor programs that assist in preserving town history and cultural events; and
- award scholarships to students on an annual basis.

Membership is welcome as are donations of any kind. For more information please visit our web site or write the Board of Directors at the address above.

"Montgomery Vermont: The History of a Town" by Sara Taylor and W.R. Branthoover is available from the Society, The Town Clerk's Office, Lutz's Automotive and from our web site.



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



4. Comstock Bridge
1883
Comstock Bridge Rd



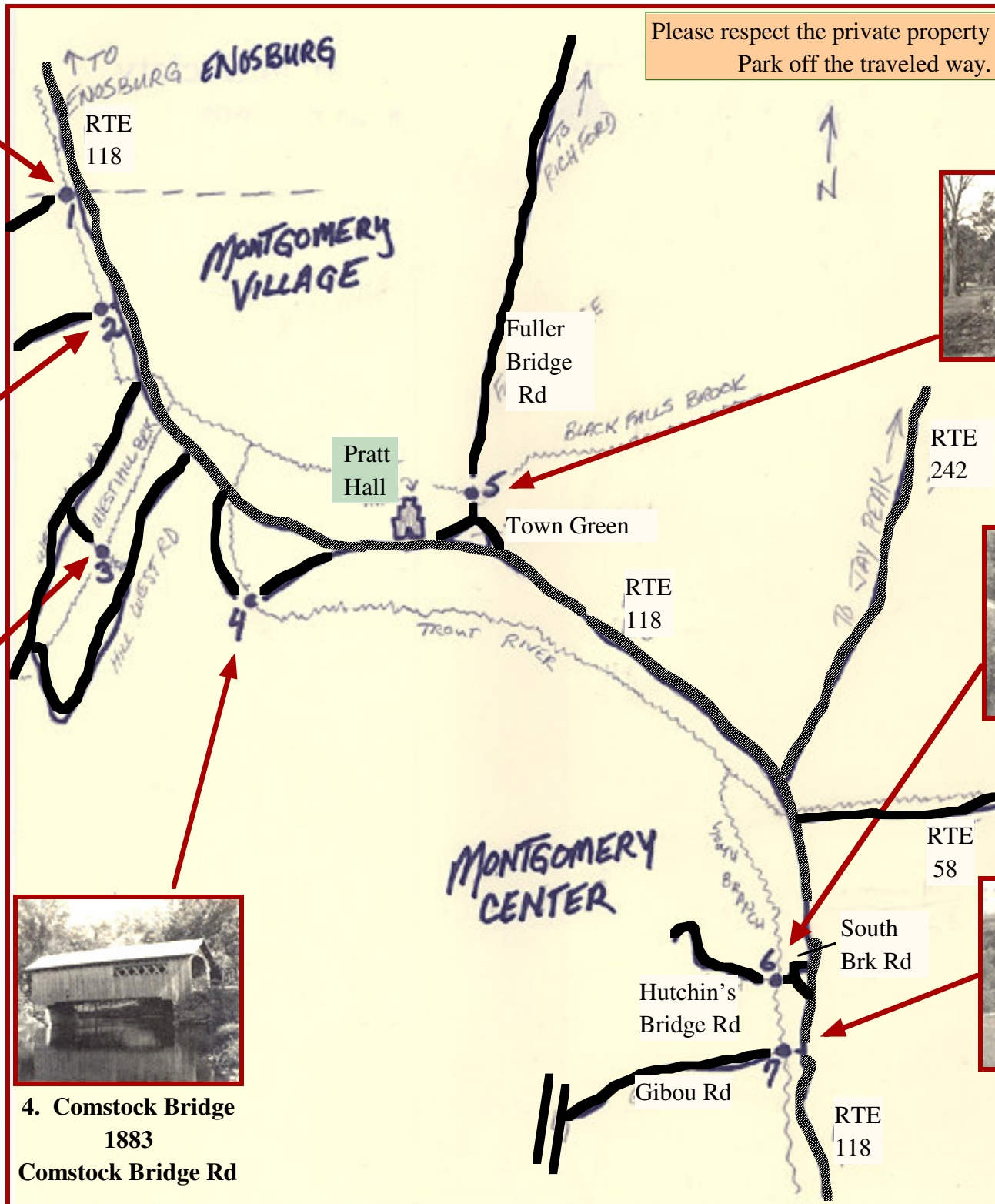
5. Fuller Bridge
1890
Fuller Bridge Rd



6. Hutchins Bridge
1883
Hutchins Bridge Rd



7. Hectorville Bridge
1883
Gibou Rd
Removed / In Storage



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