

Theme 7. America at Work

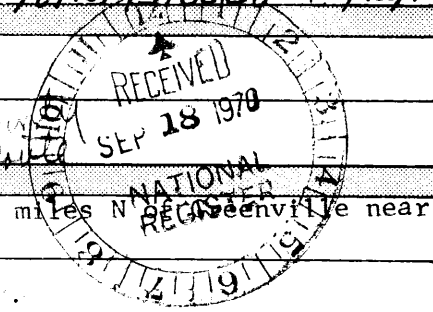
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Greenville	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.45.0038	DATE 10/22/70



1. NAME

COMMON:  
Poinsett Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 2 miles NW of S.C. 11 on 42, (25 miles N of Greenville near Tigerville) 2.50 miles E of U.S. 25 on 42.

CITY OR TOWN: Greenville

STATE: South Carolina CODE: 39 COUNTY: Greenville CODE: 045

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: jointly owned by: (Blue Ridge Council Greenville Boy Scouts) Camp Old Indian

Dr. Charles McGee

STREET AND NUMBER:

Clemson University

CITY OR TOWN: Clemson STATE: South Carolina CODE: 39

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Greenville County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Greenville STATE: South Carolina CODE: 39

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: South Carolina Preliminary Survey of Historic Places

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER: 1430 Senate Street PO Box 11,188 Capitol Station 29211

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 39

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

70.10.45.0038 10/22/70

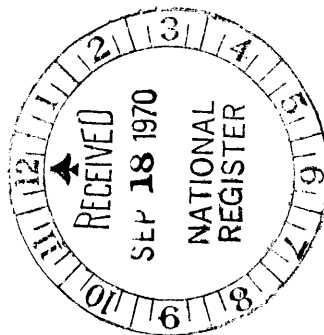
**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A massive stone bridge with pointed arches of rough wedge-shaped blocks under which runs Gap Creek, a mountain stream. Constructed without concrete in 1820, the date inscribed on its keystone, the bridge was part of the old State Road from Charleston to North Carolina.

The Carolina Foothills Garden Club of Greenville, South Carolina, is restoring the bridge and immediately surrounding area. About one-half mile of the original roadbed has been cleared--half of it for parking area adjacent to bridge. Underbrush obscuring bridge's western face has been removed; road bed on bridge has been filled to approximately its former grade to protect arches from damaging water seepage. Poinsett Spring nearby has been cleared. Noted for its abundance of wildflowers, the area around the bridge is planned to be a Wildlife Park with nature trails and additional plantings to prevent erosion.



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**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1820**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

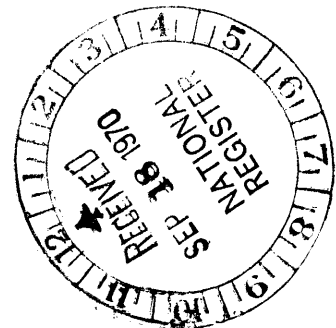
- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1820, the bridge is one of the oldest spans extant in South Carolina. Impressive construction of wedge-shaped rocks, erected without concrete, has pointed Gothic arches that are rare in the state today. Part of the State Road from Charleston through Columbia to North Carolina designed in 1817-1819 by Joel Poinsett, director of the South Carolina Board of Public Works, the bridge was named in his honor. Poinsett was also secretary of war, minister to Mexico, and first president of the National Institute for the Promotion of Science, forerunner of the Smithsonian Institute. Since he was elected to Congress in 1820, the road (1829) and possibly the bridge were completed under the supervision of Abram Blanding, acting commissioner of the board. According to local legend, the bridge was built with the help of Indians living in the area.

Tulane University Library has a brush drawing by Robert Mills of a bridge with Gothic arches and a keystone identical to those of Poinsett Bridge, which lends credence to the popular belief that Mills designed the bridge. In 1820 Mills became State Architect and Engineer for the South Carolina Board of Public Works.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Ebaugh, Laura Smith, Bridging The Gap. Greenville, 1966.  
 Julien and Milling, Beneath So Kind a Sky. Columbia, 1958.  
 WPA, South Carolina: a Guide to the Palmetto State. New York, 1941.  
 Marsh, Blanche, Robert Mills: Architect in South Carolina. Columbia, 1970.

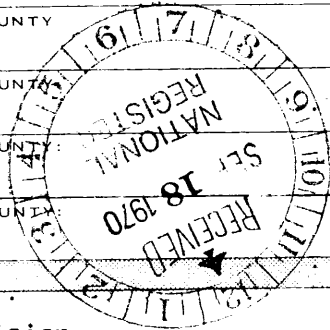
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE					
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	35	07	44.52	82	23	13.4
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **6 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11/17/77-810  
 12888100  
 10

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Mary Schuette, Historic Resources Division

ORGANIZATION: South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History

DATE: August 29, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 1430 Senate Street PO Box 11,188 Capitol Station 29211

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia

STATE: South Carolina

CODE: 29

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: Charles S. Ro

Title: Director, South Carolina Department Archives & History

Date: August 29, 1970

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Edward Allen Connolly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

OCT 22 1970

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

William J. Mumley  
 Keeper of The National Register

OCT 14 1970

Date: \_\_\_\_\_