

PH 004401

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Oxford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 10.2.18.0015	DATE 2/16/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Hemlock Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Over the Old Course Saco River, 3 mi. N.E. of Fryeburg Center, then So. 2 miles on side road.

CITY OR TOWN:
Fryeburg 04037 (2nd District - Hon. William D. Hathaway)

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Oxford CODE: 017

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <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"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Town of Fryeburg and Maine State Highway Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Fryeburg STATE: Augusta Maine CODE: 23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Oxford County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: South Paris STATE: Maine CODE: 23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

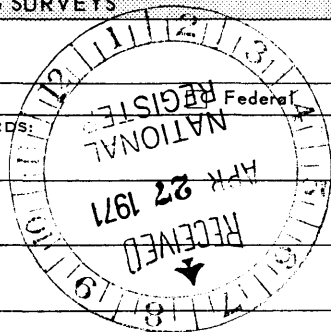
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Federal State County Local

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maine
COUNTY: Oxford
ENTRY NUMBER: 10.2.18.0015
DATE: 2/16/70
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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

LOCATION AND SETTING:

This wooden covered bridge spans the Old Course of the Saco River in the township of Fryeburg and in the East Fryeburg section thereof. Once oriented in the main town of Fryeburg, the traveler would proceed northeast on U. S. Route 302, (Maine Rt. #5) for five miles. At this point he would find a side road going in a northwesterly direction. He would follow this side road for three miles where he would find this bridge. The locale is rural. This area is a lowland here bisected by a slow moving shallow stream which still flows in an ancient river bed. Much of what was open field farming land has reverted to a forest cover in this area.

CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS:

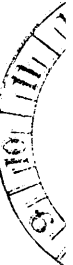
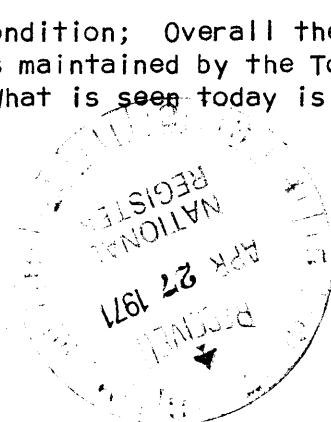
This wooden structure is 116' long, about 19' wide and 20' high from the floor to the peak of the gable roof. This overhead clearance is 14' and the clearance between the sides is 16'. This bridge is built on granite block abutments which rise from the sides of the River bed for about 15'.

The basic engineering concept employed in the span of this bridge is best described as being Paddleford Truss construction. The main feature is an arch of laminated wooden 2" x 12" planks in ten courses. These are bolted together with iron threaded rods. The ends of the arch rest on the abutments, similar to the Burr Truss or Kingspost Arch System, patented in 1817. The bottom and top chords are bolted and morticed into the Kingposts and for additional strength the bottom chords of each span are bolted with iron rods to the Paddleford Arch. Extra support for the Kingposts is gained by crossed timbers, morticed at the crossing, placed between, morticed again into and near the tops and bottoms of the Kingposts. Resting on the tops of kingposts and running down the length of the bridge are timbers which provide the plate for the roof. The rafters tie into the plate and a roof supporting truss work with ridge pole completes the gable of the roof. On top of the roof rafters, spaced shingle straps run the length of the roof and on these, cedar shingles provide the final cover for the roof. The sides of the bridge have been boarded in. Boards run up and down. Six window spaces on each side of the bridge help provide a natural lighting for the interior. The ends of the gable are boarded in down to the clearance. These are then covered with clapboards and finally trim pieces surround the ends of the gable. With the exception of the trim, the bridge is not painted. The flooring of planks runs down the length of the bridge.

POTENTIAL THREAT: Only natural causes.

The description is of the present condition; Overall the condition of the fabric is good. This structure is maintained by the Town of Fryeburg and the State Highway Commission. What is seen today is close to what was seen when the bridge was erected.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1857

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 type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input 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 **BACKGROUND**

Fryeburg is an old and interesting town in Oxford County, situated between Bridgton, in Cumberland County, and the New Hampshire line. The larger part of Fryeburg was granted by Massachusetts in 1762 to General Joseph Frye, who had been at the siege of Louisburg, in the same year a grant was made to some persons in Concord, New Hampshire, who came with their cattle and commenced clearings. Of these Nathaniel Smith with his family were the first settlers.

From its humble beginnings as a farming community to a township incorporated in 1777, time and needs made way for the small manufacturing of leather, harnesses, carriages, lumber, tinware, cheese, canned vegetables, etc. By 1880 the population was 1633. Today 1971, the population is 1874. The Fryeburg area of today is a prosperous summer resort. Only vestiges of its agricultural origins remain, fields once clear have resorted to a forestcover, but the village sections retain the charm of the other times.

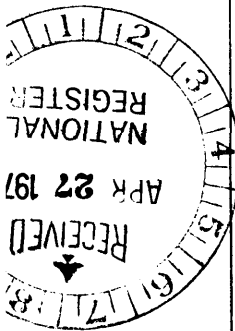
The Hemlock Bridge: Seven wooden covered bridges once enabled the traveler in Fryeburg, Maine to cross the Saco River. Today only one, the Old Hemlock Bridge remains. It has been repaired and preserved by the state, but it would never have been constructed in the first place, if Benjamin Wiley and fellow lumbermen and farmers of North Fryeburg had not changed the course of the Saco River 150 years ago.

The Saco River rises in the White Mountains and wanders 121 miles through New Hampshire and Maine. In its first forty miles the river drops rapidly southward, but soon after it crosses into Maine and reaches Fryeburg, it slows to a sluggish stream that flows north before turning south again. A century and a half ago the river described such a meandering loop through the Fryeburg intervale that early settlers spoke of it as "thirty-six miles of river and six miles of country."

Spring floods not only inundated fields but also washed away and scattered logs that lumbermen had piled on the river banks. Tired of being plagued by a river that didn't go where it should go, Wiley and his neighbors petitioned the Massachusetts Legislature in 1815 and secured a charter giving them permission to dig a canal that would alter the river's course.

In 1816 they made their first cut and diverted the river into a series of small ponds. From these it rejoined the south flow of the original loop. The canal was narrow when first dug, but freshets soon widened the channel. Before the canal was dug there were five covered bridges in Fryeburg. After the canal was dug two more bridges were built, and one of these was the Old Hemlock Bridge.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Newspaper article, Portland Press Herald, June 27, 1957, Maine's Covered Bridges.
2. Magazine Article, Down East, May 1955, Trending Into Maine-The Covered Bridges.
3. Brochure, Maine State Highway Commission, Covered Bridges in Maine.
4. Magazine Article, Down East, August 1966, The Seven Covered Bridges of Fryeburg.
5. Varney, George N., A Gazetteer of the State of Maine, Boston, 1886
6. Allen, Richard Sanders, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, Brattleboro, 1957.

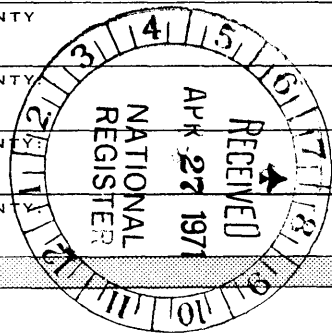
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44 ° 4 ' 46 "	70 ° 54 ' 12 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John W. Briggs, Historian

ORGANIZATION: State Park and Recreation Commission DATE: December 24, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER: State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta 04330 STATE: Maine CODE: 23

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Lawrence Stuart
Lawrence Stuart

Title Director

Date December 24, 1969

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

Ernest A. Connolly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
2/16/70

Date _____

ATTEST:
William M. [Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Date _____

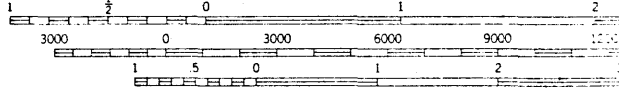
SEE INSTRUCTIONS
19/347580/4880000



44° 00' 71" 00'
 R. B. Marshall, Chief Geographer.
 Frank Sutton, Geographer in charge.
 Topography by Hersey Munroe.
 Control by Coast and Geodetic Survey,
 C. K. Alexander, and E. B. Hillegass.
 Surveyed in 1909.

Hemlock Bridge, East Fryeburg

(Kexar Falls)
 SCALE 1:62500



APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION 1909.
 44° 4' 46"
 70° 54' 12"

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

FRYEBURG, ME. - N. H.
 N 4400 - W 7045/15

1909

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	Maine
COUNTY	Oxford
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
40-218-0015	2/16/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Hemlock Bridge
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Over the Old Course Saco River 3 Mi. N.E. of Fryeburg Center, then So. 2 mi.
CITY OR TOWN: on side road (2nd District - Hon. William D. Hathaway)
East Fryeburg 04037

STATE: Maine	CODE 23	COUNTY: Oxford	CODE 017
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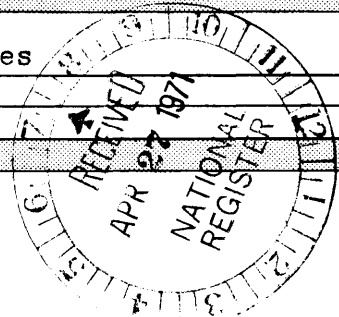
3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U.S.G.S. Fryeburg Quadrangle 15 minute series
SCALE: 1:62500
DATE: 1909

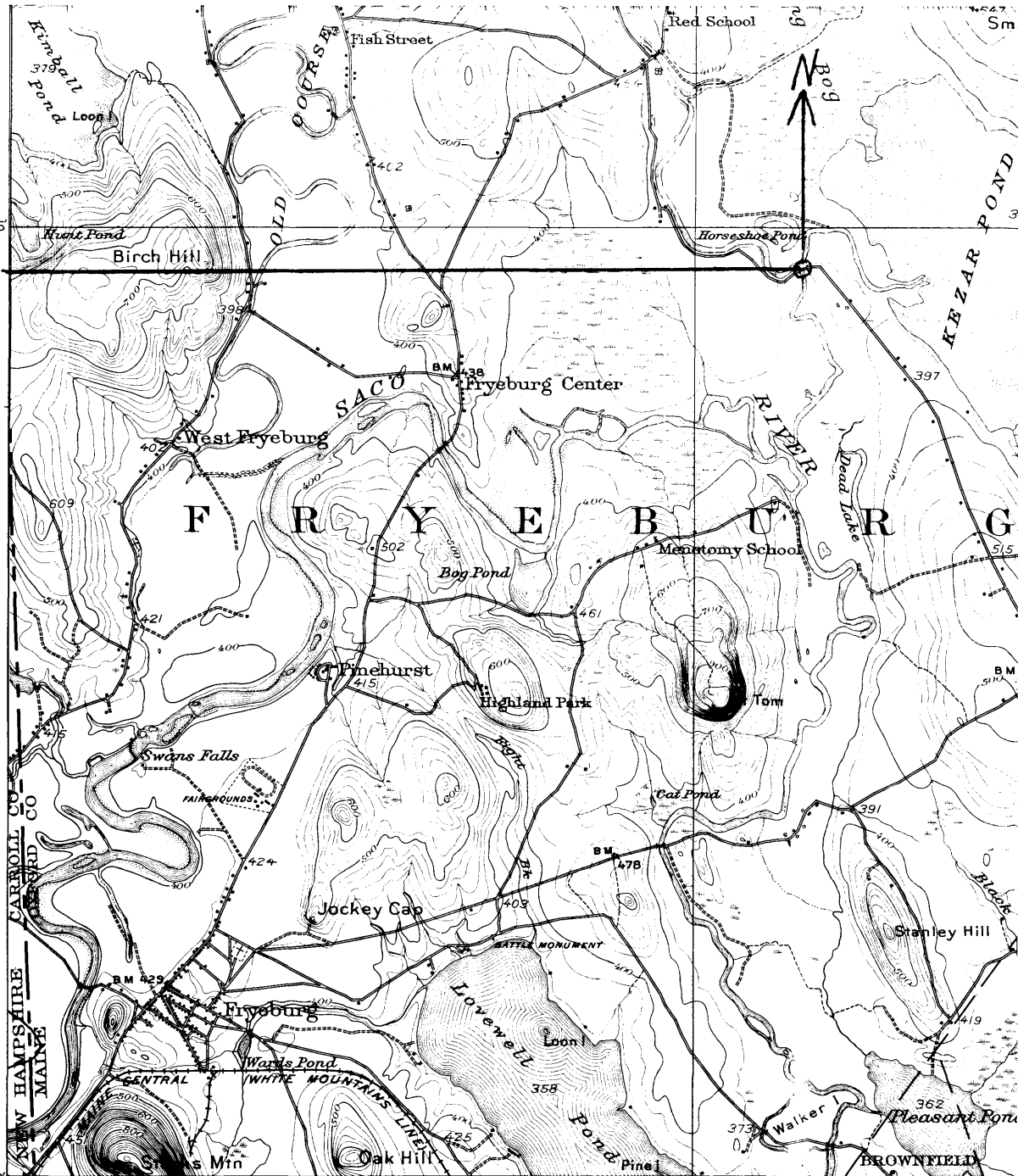
4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- Property boundaries where required.
- North arrow.
- Latitude and longitude reference.

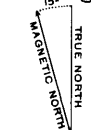


PH 00041181



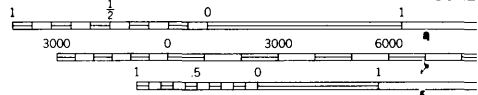
Hemlock Bridge, East Fryeburg

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44° 4' 46"
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CONTOUR IN
 DATUM IS 1

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 N 4400 - W 7045/15

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 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MA