

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: **Maine**
 COUNTY: **Oxford and York.**
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY NUMBER: **10.2.18.0020** DATE: **2/16/78**

1. NAME
 COMMON: **Porter - Parsonfield Bridge**
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: **Over Ossipee River, 3 1/2 miles north of North Parsonfield on Rt. #160, 1/2 mile south of Porter**
 CITY OR TOWN: **Porter (Oxford 04068 and Parsonfield (York))**
 STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Oxford 017, York** CODE: **031**

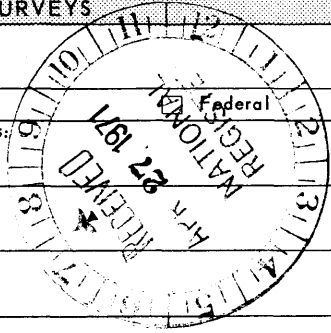
3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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
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 type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
 OWNER'S NAME: **Maine State Highway Commission**
 STREET AND NUMBER: **State Office Building**
 CITY OR TOWN: **Augusta** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **York County Courthouse and Oxford County Courthouse**
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: **York** **South Paris** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY:
 DATE OF SURVEY:
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Maine**
 COUNTY: **Oxford and York**
 ENTRY NUMBER: **10.2.18.0020** DATE: **2/16/78**
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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 Ossipee River as it passes between the towns of Porter in Oxford County and Parsonfield in York County. Once the traveler is oriented in the village of Porter, on Rt. #160, he may proceed South for 1/2 mile, arriving at the Ossipee River and the Porter-Parsonfield Bridge. Should he continue on for 3 1/2 miles he would arrive in North Parsonfield village. The Ossipee River originates in the State of New Hampshire, crosses into Maine and eventually merges with the Saco River and thence to the Atlantic. The Ossipee River, as it flows by Porter and Parsonfield, is slow moving, but after passing beyond, it abruptly becomes rapid at Kezar Falls. The setting is rural in the vicinity of this bridge. This southwestern section of Maine holds a landscape of fields, farms, and villages that date to the earliest of the Whitemen's penetrations.

CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS:

This wooden two span structure of 152' long, 22' wide and 26' high from the flooring to the peak of the gable roof. The overhead clearance at the portals is 15'6" and the side clearance is 18'. The bridge is built on granite block shore abutments with a granite block pier midway of the river. The basic engineering concept employed in the two spans of this bridge is best described as being Paddleford Truss construction, a modification of a Long Truss system. This system consists of a series of crossed beams and King posts. One beam being morticed first into the King post near the bottom end, while this beam's other end is morticed into the top of the next King post. The King posts are morticed into the top and bottom chords. In this manner post and cross beams run the length of the truss strengthening the bottom chord. In order to gain additional strength two sets of two laminated arches were built in. These arches, 24" wide, hold 21 layers of 2" by 24" planks bolted together. The laminated arch's ends rest on the abutments at one end and at the other end on the pier. The King posts are then fastened with tree nails to this arch. The bottom chords of the four trusses are tied with cross beams which provide the base for a plank floor over which asphalt tiles 1 1/2' thick have been laid in more modern times. The top chord provides a plate for roof rafters which end in the peak of the gable. Knee braces support the rafters. Rafters support purlins to which cedar shingles are nailed, completing the cover of the gable roof. The sides are boarded in up 2/3 of the height of the King posts. Boards run up and down. The ends of the gable roof, or portals, are boarded in down to the clearance and then covered with clapboards with trim pieces. The ends of the gable are painted white.. The balance of the bridge is not painted. The roof has recently been reshingled.

POTENTIAL THREAT: Forces of nature only.

The bridge has been restored. The bridge has been retired, as a new bridge has been placed to serve the traffic on Rt. 160, and the approaches to this bridge are blocked off. The Porter-Parsonfield Bridge has been preserved by the Maine State Highway Commission with the active support of the Parsonfield-Porter Historical Society.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



3. 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) 1876

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 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: Porter is the south-western town of Oxford County. Hiram bounds it on the East, Brownfield on the North, Freedom, New Hampshire on the west and Parsonfield on the south. The land surface is generally uneven with low hills for the most part, but in the northeast there are several high elevations. This township was purchased of Massachusetts in 1795 by Dr. Aaron Porter of Biddeford, Caleb Emery of Sanford and Thomas Cutts of Saco. The town was settled by Soldiers of the Revolution who cleared the forests of pine and oaks for agricultural purposes. The town became noted for its orchards and cattle raising. Saw and grist mills were evident in the earliest of times giving way later to the small manufacturing of woolens, spools, boots and shoes. The territory of Porter was known as the Pequaket until it was incorporated as the town of Porter on February 20, 1807. The population of Porter in 1880 was 1,095. Today, 1971, it is 975. Parsonfield is the Northwest town in York County and is bounded on the west by New Hampshire, on the south by Newfield, on the east by Cornish and on the north by Porter. The surface of the town is rough and hilly. Parsonfield is part of a tract of land sold in 1661 by the Indian chief Captain Sunday, to Francis Small who conveyed an individual half to major Shapleigh of Kittery. Shapleigh's decendends conveyed their half to Thomas Parsons in 1771. Settlements were started in 1772. The town was incorporated in 1785. Settlers cleared the forests of pine and oak for agricultural purposes. Grist and saw mills were evident in early times. The population grew to be 1,804 in 1880. Today, 1971, the population is but 869.

The Porter-Parsonfield Bridge

The first bridge on this site was begun in 1798 and finished in 1800. The second bridge was built in 1808. This bridge was rebuilt in 1858, but a squabble erupted between the towns over the distance each town should be responsible for. The argument lasted some time and they seemed to be getting nowhere when Ivory Fenderson, Selectman, suggested a method of settling the question. The Porter Selectmen walked into the bridge from their side of the stream. The Parsonfield town fathers walked in from their side. They met in approximately the middle and Ivory Fenderson took out his jack-knife, pitched it energetically into the plank at his feet and shouted, "the town of Parsonfield shall build so far and no farther!"

The third bridge at this site, the present bridge, was built in 1876 each town sharing in the costs and so it was that two kinds of roofing bore witness to the fact that Parsonfield and Porter shared repair costs fifty-fifty until 1967 when the Maine State Highway Commission obtained title to the bridge, retired it and restored it. A new cover of cedar shingles was applied thereby visually indicating the end of the old squabble.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Allen, Richard Sanders, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, Brattleboro, 1957.
2. Newspaper Article, Maine's Covered Bridges No. 2 of a series, Portland Press Herald, April 25, 1957.
3. Brochure, Maine State Highway Commission, Covered Bridges in Maine.
4. Magazine Article, Down East, May 1955, Trending into Maine. The Covered Bridges.
5. Teg, William, History of Porter, Kezar Falls, 1957.

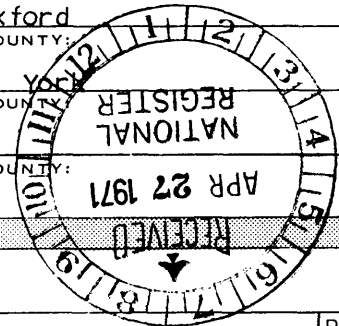
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		43° 47' 30"	70° 56' 18"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: LESS THAN 1.0

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Maine	23	Oxford	017
Maine	23		031
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
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, ME 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
 Title Director
 Date December 24, 1969

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

Robert A. Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 2/16/70

Date _____

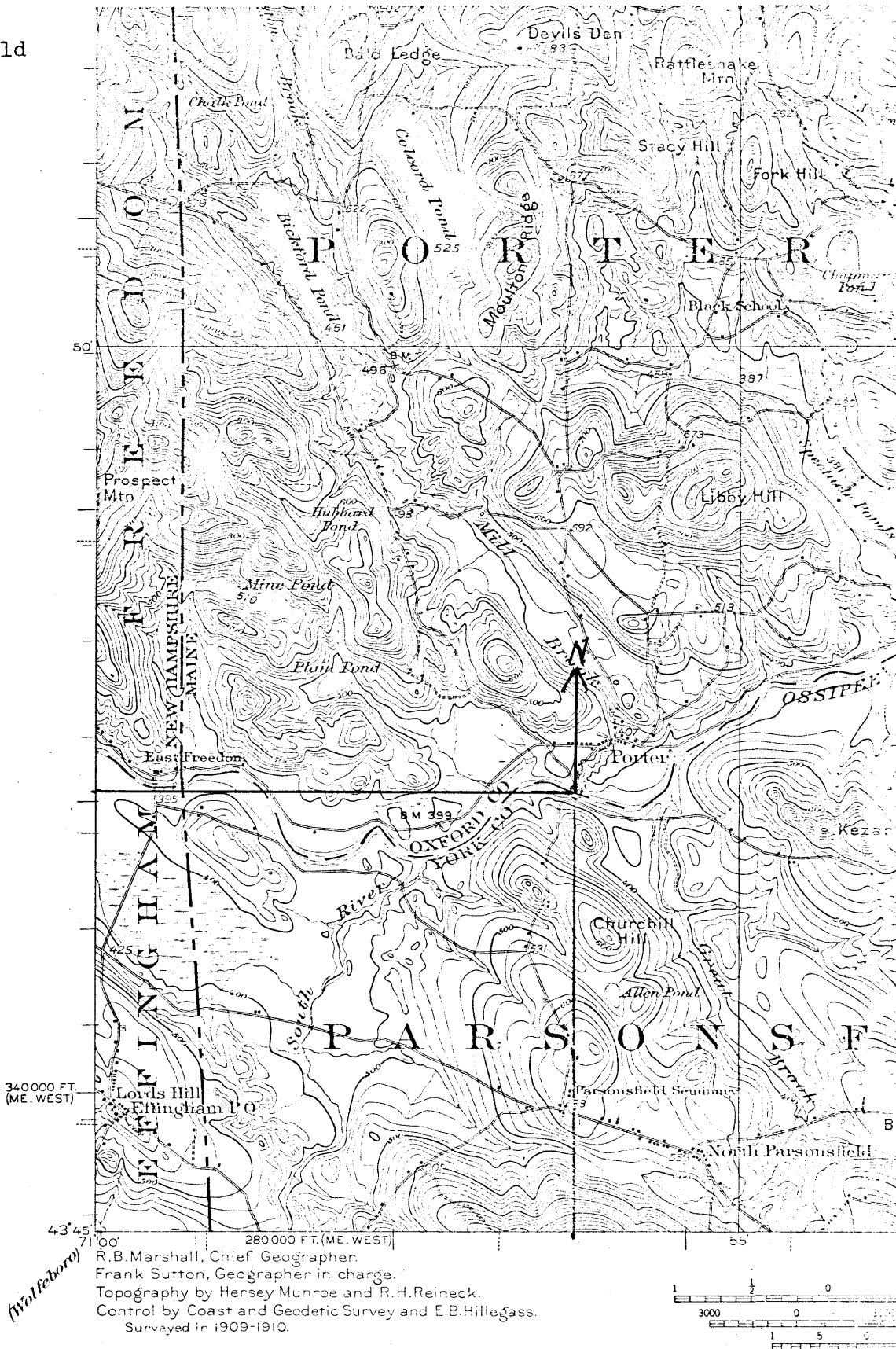
ATTEST: William P. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Porter-Parsonfield
Bridge

43° 47' 30"
70° 56' 18"



(Will Peabody)

R. B. Marshall, Chief Geographer.
 Frank Sutton, Geographer in charge.
 Topography by Hersey Munroe and R. H. Reineck.
 Control by Coast and Geodetic Survey and E. B. Hillegass.
 Surveyed in 1909-1910.

MAINE - NEW HAMPSHIRE
 KEZAR FALLS QUADRANGLE

FOR SALE
 A FOLDER DESCRIBES

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

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

STATE	
Maine	
COUNTY	
York Oxford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
10.2.18.0020	2/16/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Porter-Parsonfield Bridge
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Over Ossipee River, 3½ miles North of North Parsonfield on
Rte. #160 ½ mile south of Porter

CITY OR TOWN: (1st District Hon. Peter N. Kyros)

Porter 04068 (Oxford and Parsonfield (York))

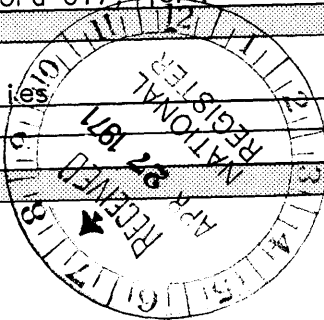
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maine	23	Oxford 017 York	031

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U.S.G.S. Kezar Falls Quadrangle 15 minute series
SCALE: 1:62500
DATE: 1910

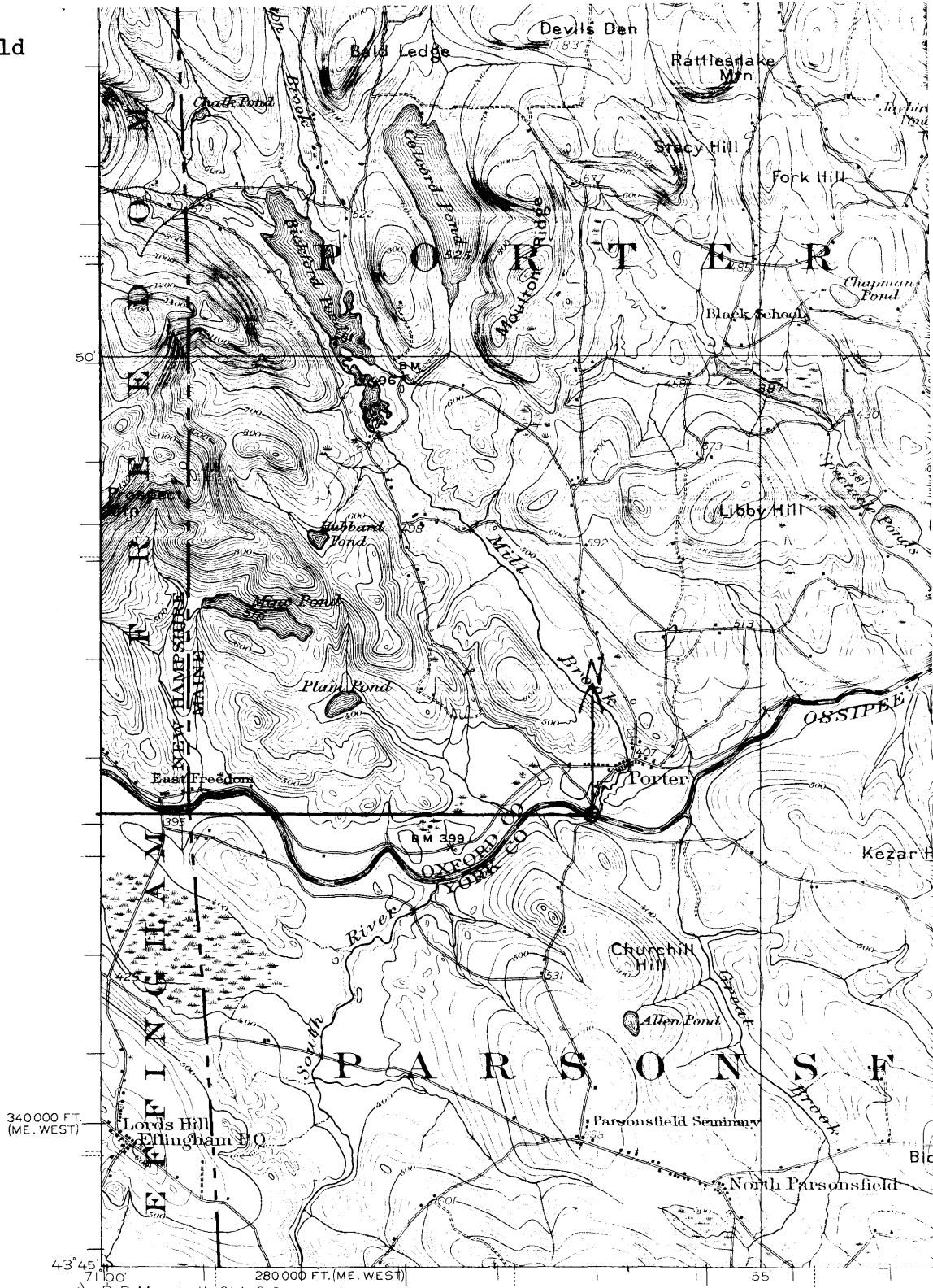
4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
 2. North arrow.
 3. Latitude and longitude reference.



Porter-Parsonfield
Bridge

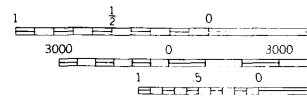
43° 47' 30"
70° 56' 18"



340 000 FT.
(ME. WEST)

71 00
280 000 FT. (ME. WEST)

R. B. Marshall, Chief Geographer.
Frank Sutton, Geographer in charge.
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Control by Coast and Geodetic Survey and E. B. Hille-gass.
Surveyed in 1909-1910.



(Wolfeboro)

MAINE - NEW HAMPSHIRE
KEZAR FALLS QUADRANGLE

FOR SALE IN
A FOLDER DESCRIBING