

PH0005258

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Oxford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70. 2.19. 0021	DATE 2/16/70

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Artists Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
 Sunday River Bridge

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: ~~Over Sunday River, 3 miles north of Bethel on U.S. Rte. #2, then Northwest on side road, West of Newry.~~

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newry 04261 (2nd District Hon. William D. Hathaway)

STATE Maine	CODE 23	COUNTY: Oxford	CODE 017
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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:  
State Highway Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN:  
Augusta, Maine 04330

STATE: Maine	CODE 23
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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
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

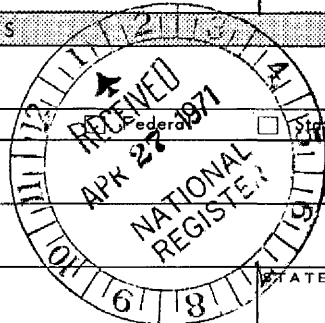
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Maine  
COUNTY: Oxford  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**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 Sunday River as it passes through the township of Newry. Newry lies in the western part of Oxford County just north of the Androscoggin River. Newry is bounded by Bethel on the South, Rumford on the East, Andover on the North, and Riley on the West. This is a mountainous area between which there are two major valleys--the Bear River Valley and the Sunday River Valley. The intervals along those small rivers in times past supported farms and excellent pastorage. The mountains and foothills with a forest cover did and do still produce timber and pulp logs. This is a scenic area in general and along the Sunday River it is particularly so. The Artist's Bridge spans the river in an idyllic setting. It is a favorite spot for artists. At the end of this road there is today a winter ski resort.

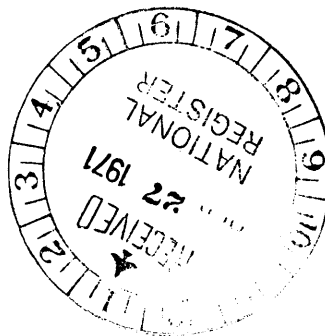
CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS:

This wooden structure is 100' long, 20' wide and 22' high from the floor to the peak of the roof. The overhead clearance is 14' and the clearance between the sides is 17'. This bridge is built on granite block abutments which rise 12' above granite ledges on both sides of the river. The basic engineering concept employed in this bridge is best described as Paddleford Truss construction. The main feature of the truss is a series of crossed braces between upright King posts. The cross braces are morticed at the crossing and again morticed into the King posts. The chords both top and bottom receive the King posts by morticed cuts. The chords of the two trusses are connected by cross timbers, which support the plank floor running down the length of the bridge. The top chord provides a plate for the roof rafters, on which spaced purlins run the length of the roof. Cedar shingles are nailed to the purlins. The sides of the bridge are boarded to half way up the braces. The ends of the gable are boarded in down to the clearance. In times past, the bridge has been painted but now most of the paint has wasted away. The Rustic appearance of the fabric together with the broad arch of the clearance and extra overhang of the roof create a most pleasing effect. It is the ideal little old covered bridge.

POTENTIAL THREAT: Only forces of nature

This bridge has been retired. It lies protected in a scenic turnoff. It is maintained. The fabric is good and what is seen today equates what was seen 99 years ago.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**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)

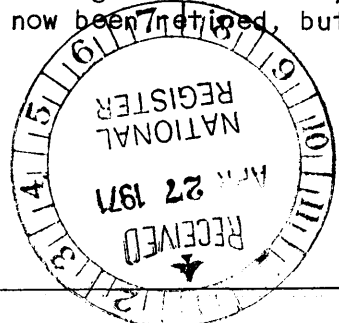
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<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: The first settlements were made here in 1781, by Benjamin Barker and his two brothers, from Methuen, Massachusetts, and Ithiel Smith of Cape Elizabeth, Maine. These families were plundered by the Canada Indians in 1782. The township was purchased from Mass. by John J. Holmes in 1794. It was incorporated June 15, 1805, receiving the name of Newry. The inducements to settle here were primarily for lumbering and farming. Power sites were numerous and saw mills and grist mills were built. However, no long lasting industries developed and this town has never grown to have an appreciable population. In 1870, the population was 416, in 1880 it was 337 and today, 1971, it is only 260.

SUNDAY RIVER OR ARTISTS BRIDGE:  
 In 1808 a committee was chosen to contract for the building of a bridge over Sunday River. This was where the present Artist's Bridge is now located. In 1811, \$160 was paid for the building of this bridge. In the fall of 1820 stone abutments were provided. In 1825, \$400 was appropriated for repairing this bridge and unused balance to be applied to other road repairs. In 1858 it was voted to repair Sunday River bridge before the next July. A bid of \$125 was accepted. In the big freshet, Oct. 4, 1869, it was washed out and travelers forded the river at a point on the Foster land below the bridge. The bridge was called "The Joel Foster Bridge" at that time." In 1871, there was a town meeting to decide about a new bridge. It was voted to build a bridge and Nahum Mason, of North-west Bethel, a bridge builder by trade, was to see to it. Levi Eames hewed the beams and the bridge was built. It fell in the fall. In 1872 another meeting was held and it was voted to build a bridge by day's work, paying three dollars a day and board, with Hiram York as boss. Levi Eames was hired to work and others near. Beams, etc., were cut and marked out and made. The two halves were put together separately on the grass and when erected it was sure to settle into place correctly, which it did. It was then roofed over, and has since been reroofed and kept in repair to the present day. This bridge withstood the freshet of 1927 because the fury of the current swept around the end of the bridge upon the land, and therefore saved the foundations. This bridge was in constant use until 1955, when a change in the Sunday River Road bypassed this crossing. The bridge has now been reroofed, but it is maintained as a scenic turnout.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Wight, Carrie, A History of Newry, Bethel, 1955.
2. Brochure, Maine State Highway Commission, Covered Bridges in Maine.
3. Magazine Article, Down East, May 1955, Trending into Maine - The Covered Bridges.
4. 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	0 0 0	0 0 0		44 29 31	70 50 36	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

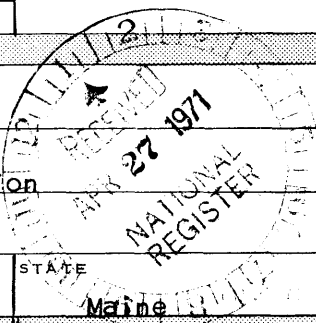
11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John W. Briggs, Historian

ORGANIZATION: State Park and Recreation Commission DATE: Dec. 24, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER: State Office Building

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



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 Lawrence Stuart  
 Title Director  
 Date December 24, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

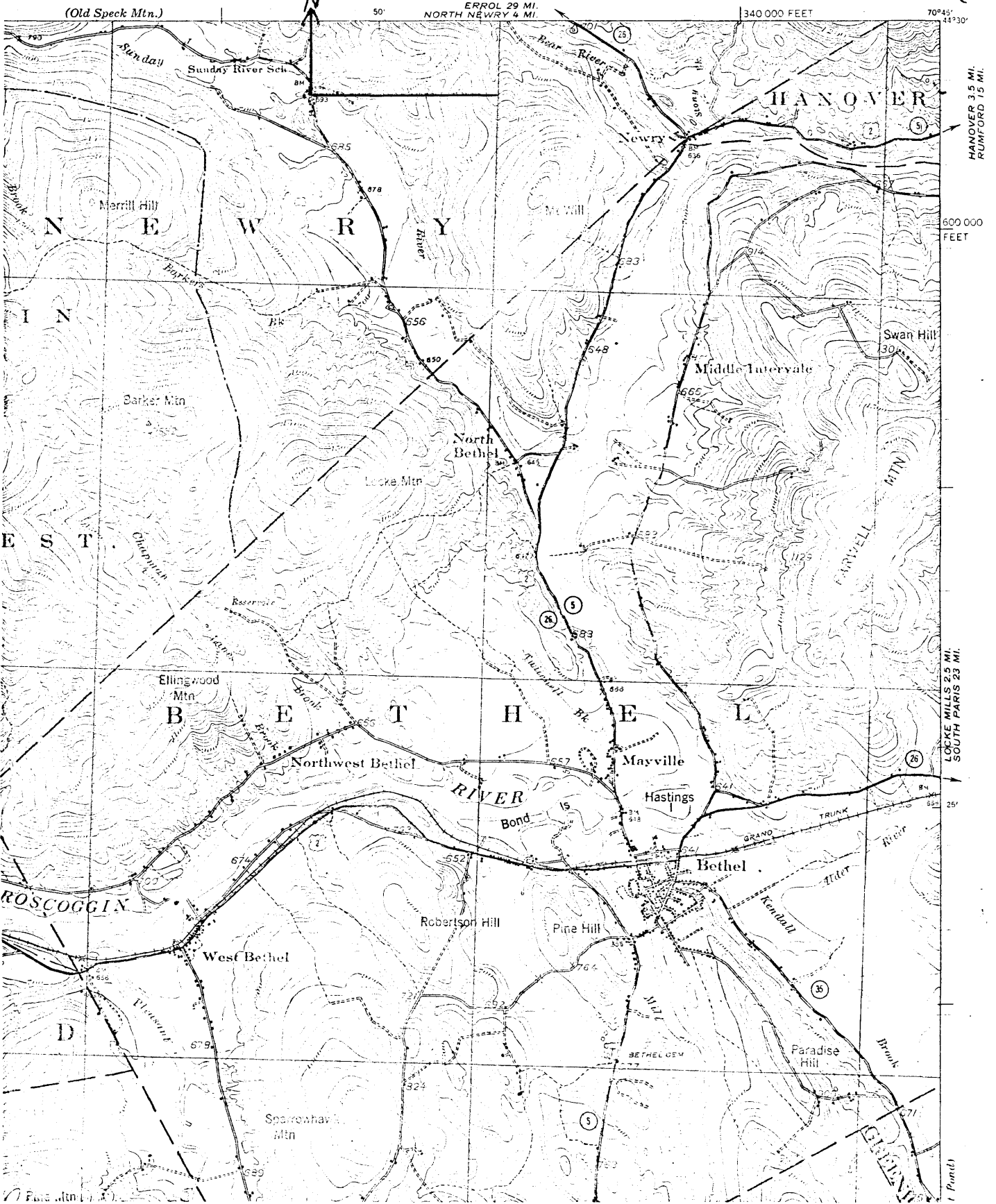
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Carmichael  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 NOV 22 1971

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 ATTEST:  
William Stewart  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 NOV 23 1971  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE OF MAINE  
REPRESENTED BY THE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



(Rumford)

HANOVER 3.5 MI.  
RUMFORD 15 MI.

600 000 FEET

LOCKE MILLS 2.5 MI.  
SOUTH PARIS 23 MI.

(Pond)

**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
70-218-0021	2/16/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: **Artists Bridge**  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: **Sunday River Bridge**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Over Sunday River, 3 miles North of Bethel on U.S. Rte. #2, then 4½ miles N.W. on side road**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Newry 04261 (2nd District Hon. William D. Hathaway)**

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maine	23	Oxford	017

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE:  
**U. S. G. S. Bethel Quadrangle**

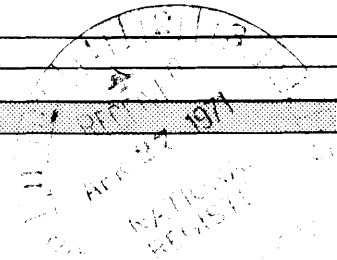
SCALE: **1:62500**

DATE: **1940**

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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



PH 0005258

Sunday River Bridge-Newry

44° 29' 31"  
70° 50' 36"

MAINE  
OXFORD COUNTY  
BETHEL QUADRANGLE

STATE OF MAINE  
REPRESENTED BY THE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

(Old Speck Mtn.)

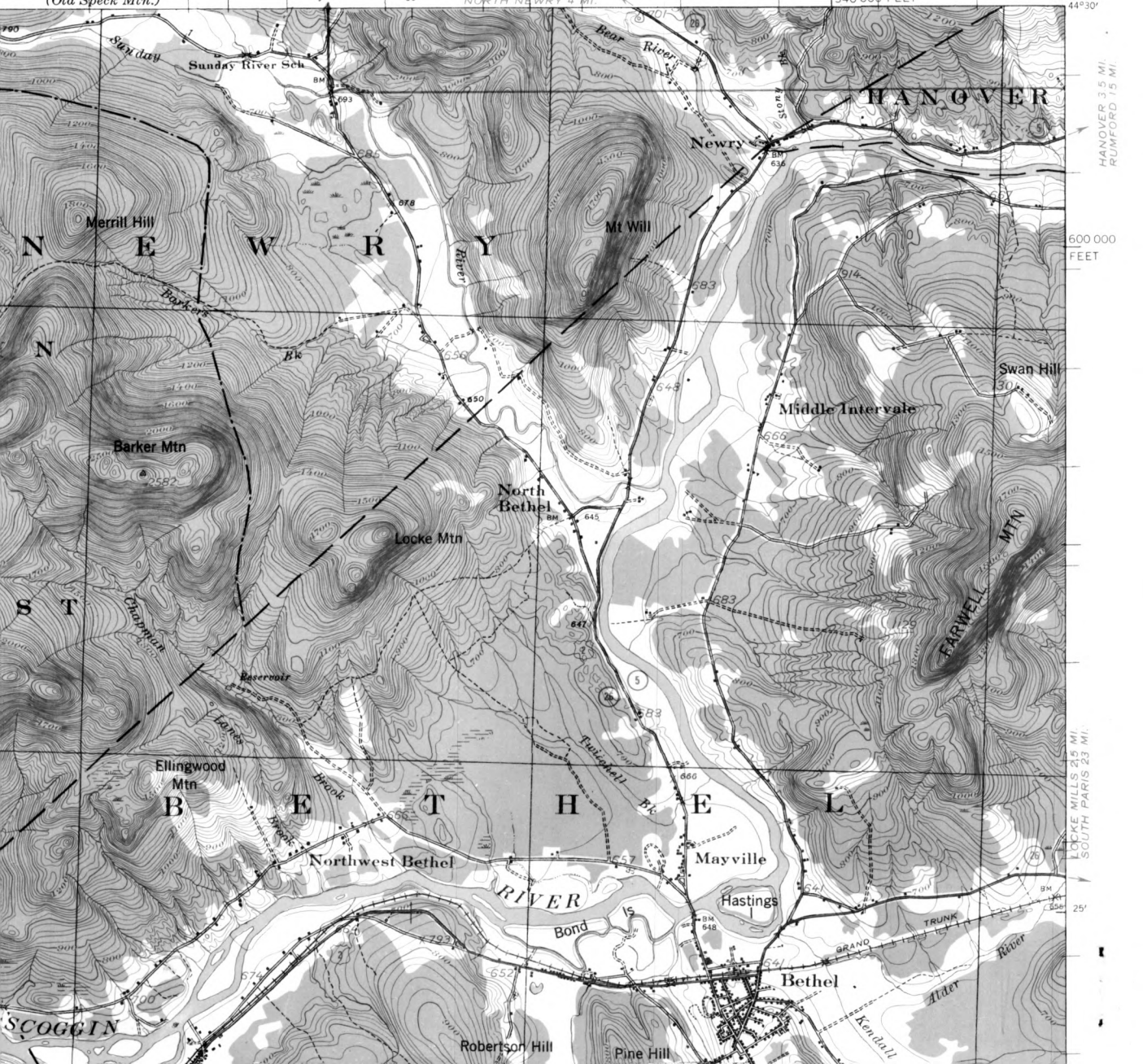
N

50' ERROL 29 MI.  
NORTH NEWRY 4 MI.

340 000 FEET

70°45'  
44°30'

(Rumford)



HANOVER 3.5 MI.  
RUMFORD 15 MI.

600 000 FEET

LOCKE MILLS 2.5 MI.  
SOUTH PARIS 23 MI.

25'