

1609

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See Instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Marble Bridge
other names/site number Proctor, Fletcher, D., Memorial Bridge

2. Location

street & number Main Street (Federal Aid System 3)
city, town Proctor
state Vermont code VT county Rutland code 021 zip code 05765

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-local (checked), public-State, public-Federal
Category of Property: building(s), district, site, structure (checked), object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing (1), Noncontributing (0) Total (1)

Name of related multiple property listing: Metal Truss, Masonry, and Concrete Bridges in Vermont
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 9/26/91

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Bob J. Swage
Date of Action: 11-14-91

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Reinforced concrete bridge

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls

roof

other Marble floor

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See continuation sheet for description.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

The Marble Bridge
Proctor, Rutland County, Vermont

The Marble Bridge, a monumental landmark linking the east and west villages of Proctor, is an excellent example of the large concrete and masonry bridges constructed in town centers. Built in 1915 of reinforced concrete faced with marble, this vehicular bridge carries Main Street across the Otter Creek. It is located east of the Vermont Railroad track and west of Vermont Route 3 in an area with residential, commercial and industrial buildings. The bridge is comprised of three spans equal in size, each measuring 42' in length. The two-lane bridge carries the roadway 36' above Otter Creek, and is 170' long and 38' wide. The bridge was widened in 1935-36 as a W.P.A. project. It retains its integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

While called the Marble Bridge, this structure is actually made of reinforced concrete with applied marble facing. The marble was quarried locally by the Vermont Marble Company. The bridge consists of three solid-barrel, solid-rib concrete arches that are segmental in shape. The arches run between large, battered concrete piers that project from the spandrel wall. The spandrels and piers are faced in "Grey Building" marble; slightly recessed panels ornament the spandrels. The concrete is exposed under the marble facing, along the edge of the arch, creating a change in material and color that frames and accents the arch while alluding to ring stones. Concrete is also used decoratively at the top of the spandrels in a stringcourse that is ornamented with large dentils above each concrete pier. Resting on the stringcourse above is a marble railing that has turned balusters and small plain piers under a large molded cap. The marble railing runs between large marble piers; each pier resembles a pedestal, typically found supporting a column, with a projecting panel on the dado. The large marble piers appear over the structural piers of the bridge. Concrete sidewalks flank the roadway inside the marble railings. A bronze plate on the south railing dedicates the bridge to Fletcher Dutton Proctor.

This bridge incorporates design features found in both the 20th-century simple concrete bridges and the masonry spans built as commemorative arches. Typically, commemorative arches were built exclusively of stone or concrete that was

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

**The Marble Bridge
Proctor, Rutland County, Vermont**

tooled and finished to look like stone. The designer, Harry Leslie Walker of New York City, used the concrete bridge technology of the day with a material (marble) that was representative of the individual for whom the bridge was dedicated.

Over the years the bridge has experienced some deterioration due to exposure to corrosive road salt, pollution, and extreme temperature changes. As a result, some spalling and cracking has occurred, and areas have been repointed, sometimes with inappropriate mortar. The Town of Proctor is currently working on plans for the appropriate repair and continued maintenance this historic bridge.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Engineering
Transportation

Period of Significance

1916
1935-1936

Significant Dates

1916
1935

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Walker, Henry Leslie

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet for statement of significance.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gale, David C. "The Marble Bridge at Proctor," The Vermonter, 20, (October 1915): 206-8.

Proctor, Vermont. Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey, Survey Number 1118-2, #9. Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. The Historic Architecture of Rutland County. Montpelier, Vt.: 1988.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A 18 658530 4835890
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Heather Rudge

organization Vermont Division for Historic Preservation date November 30, 1989

street & number 58 East State Street, c/o Pavilion Building telephone (802) 828-3226

city or town Montpelier state Vermont zip code 05602

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

**The Marble Bridge
Proctor, Rutland County, Vermont**

The Marble Bridge, designed by architect Harry Leslie Walker of New York City, was built in 1915 to span the Otter Creek in the village of Proctor and holds primary significance for its contribution to bridge engineering and construction as applied to concrete structures of the early 20th century. It is notable because it dates from the first decade of major concrete bridge construction in Vermont. This monumentally scaled concrete bridge is faced with marble, reflecting the importance of the marble industry in Proctor, Vermont. This bridge is significant in Vermont's transportation history for aiding the expansion of the road, bridge and railway network, both locally and at the state level. It was given to the town by Mrs. Emily J. Proctor as a memorial to her son, Fletcher D. Proctor, governor of Vermont from 1906 to 1908, and head of the family-owned Vermont Marble Company, who died unexpectedly in 1911. The bridge was widened in 1935-36 as a W.P.A. project, and the original detailing replicated on the expanded side. This bridge is being nominated to the National Register as part of the multiple property submission "Metal Truss, Masonry, and Concrete Bridges in Vermont". The property type is concrete bridge, and this bridge meets the registration requirements.

This bridge is significant as one of the most prominent marble structures in a town that owed its existence to its marble quarries. Technologically, the bridge is a simple but monumentally scaled version of the concrete arch bridges that were coming into great favor at the time the bridge was built. What sets this example apart is the generous use of applied marble decoration, which nonetheless allows the true structure of the bridge--concrete--to show through. Built to span the Otter Creek and connect the eastern and western sections of Proctor, it is a prominent landmark.

The bridge was dedicated to the memory of Fletcher D. Proctor, former governor of Vermont and scion of the family that controlled the Vermont Marble Company. The Vermont Marble Company was formed by Fletcher's father, Redfield Proctor, in 1880, when he merged the Sutherland Falls Marble Company and the marble-sawing firm of Dorr and Myers. Marble quarried in the town of Proctor became the material of choice for many monumental buildings throughout the United States. Fletcher Proctor assumed the responsibility

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

**The Marble Bridge
Proctor, Rutland County, Vermont**

of running the marble business, as well as acquiring its largest competitors, after his father, Redfield Proctor, was named Secretary of War by President Harrison in 1889. Redfield Proctor continued to serve in government, becoming a U.S. Senator from Vermont in 1891. Proctor village grew up around the Vermont Marble Company headquarters and operations. A number of public and private buildings, as well as sidewalks and curbs in Proctor village were built using the same marble as the bridge. By 1891 Vermont Marble Company was the largest marble company in the world. As governor of Vermont from 1906 to 1908, Fletcher Proctor was expected to follow in his father's footsteps to national office. He died suddenly in 1911 and his mother, Mrs. Emily J. Proctor, perpetuated his memory with the beautiful Marble Bridge. The designer of the bridge, Harry Leslie Walker, was a New York City architect.

This bridge commemorates one of Proctor's most prominent citizens and industries, and serves as a focal point for for the community. Bridges like this one linked are an essential part of the road system that has developed and grown throughout Vermont. The acceptance and use of concrete in the early-20th century increased technology, and eventually moved concrete spans to the forefront of bridge construction, ultimately dominating our modern highway system.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001609

Date Listed: 11/14/91

Marble Bridge
Property Name

Rutland
County

VT
State

Metal Truss, Masonry, and Concrete Bridges in Vermont MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

11-14-91
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Period of Significance

The first date of the documented period of significance for the property is its date of construction, 1915.

This information was confirmed with Elsa Gilbertson, VTSHPO, by telephone.

=====
DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without attachment)