

PROOF 1134

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Aroostook	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 10.2.18.0022	DATE 2/16/70

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Watson Settlement Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION *2 mi SE of Littleton over Meduxnekeag River*

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Over Meduxnekeag Stream, 5 miles north of Houlton on U. S. Rte. #1 then East 2 miles.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Littleton (Houlton P.O. 04730 (2nd District. Hon. Wm. D. Hathaway

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Aroostook CODE: 003

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
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:  
Town of Littleton and Maine State Highway Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Houlton                      STATE: Maine                      CODE: 23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

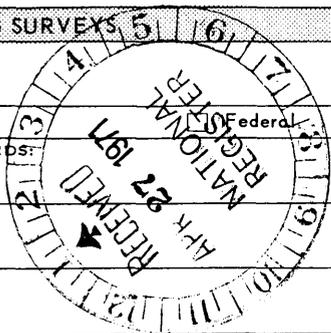
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:                      STATE:                      CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maine

COUNTY: Aroostook

ENTRY NUMBER: 10.2.18.0022

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 Meduxnekeag Stream some five miles north of Houlton, off U. S. Route #1, in Littleton, and on a side road two miles to the east. At this point a traveler is within one mile of the New Brunswick, Canada border and eighteen miles from Woodstock, N. B. The setting is rural. The Meduxnekeag Stream at this point normally is about 140' feet wide, slow moving, flowing north and soon thereafter to flow east to enter the Saint John River in New Brunswick. This east central border area of Aroostook County is the scene of intensive agricultural activity for the cultivation of the Maine potato. Areas not cultivated retain a forest cover which provides some lumbering activity. The land surface is undulating with low rises in ground levels bisected with brooks which converge on the Meduxnekeag Stream. The immediate land area about this Watson Settlement Bridge is cleared for potato cultivation.

CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS:

This wooden covered bridge is 150' long, 20' wide and 20' high from the flooring to the peak of its gable roof. It is supported by abutments at each end and a pier which rises from the middle of the stream. The abutments and pier are made of rubble which rises from the river's bed and shore for about 15'. These provide a platform for a 5' high rock filled timber crib-work, on the top of which the bridge's spans rest. These abutments and the pier have recently been repaired with a new cover face of poured concrete.

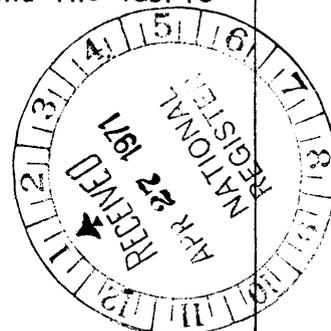
The basic engineering concept employed in the span can be described as a Howe Truss System. This system consists of a series of crossed beams without King posts, between the bottom and top chords. The crossed beams are morticed at the crossing point. The pier under the middle of the bridge has eliminated the need of sophisticated engineering for additional strength. The bottom chords of the two spans are tied together with narrow spaced cross beams over which the flooring of planks run down the length of the bridge. The top chords provide the plate for roof rafters ending in the peak of the gable. The roof is shingled. The sides of the bridge are boarded in. Boards run up and down. The ends of the gable are boarded in down to the clearance which is 13' 2" high. The side to side clearance is 18'. The bridge is not painted.

POTENTIAL THREAT:

Only forces of nature.

This bridge is in use. It is maintained by the Town of Littleton and the State Highway Commission. It has recently been repaired and the fabric is in good condition.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1911

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 next town north from Houlton, on the east central border of Aroostook, is Littleton, a farming and lumbering community along U. S. Route One. Served by the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad, it contains a long group of potato warehouses on the northern edge of the town. Several sawmills and businesses allied with the potato and lumbering industries make up its working activities. A State Fish Hatchery is located at the foot of Long Lake, which is a wide section of Big Brook. The Meduxnekeag River flows northerly through the eastern side of the township, with several lesser brooks feeding into it. Half a dozen local roads branching off Route One give access to farmlands and woodlots, two of them connecting with local roads in New Brunswick. Watson Settlement is located on one of these last two.

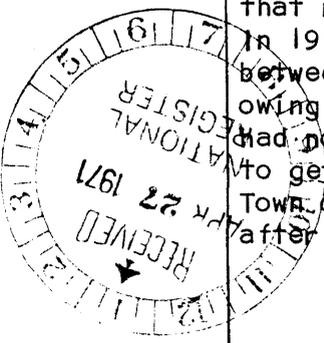
Littleton was settled in 1835 and formed from parts of the Williams College and Framingham Academy Grants. It was incorporated in 1856 as the 394th town. Population: 982.

Thomas Osborne was the first settler in 1835. Lewis DeLaitte came in 1840 followed in the same year by a Samuel Adams, Francis Watson and John Little. These three men carved out farms on the east side of the Meduxnekeag and the settlement that grew in Eastern Littleton came to be known as Watson's Settlement. The town itself was named Littleton in honor of Josiah Little of Portland, an earlier proprietor for the sale of the lands.

The Bridge:

The basic significance of this bridge lies in the fact that is one of only ten remaining covered bridges in Maine. It is young in age, having been built in 1911. Reference to F. B. Coe and N. George Cobly's Atlas of Aroostook County Maine, 1877, Philadelphia, reveals that there was no bridge at that site on the Meduxnekeag Stream in that year. From that fact, it is surmized that the stream's crossing had been by boat or ferry. It is likely that no bridge preceeded the present bridge, but this is not confirmed. In 1911 a bridge did get built, but as a result a court proceeding between the Aroostook County Commission and the Town of Littleton ensued owing to the fact that financial provisions for approaches to the bridge had not been made. There the new bridge stood, high and dry with no way to get on or off it. The results of the court proceedings were that the Town of Littleton had to pay for the approaches. They were shortly thereafter installed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Magazine Article, Down East, May 1955, Trending into Maine The Covered Bridges.
2. Newspaper article, Portland Press Herald, May 24, 1957, Maine's Covered Bridges.
3. Brochure, Maine State Highway Commission, Covered Bridges in Maine.
4. Newspaper Article, Houlton Pioneer Times, Aug. 9, 1966, Littleton Celebrating Centennial, Inc. March 18, 1856.
5. Wiggin, Hon, Edward, History of Aroostook, Presque Isle, 1922.
6. Allen, Richard Sanders, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, Brattleboro, 1957.

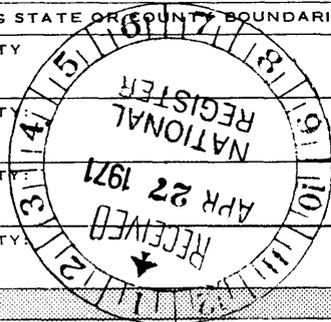
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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		46 0 12	67 0 48	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0		0 0 0	00 0 0	
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:  $\frac{1}{4}$  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  
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 Stewart  
Keeper of The National Register

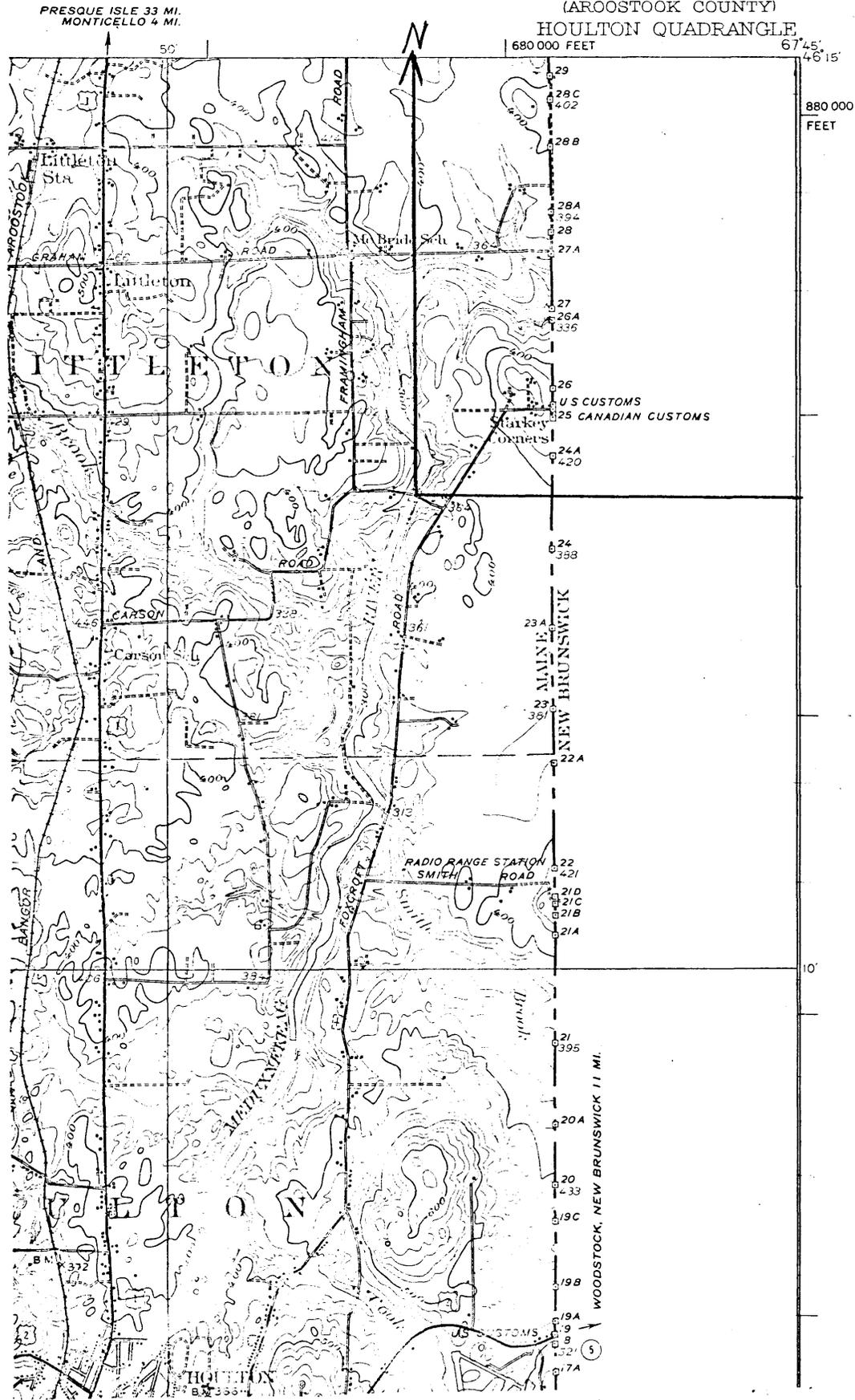
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS  
19/592500/5117850  
1-16-76 emj  
UMH re 1

Watson Settlement Bridge - Littleton

46° 12' 35"  
67° 48' 00"

MAINE  
(AROOSTOOK COUNTY)  
HOULTON QUADRANGLE



PRESQUE ISLE 33 MI.  
MONTICELLO 4 MI.

680 000 FEET

67° 45'  
46' 15"

880 000  
FEET

MAINE  
NEW BRUNSWICK

WOODSTOCK, NEW BRUNSWICK 11 MI.