

1041

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: N/A

other name/site number: Bridge No. 1603

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2. Location

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street & number: Devils Hopyard Road (Route 434)

city/town: East Haddam

not for publication: N/A  
vicinity: Devil's Hopyard  
State Park

state: CT county: Middlesex

code: 007 zip code: 06423

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: public-state

Category of Property: structure

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
<u>1</u>	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Connecticut State Park and Forest Depression-Era Federal Work Relief Programs Structures

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See cont. sheet.

Signature of certifying official: [Handwritten Signature] Director, Connecticut Historical Commission Date: 06/04/93

State or Federal agency and bureau

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 See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register
other (explain):

[Handwritten Signature] 7/29/93

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: TRANSPORTATION Sub: road-related
Current: TRANSPORTATION Sub: road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other: stone arch  
Other: Rustic Adirondack

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation N/A roof N/A  
walls N/A other STONE  
CONCRETE

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE  
SOCIAL HISTORY  
RECREATION

Period(s) of Significance: 1933-1942

Significant Dates: 1937

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency Connecticut Dept. of Transportation
- Federal agency 24 Wolcott Hill Road
- Local government Wethersfield, CT 06109
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreeage of Property: less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>18</u>	<u>721830</u>	<u>4595660</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 The nominated property includes the bridge and railings.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
 The bridge and railings exhibit the rustic fieldstone masonry that is the basis of the property's significance.

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11. Form Prepared By Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

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Name/Title: Bruce Clouette and Maura Cronin

Organization: Historic Resource Consultants Date: March 1, 1993

Street & Number: 55 Van Dyke Avenue Telephone: 203-547-0268

City or Town: Hartford State: CT Zip: 06106

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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**Bridge No. 1603  
Devil's Hopyard State Park  
East Haddam, Middlesex County, CT**

**Connecticut Park and Forest Depression-Era  
Federal Work Relief Programs Structures (Amendment)**

**DESCRIPTION**

Set deep in the woods on the main park road in Devil's Hopyard State Park, this stone-arch bridge, finished in 1937, spans 24 feet crossing an unnamed brook. It is built of local fieldstone set in concrete-based mortar, with most of the pieces rounded in shape like cobbles. The bridge's overall length is 38 feet and the roadway width is 22 feet. The arch is elliptical in form, with its springing point some 7 feet above the base of the spandrels and its crown about 13 feet above the brook; the sides of the opening are slanted inward, creating a slight "keyhole" shape. The spandrels extend about 3 feet above the roadway to form simple parapets capped by concrete coping; the parapets are continued along the curving roadway as railings for about 15 feet in each direction.

In a recent rehabilitation, the bridge's roadway and fill were excavated, a concrete slab poured over the arch, and a woven-glass waterproof membrane applied over the concrete before the roadway was restored. The stonework was also repointed. These changes had little or no effect on the bridge's appearance.

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**Bridge No. 1603  
Devil's Hopyard State Park  
East Haddam, Middlesex County, CT**

**Connecticut Park and Forest Depression-Era  
Federal Work Relief Programs Structures (Amendment)**

**SIGNIFICANCE**

This bridge has historical significance as a product of the New Deal work-relief programs of the 1930s and architectural significance as a typical example of rustic park architecture. Like many other park-related construction projects of the era (in Connecticut and elsewhere), this bridge and two others built at the same time on Devil's Hopyard Road all exhibit this self-consciously rustic style, characterized by rough-finished cobblestone masonry and the use of an archaic masonry-arch form.

The Connecticut Park and Forest Commission prepared plans for this road in 1930, but limited funds and the suspension of all state capital projects prevented construction work from going forward. The New Deal's Civilian Conservation Corps adopted this project in 1933, and within two years completed the grading of 1.5 miles of roadway and began work on one of the bridges before funding ran out. Then the federal Works Progress Administration picked up the bridge portion of the project, and by the end of 1936 had completed one bridge except for the retaining walls for the approaches, built another up to the spring line of the arch, and finished the abutments on the third. The W.P.A. finished all the bridges in 1937, but the state had yet to finish the road, which took several more years to complete.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Connecticut Park and Forest Commission, Biennial Report, 1934-1936, p. 27; 1936-1938, p. 16.

DeLeuw, Cather & Company, "Rehabilitation Study Report, Bridge No. 1603." Connecticut Department of Transportation, 1986.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Photographs                      Bridge No. 1603                      Photos-1  
   Devil's Hopyard State Park  
   East Haddam, Middlesex County, CT  
  
   Connecticut Park and Forest Depression-Era Federal  
   Work Relief Programs Structures (Amendment)

All photographs:

1. Bridge No. 1603
2. Montville, Middlesex County, CT
3. Photo Credit: HRC, Hartford, CT
4. February, 1992
5. Negative filed with Connecticut Historical Commission  
   Hartford, CT

Captions:

East side elevation of bridge, camera facing northwest  
Photograph 1 of 2

Roadway, camera facing southeast  
Photograph 2 of 2