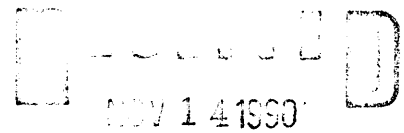


1900

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 16). 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 Grist Mill Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Little River Road

not for publication

city, town Lebanon

vicinity

state Maine

code

ME

county York

code

031

zip code 04027

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

_____ buildings

_____ sites

1

_____ structures

_____ objects

1

0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

Carole S. [Signature]
Maine Historic Preservation Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

11/5/90
Date

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:) _____

[Signature]

12-27-90

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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)

No Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls N/A

roof N/A

other Timber Deck

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Grist Mill Bridge is a stone and timber structure which spans the Little River, just east of the 1774 Old Grist Mill. It is composed of a timber deck which rests on abutments and a center pier constructed of dry laid rubblestone. These latter elements rise approximately thirteen feet above normal stream water levels. The bridge deck is fifty-four feet in length and twenty-four feet in width. Its existing configuration dates from the early 1950s where the present design replaced a simpler structure utilizing round logs for stringers, a plank deck, and guardrails of triangular supports linked by a wooden rail. The southeast abutment continues for some fifty feet where it acts as a base and retaining wall for the road surface.

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)
Architecture

Period of Significance
c. 1885

Significant Dates
c. 1885

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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

Located adjacent to the Old Grist Mill (N.R. 6/5/75) in Lebanon, the Grist Mill Bridge is a remarkably intact example of a structure built of materials and of a form that has an ancient lineage. Consisting of a wooden timber deck supported by dry laid rubblestone abutments and center pier, the bridge is perhaps the largest and least altered structure of its type in Maine. While its precise date of construction is not known, it was in place by 1885. It is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion C for its representation of traditional bridge construction techniques.

To date, only a handful of Maine bridges have been individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. One, the 1928 Bailey Island Cobwork Bridge (N.R. 4/28/75) employs a design strategy believed to be singularly unique in the entire United States. Another, the 1866 New Portland Wire Bridge (N.R. 1/13/70), is also highly significant as an early, substantially intact suspension structure. Additionally, Maine's seven surviving covered bridges have been recognized for their significance by way of listing in the Register. While two of the above-named structures are especially noteworthy, the covered bridges represent the survival of a once far more numerous class of bridges which preserve the historic technology of wooden truss design.

At the other end of the scale of bridge design and construction history lie the structures put up for small stream and river crossings. Photographic documentation for these bridges at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation reveal the vast number and variety of such bridges which once existed. These ranged from simple wooden deck or king post spans with stone abutments to structures whose decks were composed of massive granite slabs with or without center piers. Both examples represent a time-honored approach to bridge construction where local craftsmen utilized locally gathered materials.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lebanon Town Reports. Maine State Library, Augusta.

Maine State Highway Commission General Bridge Survey. 1924. Records on file at
Maine Department of Transportation, Bridge Maintenance Division, Augusta.

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
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1

UTM References

A

1	9
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3	5	0	0	4	0
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4	8	0	5	7	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property includes the entire structure known as the Grist Mill Bridge including abutments, deck, wing walls and approaches.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary as described encompasses the entire Grist Mill Bridge structure.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date 10/1990
street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

As one might expect, by the late twentieth century an uncountable number of such structures have been altered, destroyed, or replaced by one or more subsequent bridges. Within this context the survival of a structure such as the Grist Mill Bridge assumes added significance. In this case not only have the rubble stone elements - in their entirety - remained intact, but the wooden deck, although of a somewhat different design than the original (which it replaced in the early 1950s), nonetheless is clearly in keeping with the traditional materials and configuration. This fact is confirmed by a review of the files from the Maine State Highway Commission General Bridge Survey conducted in 1924. These records show, both in drawings and photographs, that the bridge has changed little at least during the past 66 years.

The precise history of this structure, as noted above, is difficult to ascertain. In the 1792 description of the "Courses and distance of the Road" being laid out between South Lebanon and Sanford mention is made of Joseph Hardison's Bridge. Hardison was the original owner of the adjacent grist mill believed to have been erected in 1774, and the reference to a bridge makes it clear that the present site was probably in use as a crossing by then. Although speculation has been made that the bridge might well predate Hardison's mill there is as yet no documentary evidence to support or deny this. There is also no proof that the bridge noted as being in existence in 1792 (or the one referenced in an 1822 deed) is the current one. The earliest photographic documentation discovered to date is from the 1924 State survey of bridges which clearly shows the existing stonework. A review of town reports from 1924 to 1883 uncovered no reference to any major work on the structure outside of a deck replacement in 1885. Funding for similar work was requested in 1914 when the road commissioner noted that "The bridge at Fred Pierce's grist mill is a large bridge and needs new stringers and covering next year." Thus, while the Grist Mill Bridge predates 1885, it is impossible at this time to know exactly how much older it is.

As a final note, it is important to understand the significance of this bridge as it contributes to maintaining the historic setting of the mill, and vice versa. The mill and its remnant dam are located some 100 feet to the west of the bridge at a somewhat lower elevation. Both structures (bridge and dam) and the mill foundation share the same type of rubble stone construction with wooden upper portions. This compatibility in materials is matched by an equally important historic relationship in scale. The resultant visual qualities of the site, therefore, viewed from both bridge approaches or from above or below the structure, are truly unique.