

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 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 Middlebury Gorge Concrete Arch Bridge
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Vermont Route 125 over the Middlebury River N/A not for publication
city, town Middlebury N/A vicinity
state Vermont code VT county Addison code 001 zip code 05753

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	_____ Total

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] 9/26/91
Signature of certifying official Date
Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer
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:)

[Signature] 11-14-91
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)

Other: Concrete arch bridge

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls

roof

other concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The single-arched, concrete bridge connecting Route 125 over the Middlebury River is in the village of East Middlebury, town of Middlebury, Addison County, Vermont. It is at the base of the Middlebury Gorge on the way to Ripton and Bread Loaf. The bridge was built in 1924. It is a narrow two lane bridge that spans a scenic deep stone gorge and waterfall, and is surrounded by woods and scattered houses. The bridge retains its integrity of design, location, setting, feeling, workmanship, materials, and association.

The arched span, which appears to be semi-circular, measures 42' across the river, and is 24' wide, 34' high, and 49' in length. It is made of eight pourings of concrete, which are visible from underneath the arch. Running the length of the bridge at deck level is a beltcourse, which is topped by a solid paneled railing. Each side of the bridge is ornamented by four pilasters, one at each end and one framing each side of the span. The paneled railing is approximately three feet high with capstones and the dedication date is inscribed inside the rail. There is one panel in the approaches of the railings and five over the span. Each pilaster is squared at railing level and has a square capstone. The northeast corner has a contemporary metal guard rail extending beyond the bridge. The southeast corner does not have an extra guard rail. The end pilaster at the northwest corner (on the railing level) and the panel are missing and have been replaced with a contemporary metal guardrail, which extends beyond the bridge.

See continuation sheet

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

1924

Significant Dates

1924

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.

The Middlebury Gorge Concrete Arch Bridge, constructed in 1924, is historically significant under the National Register Criteria A for contributing to Vermont's transportation history at the state and local levels as part of the road, bridge, and railway network. The bridge is of engineering significance for being a good example of a concrete arch bridge built in the early twentieth century. The bridge is being submitted under the multiple property submission "Metal Truss, Masonry and Concrete Bridges in Vermont". The property type is concrete bridges. The bridge clearly meets the registration requirements for this property type. Since it was built the bridge has been in continual use, carrying vehicular and pedestrian traffic across the Middlebury River. It survived the 1927 flood.

The bridge is eligible under Criteria C because the large concrete arch is a representative example of an early 20th century bridge type. The bridge was constructed of poured reinforced concrete using local sand and gravel. Concrete bridges were relatively inexpensive to build compared to metal trusses and were also believed to be easier and less expensive to maintain. It appears that during this time concrete arch bridges were also chosen for their elegance and monumental character, which fits a scenic locale, such as this one, much more than a metal truss type bridge. Although building over this deep gorge was not a small matter, reinforced concrete was a well understood building technique by the 1920s. The bridge appears to have been well built, since it survived the great flood of 1927, which destroyed many bridges throughout the state. Like many bridges of this type, the span has a simple pilaster and panel detailing for decoration.

The Middlebury Gorge Concrete Arch Bridge, constructed in 1924, is historically significant under the National Register Criteria A. It contributes to Vermont's transportation history at the state and local levels as part of the road, bridge, and railroad network that developed transportation, trade, commerce, and travel throughout Vermont. The bridge connects Vermont Route 125 over the Middlebury River just outside East Middlebury village. This is very important to the region because it is only one of three passes over the Green Mountains in Addison County. Vermont Route 125 was the old Center Turnpike connecting Middlebury with Stockbridge and Woodstock in Windsor County.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Middlebury, Vermont. Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey. 0111-10: 87,
Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Montpelier, Vermont.

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

Acreeage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	8
Zone	

6	5	3	5	1	5
Easting					

4	8	7	0	1	1	0
Northing						

C

Zone	

Easting					

Northing							

B

Zone	

Easting					

Northing							

D

Zone	

Easting					

Northing							

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for this property is the bridge and its abutments. The bridge carries Vermont Route 125 over the Middlebury River near the village of East Middlebury at the UTM Reference Point: 18/653515/4870110. It is 49' in length and 24' in width.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all the land historically associated with the bridge.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

PROPERTY OWNER

Agency of Transportation
State of Vermont
Montpelier, VT 05602

Attn: William Sargent