

7000 4574

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Penobscot	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.2.18.0019	DATE 2/16/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Morse Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Coe Park - Kenduskeag Stream

CITY OR TOWN:
Bangor 04401 (2nd District Hon. William Hathaway)

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Penobscot CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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	<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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Bangor

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Bangor STATE: Maine CODE: 23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Bangor 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

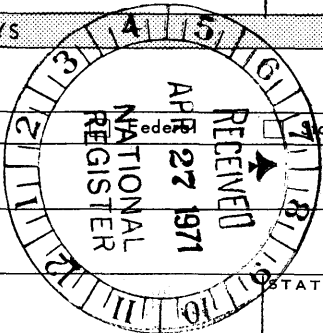
STATE: Maine

COUNTY: Penobscot

ENTRY NUMBER: 70.2.18.0019

DATE: 2/16/70

FOR NPS USE ONLY



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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Morse Covered Bridge in Bangor, 212 feet in length, is the longest such structure in Maine and the only covered bridge in the north-eastern United States located within the limits of a city.

Today, through a five-year volunteer project, the old bridge has been saved and preserved and is in use as a pedestrian crossing downstream from its former site. Put to its present use in 1965, the bridge has proven to be a tremendous tourist attraction for bridge "collectors" and children who have never seen one like it before.

The bridge almost met an untimely end when a new bridge was erected to replace it. The covered bridge was moved downstream for use while its successor was being built. It was considered a fire hazard to the new span and the decision was made that it had to be moved again or demolished. At this point, civic minded citizens in the Queen City began to raise necessary funds, aided by contributions from individuals, organizations and the City of Bangor herself. The city now maintains the bridge.

The roof of the bridge is all slate, mostly from London. The blocks of granite in the pier and abutments number more than 300 and weigh two to four tons. Its truss, unique in its use of iron rods for support, was designed by William Howe. (See example on continuation page.) - ?

The Morse Bridge now occupies the central position in Coe Park, a municipal park on both the East and West sides of Kenduskeag Stream in the heart of Bangor.

Structurally, the bridge and abutments are sound. The cover, of boards, clapboards, and trim, are nearly all now restored.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1882

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

Bangor, the third largest city in Maine, is located on the west side of the Penobscot River at the head of the tide, some 23 miles from Penobscot Bay on the Atlantic. The city is bisected by the Kenduskeag Stream.

The nomination of the Morse Bridge should, in no way, develop an overview of the City of Bangor's place in history. However, the Kenduskeag Stream, itself, played a primary role in the settlement of what became Bangor, as it provided the power sites of a great many water driven saw mills.

Bangor, of the 19th Century, was synonymous with lumber, for in the 1850's, Bangor was the leading lumber port in the world and later second only to Chicago in the 1870's. Throughout the history of Bangor, many bridges have spanned the Kenduskeag Stream, but now the oldest remaining is the Morse Bridge.

Morse Covered Bridge was first erected in 1882. Its truss, unique in its use of iron rods for support, was designed by William Howe, a relative of the inventor of the sewing machine. The span was at one time known as the Bridge of Sighs--sheep were driven through it to the slaughter house, bleating as if they sensed their fate. The bridge once served horses and buggies, the trolley to Kenduskeag and cars and trucks, all of which needed to use it to cross over a portion of Kenduskeag Stream at its initial location by the Old Morse's Mill on Valley Avenue in Bangor.

The present location of the span is said to be near one of the underground tunnels used to help slaves escape during the Civil War era. The Morse Bridge, by its continuing existance, provides an association with the past and the historic scene about the Kenduskeag Stream's section of Bangor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Newspaper Article, Covered Bridge at Bangor is Maine's Longest, the Courier Gazette, Rockland, Maine, August 24, 1969, pg. 31.
2. Newspaper Article, Maine's Covered Bridges, No. 7 of a series, Portland Press Herald, June 12, 1957, pg. 11.
3. Sloane, Eric, American Barns and Covered Bridges, New York, Funk and Wagnalls, 1954.

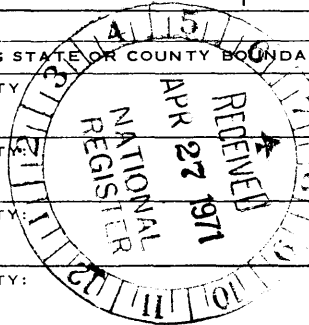
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		44° 48' 27"	68° 46' 44"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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 STATE: Maine CODE: 23

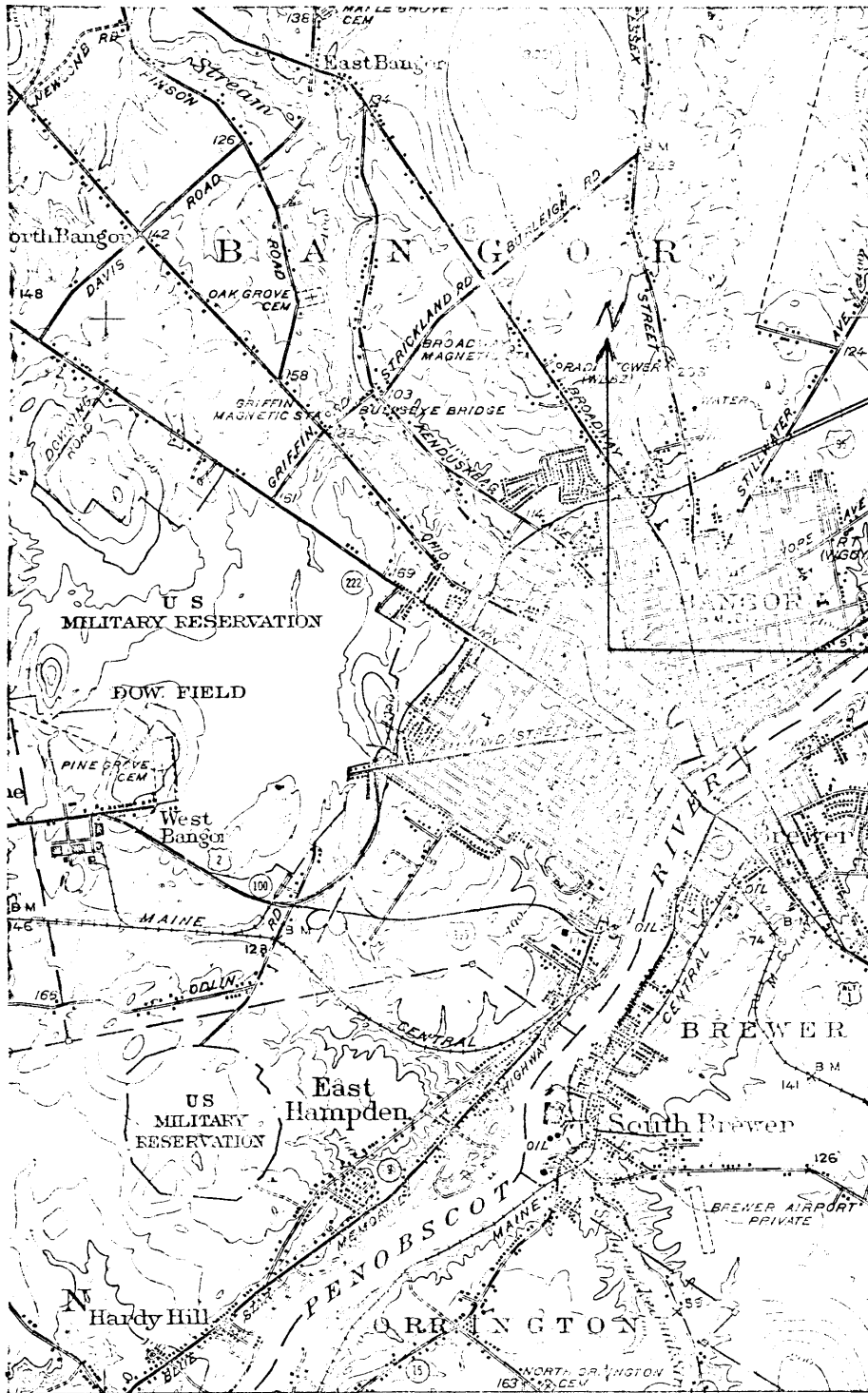
12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Lawrence Stuart</u> Title <u>Director</u> Date <u>December 24, 1969</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest A. Connelley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation <u>2/16/70</u></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William J. Murty</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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19/5179500/4961406
1-3876
open Ref. 000

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

P140004634



Morse Bridge

44° 48' 27"
68° 46' 14"

50'

ORONO (JUNC. ME. 155) 6.5 MI.
OLD TOWN 11 MI.

178

EDDINGTON 3.5 MI.
AURORA 26 MI.

9

EAST HOLDEN 7 MI.
ELLSWORTH 25 MI.

50'

4955000m N.
44945'

19200m E. 68°45'

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON D. C. - 1961-NS

HAMPDEN 0.6 MI.
BELFAST, 30 MI.

ORRINGTON 1.7 MI.
BUCKS PORT 15 MI

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty - - - - -
 Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -

⊖ Interstate Route ⊖ U. S. Route ⊖ State Route

18000 21000 FEET

5 KILOMETERS

MAINE

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

BANGOR, ME.
N 4445—W 6845/15

1955

(ORLAND)