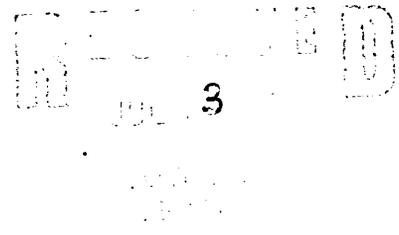


1035

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name West Woodstock Bridge

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Town Highway 50 not for publication

city or town Woodstock vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Windsor code 027 zip code 05091

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Eric L. ... 7/19/92
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 of the Keeper *Patrick Andrews* Date of Action 8/27/92

West Woodstock Bridge

Windsor County, Vermont

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

- building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Contributing Noncontributing
buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Metal Truss, Masonry and Concrete Bridges in Vermont

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/Road-related (Vehicular)

Transportation/Road-related (Vehicular)

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Pennsylvania Through Truss

foundation Stone
walls
roof
other Steel

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

(See continuation sheet)

West Woodstock Bridge
Name of Property

Windsor County, Vermont
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	6 9 8 2 4 0	4 8 3 1 7 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Evelyn M. Speciale

organization University of Vermont Historic Preservation date May 5, 1992

street & number 109 South Prospect telephone (802) 656-3180

city or town Burlington state VT zip code 05401

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

West Woodstock Bridge
Name of Property

Windsor County, Vermont
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Engineering

Transportation

Period of Significance

1900

Significant Dates

1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Groton Bridge & Manufacturing Company

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

University of Vermont Special Collection

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92001038 Date Listed: 8-27-92

West Woodstock Bridge Windsor VT
Property Name: County: State:

Metal Truss, Masonry and Concrete Bridges in Vermont MPS

Multiple Name _____

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patricia Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

8/27/92
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Technical oversight was clarified through a phone call to the Vermont SHPO. The property does meet the National Register Criteria, for statewide significance. The nomination is officially amended to include this clarification.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Spanning the Ottauquechee River, approx. 1.3 miles west of Woodstock, Vermont, in the village of West Woodstock, this single span, 177' bridge was constructed in 1900 by the Groton Bridge & Manufacturing Company of Groton, New York. The earliest recorded Pennsylvania through truss in Vermont, this steel structure is distinctive to the State in its simplicity and Victorian-type decorative features.

Built in 1900 in the village of West Woodstock in Windsor County, Vermont, the structure is currently surrounded by Woodstock Union High School to the west and a cluster of industrial structures to the east of T.H. 50 which crosses the bridge. Homes line U.S. RT 4, which runs perpendicular to T.H. 50 and the bridge, which is still used by the community and runs north - south across the Ottauquechee.

The two-lane bridge is a Pennsylvania through truss with two lattice guardrails with pipe handrails on either side. It is typical of the Pennsylvania type with its arched top chord and sub-struts and sub-ties, vertical members in compression, and diagonals in tension. The single span bridge rests on rubble abutments (with newer sheet pile and fill reinforcements on the north side) 21 feet above the water. It is 174 feet long with 7 panels and 16.3 feet wide, with a portal clearance of 14.4 feet. The floor system consists of rolled I-section floor beams hung with hairpin bolts and seven I-beam stringers, channeled end stringers, and rod bottom cross-bracing. The floor is wooden, made up of 3 X 8" planks and treads.

The top chord, 20" X 15", is a box girder with latticed underside, while the bottom chord is made of a double chain of 3" stamped eye bars. The verticals are two 3" eye-bars and box girders with two sides latticed make up the other verticals. Subverticals consist of two 1" eye-bars. The first two diagonals are two 3" eye-bars, threaded for turnbuckles. Center diagonals are made of two 1" eye-bars; counter diagonals are 7/8" rod. There is a tension-rod sway-bracing between lattice-girder struts with rod top cross-bracing.

The decorative lattice feature of the guardrail is repeated in the portal bracing on both ends of the bridge and shows the Victorian influence at the turn-of-the century time of construction. This lattice work is continued in the knee braces. The bridge adopts a

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Section number 7 Page 2

19th century technique of pinned connections, which became nearly obsolete with new 20th century riveted construction technology.

A decorative builders plate adorns the south portal strut. A smaller rectangle resting on a larger one reads "1900 GROTON BRIDGE & MFG. CO. BUILDERS. GROTON, N.Y." and is decorated with two crescent moons resting between the strut and the plate. There are two thin rods rising up from either side of the larger rectangle with a circular plate in the middle of each containing a cut-out 3-leaf clover. A smaller crescent moon rests at the base of each of these rods with two larger moons with flower in-cuts resting against the upper segment that reads "1900" and is topped by two more crescent moons lying back to back with about 1/6 of the top broken off. There also seems to be a slight crack in the lower left corner of the plate that was repaired. On the reverse side of the plate is a list of selectmen's names.

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 West Woodstock Bridge
Woodstock, Windsor Co., Vermont

The Pennsylvania metal through truss bridge in West Woodstock, constructed in 1900, is a fine example of turn-of-the-century bridge building design and is one of the oldest metal truss bridges in Vermont. It is included in the Multiple Property submission, "Metal Truss, Masonry, and Concrete Bridges in Vermont," and meets the registration requirements for the property type of metal truss bridges. It is historically significant for being a part of the state transportation network, and of engineering significance as the earliest example of a Pennsylvania truss in Vermont. The bridge was constructed by the Groton Bridge and Manufacturing Company of New York, and is one of two Vermont bridges built by that firm. The other is the Pratt through truss bridge in Cavendish (listed on the National Register on September 9, 1982).

An early 1900s futuristic drawing from one of Woodstock's town histories depicts the hope that Woodstock would become a "hub of transportation." This bridge represents the reality of this dream for Woodstock. The bridge is an excellent example of pre-1927 flood bridge technology. It has only had one simple change during its history, the refortification of the northern abutment. The pinned construction of this bridge is complex. Under criterion C, the bridge is a fine example of Victorian era design with its lattice work and sign details, crescent moons, and clovers.

When built, the bridge was considered the best bridge on the Ottauquechee River. Woodstock selectmen were able to purchase the bridge from the Groton Bridge and Manufacturing Company at a favorable rate. It had originally been designed and built for a town in New York State, but when it didn't fit the site the Groton Company offered it to Woodstock at a discounted price. The total cost for the bridge and placing it on the site was about \$6,000. The abutments (blue limestone and concrete) were built on top of hemlock foundation logs placed here in 1789 by bridge builder, Jabez Bennett, for what is believed to have been the second bridge in Woodstock. The abutments were built high enough so the bridge would be above the highwater mark of the ice jam of 1866, the highest water level of the previous fifty years.

A suspension foot bridge had been built in West Woodstock village below the dam in 1885, but had washed away in 1899. Townspeople then moved to build a vehicular bridge in the village. In a special town meeting held on May of 1899, voters of Woodstock approved the erection of the bridge. It

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Section number 8 Page 2 West Woodstock Bridge
Woodstock, Windsor Co., Vermont

was hoped it would be of great benefit to the farmers of the West Woodstock area and the hill farms of South Woodstock. Their "lumber and other products will be much more available than before and the value of all the farms will be considerably raised, thus benefitting the town by increasing its grand list."² Above all though, townspeople wanted a road bridge in this location "for the addition it would make to the attractive 'drives' of the town, which is one of the most romantic and picturesque in New England (the Switzerland of America) and is at this time getting to be a summer resort of considerable consequence."³

Work on the abutments began on August 9, 1899, and was completed about September 15. Bridge work began about November 14 by Groton Mfg. Co. men under the direction of J. S. Hunter. The bridge was finished and opened for travel on December 7, 1900.

¹Peter S. Jennison, The History of Woodstock, Vermont, 1890-1983, (Vt.: Meriden-Stinehour Press, 1985), p. 132.

²Charles M. Cobb, "New Iron Bridge at West Woodstock, Vt.", Interstate Journal, vol. 2, no. 3 (1901).

³Ibid.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 / 10 Page 1

West Woodstock Bridge
Woodstock, Windsor Co., Vermont

9. Bibliography

Cobb, Charles M. "New Iron Bridge at West Woodstock, Vt." Interstate Journal. Vol. 2, no. 3 (1901).

Jennison, Peter S. The History of Woodstock, Vermont, 1890-1983.
Vermont: Meriden-Stinehour Press, 1985.

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. Historic Sites and Structures Survey for Woodstock. Montpelier, Vt.

10. Boundary Description and Justification

The boundary for this property is the bridge and its abutments. The bridge carries Town Highway 50 across the Ottauquechee River in the village of West Woodstock in the town of Woodstock, at UTM Reference Point: 18/698240/4831750.

The boundary for this property is the land historically associated with the bridge.