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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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OCT 28 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: STARR MILL ROAD BRIDGE

other name/site number: Beverly Heights Bridge, Bridge No. 4541

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: Beverly Heights

city/town: Middletown

not for publication: N/A  
vicinity: N/A

state: CT county: Middlesex code: 007 zip code: 06457

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: public-local

Category of Property: structure

Number of Resources within Property:

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| _____        | _____           | buildings  |
| _____        | _____           | sites      |
| <u>1</u>     | _____           | structures |
| _____        | _____           | objects    |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>0</u>        | Total      |

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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] Date: 10/22/93
Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

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] 12-10-93

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: TRANSPORTATION Sub: road-related
Current: NOT IN USE Sub:



9. Major Bibliographical References

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: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

|   |             |               |                |   |             |             |             |
|---|-------------|---------------|----------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| A | <u>18</u>   | <u>693720</u> | <u>4602100</u> | B | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> |
| C | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u>   | <u>    </u>    | D | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> |

     See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:      See continuation sheet.

The nominated property includes the bridge, abutments, and roadway.

Boundary Justification:      See continuation sheet.

The boundary includes only the components of the bridge itself.

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

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  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

|             |   |     |
|-------------|---|-----|
| Description | Starr Mill Road Bridge<br>(Bridge No. 4541, Beverly Heights Bridge)<br>Middletown, Middlesex County, CT | 7-1 |
|-------------|---|-----|

Beverly Heights Bridge, originally known as Starr Mill Road Bridge and numbered as No. 4541 in the state bridge system, is a single-span steel Warren pony truss erected in 1927 (Photographs 1 and 2). It spans the Cochinaug River just downstream of the Starr Mill dam, at a height of about 12 feet above the water level. The overall length of the bridge is 46 feet, with a roadway width of 14 feet. The road (Photograph 3), which formerly led into the yard of the adjacent Starr Mill, an 1865 suspender mill built on the site of an 1813 pistol factory, is now closed.

The bridge's four-panel trusses are about eight feet in depth. The inclined end posts and top chord are built-up box girders with back-to-back channels joined by a continuous plate on top and lacing bars on the bottom. The bottom chord consists of a pair of back-to-back angles connected by tie plates at three-foot intervals, as do the first diagonals and the verticals in the web. The other diagonal members are back-to-back angles with lacing. The floor system (Photograph 4) consists of rolled I-section floor beams and stringers and a concrete-slab deck. Original riveted lattice railings, about two feet high, are still in place. The bridge's concrete abutments were poured around the rubble-masonry abutments of an earlier bridge.

The bridge's components are riveted and bolted together using gusset plates (Photograph 5). Most of the joints are bolted on at least one side (and riveted on the other), a technique that afforded easier field assembly.

On the southwest end post is a plaque (partly broken), giving the bridge's date of construction, fabricator (Berlin Construction Company), and the name of the Middletown official responsible for the project, Second Taxing District selectman and highway supervisor Howard S. Peck (Photograph 6).

The bridge is in somewhat deteriorated condition, with corrosion of some structural members and severe spalling along the underside of the floor slabs. The only alterations to the bridge's original appearance are the additional layers of concrete and asphalt poured on top of the original deck.



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

|              |   |     |
|--------------|---|-----|
| Significance | Starr Mill Road Bridge<br>(Bridge No. 4541, Beverly Heights Bridge)<br>Middletown, Middlesex County, CT | 8-2 |
|--------------|---|-----|

Berlin Construction Company (today known as Berlin Steel) was founded in 1900 by three former employees of Berlin Iron Bridge Company, an East Berlin firm that had been a major fabricator of bridges in the late 19th century. In 1900, Berlin Iron Bridge Company was absorbed by American Bridge Company as part of the latter's attempt to monopolize the industry. The former management left and started a new company, and within two years, they had erected a large fabricating facility in the Kensington section of Berlin. They continued the business of their former company, marketing highway bridges, steel-framed commercial and manufacturing buildings, and other steel industrial structures such as bridge-crane installations, dock facilities, and coal-handling systems. Berlin Construction Company held a large share of the regional market for highway trusses into the 1930s, when concrete construction and the advent of large steel and concrete beams brought an end to the use of metal trusses for ordinary highway bridges.





