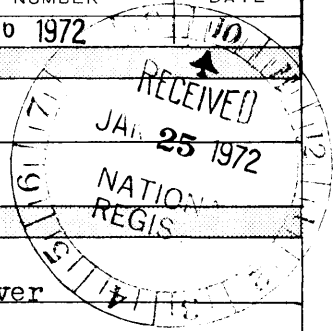


PH0021032

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Connecticut
COUNTY:	Litchfield
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
APR 26 1972	10



1. NAME

COMMON:  
Bull's Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
At crossing of Bull's Bridge Road and the Housatonic River

CITY OR TOWN:  
Kent

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Connecticut	09	Litchfield	005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Town of Kent

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Kent

STATE:	CONNECTICUT
CODE:	09

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Town Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Kent

STATE:	CONNECTICUT
CODE:	09

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
54 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hartford

STATE:	CONNECTICUT
CODE:	09

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	CONNECTICUT
COUNTY:	Litchfield
ENTRY NUMBER	APR 26 1972
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

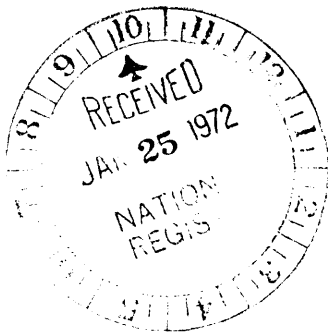
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The time of original construction of this bridge has not been determined, but it may well date from the 1870's and be therefore in the neighborhood of a century old. It provides a crossing by a secondary road of the Housatonic River, largest stream in western Connecticut, and stands just south of a considerable drop in the river bed, down which the water cascades to form a very picturesque scene in wooded surroundings. Just to the east of the bridge site a canal utilizes the power of this fall to operate an electrical generating plant farther to the south. The bridge is built on the Town lattice truss principle, which has been reinforced by additional trusswork visible on the interior. The roof is wood-shingled and the sides are sheathed with vertical planking, the seams covered by battens. Horizontal flush boarding, without battens, covers the ends around the roadway openings, and the sheathing throughout is unpainted. The necessary diagonal bracing of both horizontal and vertical members can be seen within. A space of several feet of the trusswork on both sides inside each entry is protected against the weather by vertical boarding.

Until recently, the structure was in progressively more precarious condition, being owned by the Town which had not the funds necessary to vital restoration and strengthening. A stop sign had been placed at each entrance to lessen the impact of traffic using the bridge. With cooperation from the State highway department, the required work has now been done and removal of the stop signs was feasible. The skirting seen below the lower chord of the bridge was installed to conceal the reinforcement construction and was done in a manner to match the board-and-batten work of the sheathing above.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. 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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

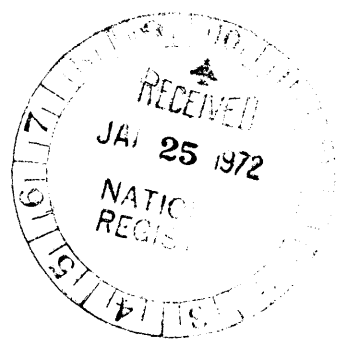
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Bull's Bridge is one of only three public highway structures of this type still standing in Connecticut. A second is the well-maintained West Cornwall bridge farther north on the same Housatonic River, carrying a state highway, and the third is the old Comstock Bridge, no longer in use, over the Salmon River on the boundary between the towns of Colchester and East Hampton. Bull's Bridge therefore is classified as a rarity in this State, which formerly had a considerable number of these attractive features in the rural landscape, now removed by flood, neglect, or deliberate destruction. No effort should be spared to assure its preservation for the indefinite future, especially as it is not simply a museum piece but is daily serving a considerable volume of traffic on a route that, if eliminated, would compel a lengthy and inconvenient detour northward or southward to reach the destinations served by this road.

The structure represents a stage or period in both transportation history and civil engineering, physical remains of which are not common and are correspondingly important. It shows the ingenuity of earlier times in resolving, with wood as the medium, problems of road travel that today would be entrusted to steel and concrete. The mere fact of survival, in constant use and under increasingly heavier loads, of an essentially perishable material and of the soundly designed structure which it composes, is in itself a fact of no mean significance.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

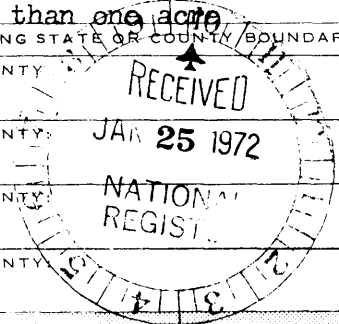
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	° ' "	° ' "		41° 40' 33"	73° 30' 36"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Susan Babbitt, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: January 20, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
54 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National  State  Local

Name: [Signature]

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: January 20, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/26/72

ATTEST: [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: APR 26 1972