

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 Hartford Bridge

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Town Highway 14 at SR 14 over the White River  N/A not for publication

city or town Hartford  N/A vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Windsor code 027 zip code 05084

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 Selberton Deputy SHPO 9/25/92  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Vermont State Historic Preservation Office  
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 Deborah Byers **Entered in the National Register** Date of Action 10/29/92

West Hartford Bridge  
Name of Property

Windsor County, Vermont  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
1	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	_____	Total

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

Metal Truss, Masonry and Concrete Bridges in Vermont

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)

TRANSPORTATION/pedestrian-related

RECREATION/outdoor recreation

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Parker Through Truss

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls \_\_\_\_\_

roof \_\_\_\_\_

other steel

**Narrative Description**

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

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

West Hartford Bridge  
Hartford, Windsor County, Vermont

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Crossing the White River in a moderately built-up commercial and residential area of West Hartford in the town of Hartford, Windsor County, is a riveted, single span, steel, Parker through truss bridge. This intact bridge carries Town Highway 14 across the river at the intersection with State Road 14. This typical 1927 flood replacement bridge exhibits poured concrete abutments with no skew, a two rail guardrail, inclined end panels, and an eight panel segmental top chord. Erected in 1929, the bridge is 220 ft. in length and 21.3 ft. wide. These standardized dimensions identify the West Hartford bridge as one of the many constructed in the state-wide replacement program following the disastrous 1927 flood. Furthermore, the bridge remains in operation and has not been altered and thus retains its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Specifically, the segmental top chord consists of the typical boxed girders with a latticed underside for support. The tensioned bottom chord is built up with side channels connected by stay plates. The first, tensioned diagonals are back to back channels (I-section) to resist torsional stresses. All other tensioned diagonals and compressed verticals in panels 3 through 8 are I-beams connected at mid height by horizontal stiffeners. There are also two, half-length, counter diagonals on the lower part of panels 5 and 6; these are built of paired channels braced by lattice bars. The top bracing consists of plate-girder struts with latticed, paired angle cross-bracing. The sway bracing has crossed, joined angles and a horizontal angle at portal height. Two panels of crossed and latticed paired angles separated by a vertical upright of the same construction supply portal bracing. The deck is concrete slab supported by rolled, floor I-beams and 5 I-beam stringers with T-section bottom cross-bracing. The bridge is completed by a doubled guardrail built up of channels and angles on T-section stanchions.

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)

Transportation

Engineering

Period of Significance

1929

Significant Dates

1929

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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:

West Hartford Bridge  
Name of Property

Windsor County, Vermont  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 8 | | 7 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 4 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 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 William Bentley  
organization Historic Preservation Program date June 1992  
street & number Wheeler House, University of Vermont telephone (802) 656-3180<sup>011</sup>  
city or town Burlington state Vermont zip code 05405

**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 Town of Hartford  
street & number Hartford Town Offices, 15 Bridge St. telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town White River Junction state Vermont zip code 05001

**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.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

West Hartford Bridge  
Hartford, Windsor County, Vermont

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The West Hartford bridge, built in 1929, is significant as a representative example of a Parker through truss bridge, as an important transportation link for the villages in the vicinity of the White and Ottauquechee Rivers and as one of the many replacement bridges built following Vermont's 1927 flood. This single span, riveted, steel, Parker through truss carries Town Highway 14 and the Appalachian Trail over the White River just south of West Hartford village in the town of Hartford, Vermont. The bridge is of significance under criterion A for its contribution to the transportation history of Vermont. It also is eligible for the National Register under criterion C as a good example of a steel Parker through truss bridge and as an example of the design and construction standardization developed for the quick replacement of bridges destroyed in the 1927 flood. This bridge is being nominated under the Multiple Property Submission for "Metal Truss, Masonry and Concrete Bridges in Vermont" and meets the registration requirements for the metal truss bridge property type. It retains its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

This automobile and pedestrian bridge links West Hartford to Quechee, North Hartland and other villages along the White and Ottauquechee Rivers and provides vital communication, transportation, economic and cultural ties for the region. The West Hartford bridge is one of the 1600 bridges built following the devastating flood of 1927. This post-flood bridge replacement was one of the first examples of coordination among federal, state and private resources to design and fund the replacement of bridges. This coordination is significant in Vermont's transportation history as it made these post-flood bridges a national example for later bridge building programs.

The specific design of standardized and rapidly fabricated elements which facilitated construction qualifies the West Hartford bridge under Criterion C. This and the other bridges of this era were constructed on site and standardized in their dimensions to

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8/9/10 Page 2

West Hartford Bridge  
Hartford, Windsor County, Vermont

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facilitate their replacement. The West Hartford bridge and an identical one in Sharon are 220 feet in length and 21.3 feet wide, an indication of the degree of standardization. The Sharon bridge was built by the American Bridge Company, so the West Hartford bridge may also have been built by the same company. Spans of this distance were almost always Parker through trusses, a design of superior efficiency. Since the compressed top chord bears the greatest load, it must be the strongest element. On the other hand, the segmental design allows the inherent strength of an arch to be built up of regular, easily fabricated and quickly constructed members. Another innovation developed for the replacement effort was the nearly universal use of rolled steel I-beams that sped up construction.

### 9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. "Historic Sites and Structures Survey for Hartford." Montpelier, Vt.: 1985.

### 10. GEOGRAPHIC DATA

#### Boundary Description

The boundary of this property is the bridge and its abutments. The center of the bridge has the UTM reference point: 18/708000/4842930.

#### Boundary Justification

The boundary is the property historically associated with the bridge.