

Hon. Peter Kyros

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	Cumberland
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	APR 28 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Bailey Island Cobwork Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

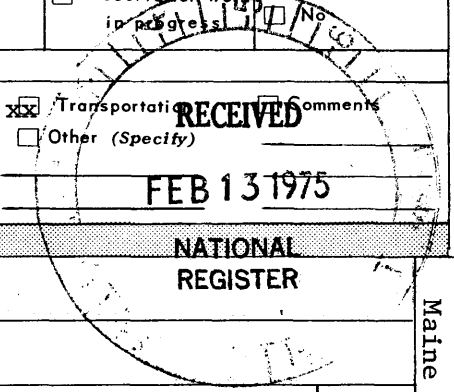
STREET AND NUMBER: on Route 24 connecting Bailey and Orrs islands.

CITY OR TOWN: Harpswell *Me.* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Cumberland CODE: 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
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)



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Town of Harpswell

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Harpswell STATE: Maine CODE: 23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Cumberland County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: 142 Federal Street

CITY OR TOWN: Portland, STATE: Maine CODE: 23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maine

COUNTY: Cumberland

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 28 1975

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DATE:

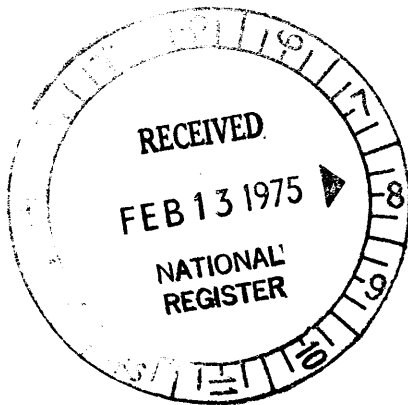
7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bailey Island Cob-work Bridge, completed in 1928, spans the 1,200 foot Will's Gut between Bailey and Orr's Island in Casco Bay. On a natural reef granite blocks are laid in cellular or open construction, first lengthwise, then crosswise in a crib style manner. No mortar or cement is used. Due to the uneven shapes of the rough cut stones, pine wedges are driven in the cracks between them at certain places to prevent rocking and shifting.

At the center, over the deep channel, a single steel span of 52 feet rests on solid concrete pillars, lined with granite stonework and the roadway across the bridge is of reinforced concrete.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1928**

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   |   |  | _____                                    |

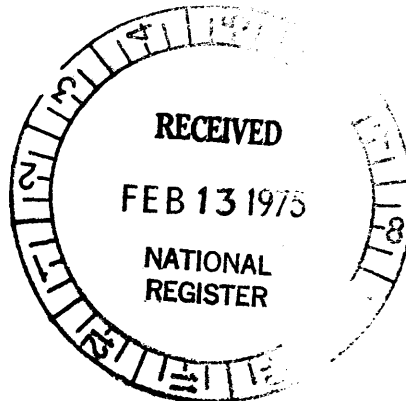
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The famous cob-work bridge connecting Orr's and Bailey Islands represents a unique solution to a difficult engineering problem and is the only one of its kind in the United States. The swiftness of the tides in Will's Gut, which it spans and the consequent battering of floating ice in extreme weather created unusual challenges in determining its design.

The granite slabs quarried in nearby Yarmouth are heavy enough to withstand the buffeting of waves and ice floes and the open cribbing construction permits the tidal currents to flow freely. Beyond the occasional replacement of the wooden wedges used to stabilize the slabs the bridge is almost completely maintenance free except for the road surface and short central steel span.

Bailey Island, at the tip of a long peninsula stretching southward into Casco Bay was from the Colonial period occupied by only one or two families. Construction of the bridge has turned it into a popular resort with many summer cottages and its two harbors are now in year round use by lobster fishermen.

Span  
58' 2" O.C.  
50' clear  
18'



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Margaret and Charles Todd, Beautiful Harpswell, 1962  
 G. A. Wheeler, History of Brunswick, Topsham, and Harpswell, Boston 1878  
 William H. Rowe, III, Inventory of New England Civil and Mechanical Engineering Sites, 1973

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

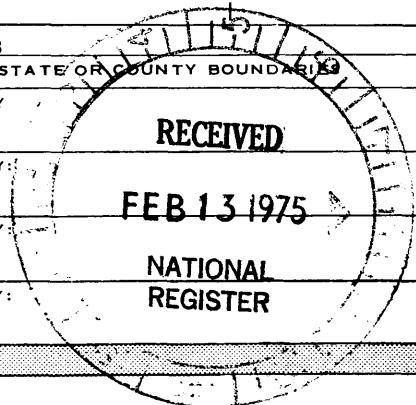
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 04' 55" N	69° 59' 22" W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

19/420 330  
 424/220  
 CO

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **3 Acres**

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: **Frank Beard, Historic Preservationist**

ORGANIZATION: **Maine Historic Preservation Commission** DATE: **12/17/74**

STREET AND NUMBER: **31 Western Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Augusta** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

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

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 *James H. Munday*  
 Title *State Historic Preservation Officer*  
 Date *Lebanon, 1975*

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

*A. B. Warkentin*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date *4/28/75*

ATTEST:

*W. Munday*  
 Keeper of The National Register  
**APR 4 1975**

Date \_\_\_\_\_