

PH0014354

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Aroostook	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.2.18.0022	DATE 2/16/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Watson Settlement Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION *2 mi SE of Littleton over Meduxnekeag River*

STREET AND NUMBER:
Over Meduxnekeag Stream, 5 miles north of Houlton on U. S. Rte. #1 then
1 mi. W of U.S. - East 2 miles.

CITY OR TOWN:
Littleton *vicinity* (Houlton P.O. 04730) (2nd District. Hon. Wm. D. Hathaway)

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Aroostook CODE: 003

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 Littleton and Maine State Highway Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Aroostook County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Houlton STATE: Maine CODE: 23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

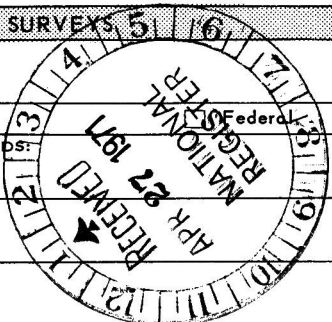
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maine

COUNTY: Aroostook

ENTRY NUMBER: 70.2.18.0022

DATE: 2/16/70

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Location and Setting:

This wooden covered bridge spans the Meduxnekeag Stream some five miles north of Houlton, off U. S. Route #1, in Littleton, and on a side road two miles to the east. At this point a traveler is within one mile of the New Brunswick, Canada border and eighteen miles from Woodstock, N. B. The setting is rural. The Meduxnekeag Stream at this point normally is about 140' feet wide, slow moving, flowing north and soon thereafter to flow east to enter the Saint John River in New Brunswick. This east central border area of Aroostook County is the scene of intensive agricultural activity for the cultivation of the Maine potato. Areas not cultivated retain a forest cover which provides some lumbering activity. The land surface is undulating with low rises in ground levels bisected with brooks which converge on the Meduxnekeag Stream. The immediate land area about this Watson Settlement Bridge is cleared for potato cultivation.

CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS:

This wooden covered bridge is 150' long, 20' wide and 20' high from the flooring to the peak of its gable roof. It is supported by abutments at each end and a pier which rises from the middle of the stream. The abutments and pier are made of rubble which rises from the river's bed and shore for about 15'. These provide a platform for a 5' high rock filled timber crib-work, on the top of which the bridge's spans rest. These abutments and the pier have recently been repaired with a new cover face of poured concrete.

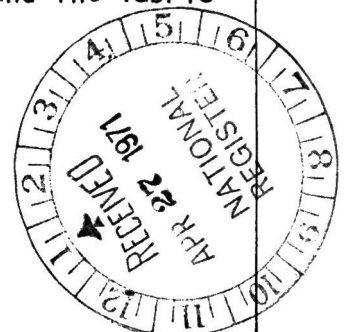
The basis engineering concept employed in the span can be described as a Howe Truss System. This system consists of a series of crossed beams without King posts, between the bottom and top chords. The crossed beams are morticed at the crossing point. The pier under the middle of the bridge has eliminated the need of sophisticated engineering for additional strength. The bottom chords of the two spans are tied together with narrow spaced cross beams over which the flooring of planks run down the length of the bridge. The top chords provide the plate for roof rafters ending in the peak of the gable. The roof is shingled. The sides of the bridge are boarded in. Boards run up and down. The ends of the gable are boarded in down to the clearance which is 13' 2" high. The side to side clearance is 18'. The bridge is not painted.

POTENTIAL THREAT:

Only forces of nature.

This bridge is in use. It is maintained by the Town of Littleton and the State Highway Commission. It has recently been repaired and the fabric is in good condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1911

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 BACKGROUND:

The next town north from Houlton, on the east central border of Aroostook, is Littleton, a farming and lumbering community along U. S. Route One. Served by the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad, it contains a long group of potato warehouses on the northern edge of the town. Several sawmills and businesses allied with the potato and lumbering industries make up its working activities. A State Fish Hatchery is located at the foot of Long Lake, which is a wide section of Big Brook. The Meduxnekeag River flows northerly through the eastern side of the township, with several lesser brooks feeding into it. Half a dozen local roads branching off Route One give access to farmlands and woodlots, two of them connecting with local roads in New Brunswick. Watson Settlement is located on one of these last two.

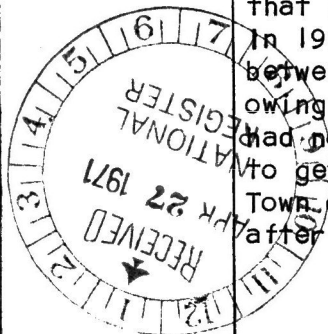
Littleton was settled in 1835 and formed from parts of the Williams College and Framingham Academy Grants. It was incorporated in 1856 as the 394th town. Population: 982.

Thomas Osborne was the first settler in 1835. Lewis DeLaite came in 1840 followed in the same year by a Samuel Adams, Francis Watson and John Little. These three men carved out farms on the east side of the Meduxnekeag and the settlement that grew in Eastern Littleton came to be known as Watson's Settlement. The town itself was named Littleton in honor of Josiah Little of Portland, an earlier proprietor for the sale of the lands.

The Bridge:

The basic significance of this bridge lies in the fact that is one of only ten remaining covered bridges in Maine. It is young in age, having been built in 1911. Reference to F. B. Coe and N. George Cobly's Atlas of Aroostook County Maine, 1877, Philadelphia, reveals that there was no bridge at that site on the Meduxnekeag Stream in that year. From that fact, it is surmized that the stream's crossing had been by boat or ferry. It is likely that no bridge preceeded the present bridge, but this is not confirmed. In 1911 a bridge did get built, but as a result a court proceeding between the Aroostook County Commission and the Town of Littleton ensued owing to the fact that financial provisions for approaches to the bridge had not been made. There the new bridge stood, high and dry with no way to get on or off it. The results of the court proceedings were that the Town of Littleton had to pay for the approaches. They were shortly thereafter installed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Magazine Article, Down East, May 1955, Trending into Maine The Covered Bridges.
2. Newspaper article, Portland Press Herald, May 24, 1957, Maine's Covered Bridges.
3. Brochure, Maine State Highway Commission, Covered Bridges in Maine.
4. Newspaper Article, Houlton Pioneer Times, Aug. 9, 1966, Littleton Celebrating Centennial, Inc. March 18, 1856.
5. Wiggin, Hon, Edward, History of Aroostook, Presque Isle, 1922.
6. Allen, Richard Sanders, Covered Bridges of the Northeast, Brattleboro, 1957.

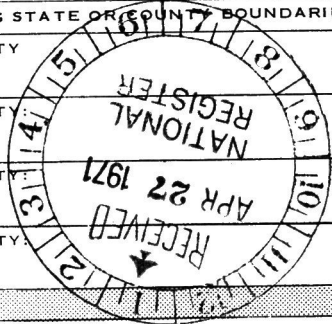
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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
NW	46	0	12	67	0	48	00		
NE	0								
SE	0								
SW	0								

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: $\frac{1}{4}$ acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John W. Briggs, Historian

ORGANIZATION: State Park and Recreation Commission DATE: December 24, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER: State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta, 04330 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 Lawrence Stuart
Title Director
Date December 24, 1969

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

Ernest A. Connolly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
2/16/70

ATTEST
William M. ...
Keeper of The National Register

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

19/592500/5119850

1-16-76 umh

DM Def

MAINE

(AROOSTOOK COUNTY)

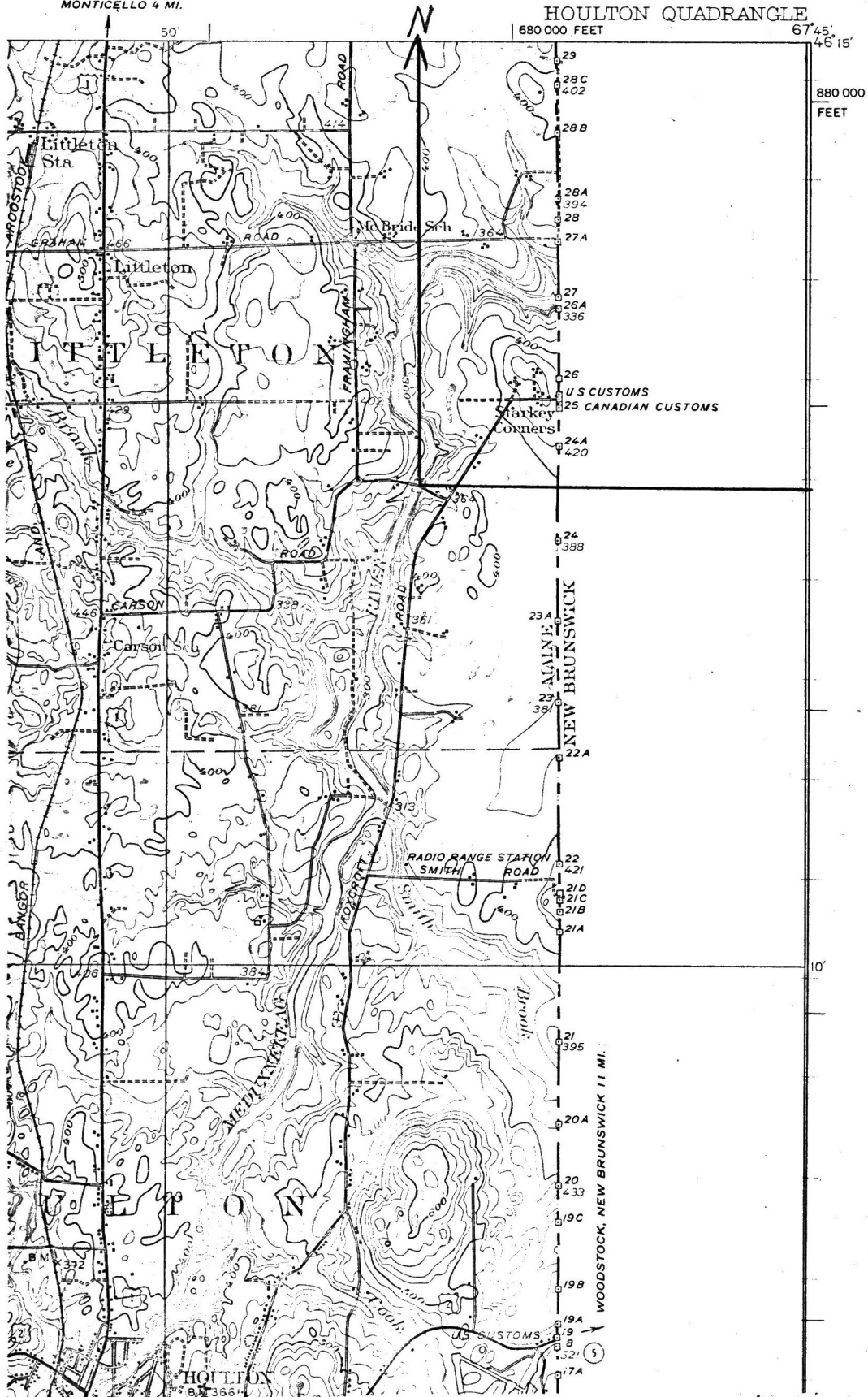
HOULTON QUADRANGLE

PRESQUE ISLE 33 MI.
MONTICELLO 4 MI.

680 000 FEET

67° 45'
46' 15'

880 000
FEET



CONTROL SHEET
National Register
Inventory-Nomination Forms

Arceator
Watson Settlement 70.2.18.077

Me.
NPS Number
0022
SIGN OFF

RECEIPT ADVANCE NOMINATIONS FROM MAINE OF 14 PROPERTIES

Date of Receipt	Yes	No	Number
<i>12/29/69</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Data Page	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Photo(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Photo Description(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Map(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Map Description(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Logged	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Acknowledged	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

RG-12/31/69

REVIEW *These need location, & boundary designations - suggest hold*
Also # 4 - site (archaeological? what?)

Historian	Comments
<i>ok</i>	
Architect	Comments
<i>OK</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Architect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Archeologist
<input type="checkbox"/> Chief Historian	
Keeper	Comments
<i>OK</i>	

B.L. 1/70
Chambers
7/2/69

If checked
ret. to
Clerk

ENTRY

Chief, OAHF	Comments		
Date of Entry			
Registry Clerk	Yes	No	Date
Assign NPS No.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Acknowledgement Sent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

EDITORIAL PROCESSING

Editor	Date
Federal Register Entry	_____
Annual Edition Entry	_____

ok
Does Dr. C
have

FILE FILE FILE

WORKING NO.

Advance Nominations
Watson Settlement Bridge Maine

70.2.18.0022 2/16/70

4/24/71 ✓

✓

4/28/71 ✓

Arroostook Co.

7/9/71

Assume covered bridges are like courthouses -- automatically signif? of local significance.

OK Hemen 7/10/71
OK 5 Marston 7/2/71
OK Levy 7/27/71

OK Chambers 7-19-71

OK Loh 7/29/71

OK C
8-5-
OK CD 7/27/71

12.29.69.14



and



BRIDGE
LOAD
LIMIT
5 Tons

CLEARANCE
CENTER
13.21



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Maine	
COUNTY Aroostook	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 10-218-0022	DATE 3/16/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Watson Settlement Bridge			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Over Meduxnekeag Stream, 5 miles north of Houlton on U.S.R. #1 then east 2 miles.			
CITY OR TOWN: Littleton (Houlton P.O. 04730) 2nd Dist. Hon. Wm. D. Hathaway)			
STATE: Maine	CODE 23	COUNTY: Aroostook	CODE 003
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: State Park and Recreation Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Looking East.			



Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Maine	
COUNTY	
Aroostook	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70.2.18.0022	2/16/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Watson Settlement Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Over Meduxnekeag Stream, 5 miles north of Houlton on U. S. R. #1 then east
2 miles.

CITY OR TOWN:

Littleton (Houlton P.O. 04730) (2nd District-Hon. William D. Hathaway)

STATE:

Maine

CODE

25

COUNTY:

Aroostook

CODE

003

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. Houlton Quadrangle, 15 minute series

SCALE: 1:62500

DATE: 1951

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

PH0014354



740014354

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MAINE (AROOSTOOK COUNTY) HOULTON QUADRANGLE

UTM REF -wm 17676

19/ 592500 5117850



Topography by R.J. Belton, R.E. Amidon, and R.L. Marx. Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken by Air Corps U.S. Army. Surveyed in 1934. WAYNESVILLE 13 MI. MACWAHOC 32 MI. Revised in 1951. UTM GRID AND 1951 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET. ROAD CLASSIFICATION: Heavy-duty, Light-duty, Medium-duty, Unimproved dirt, U.S. Route. CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL. SCALE 1:62,500. POLYCONIC PROJECTION. TO PLACE ON 1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM MOVE PROJECTION LINES 70 FEET NORTH. 10,000-FOOT GRID BASED ON MAINE (EAST) RECTANGULAR COORDINATE SYSTEM. 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR GRID TICKS, ZONE 19, SHOWN IN BLUE.

HOULTON, ME. N4600-W6745/15 1951 AMS 7476 III-SERIES V711

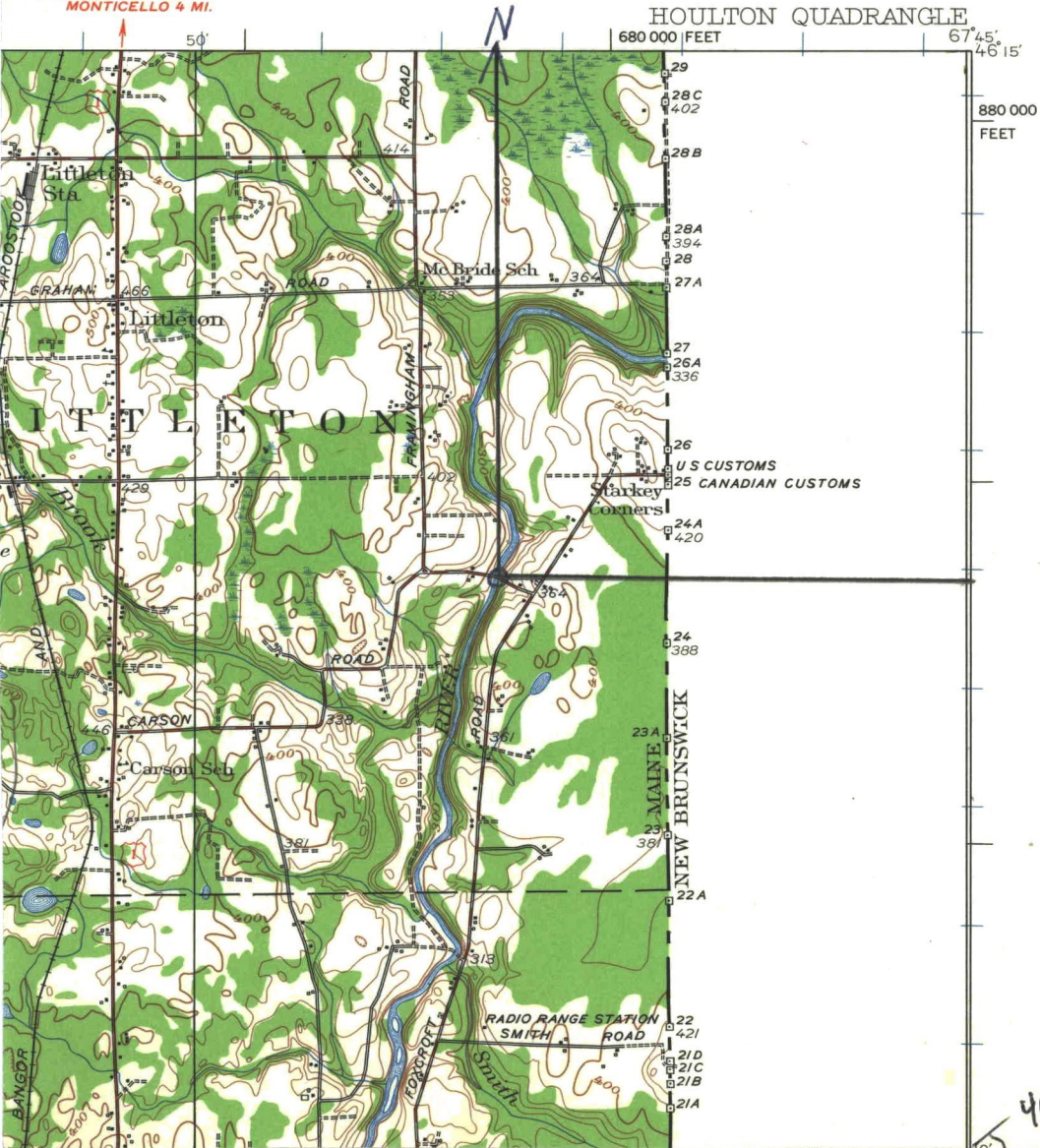
Watson Settlement Bridge - Littleton

46° 12' 35"
67° 48' 00"

MAINE
(AROOSTOOK COUNTY)

HOULTON QUADRANGLE

PRESQUE ISLE 33 MI.
MONTICELLO 4 MI.



46° 10'

FEB 16 1970

134-121

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

Hon. Margaret Chase Smith
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Smith:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Maine and have been entered into the "National Register of Historic Places." Senator Edmund S. Muskie and appropriate Representatives have also been provided with this information. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

/S/ Ernest Allen Connally

Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation

Enclosures

Entered in the National Register

FEB 16 1970

cc:
Mr. Lawrence Stuart, Director, State Park and Recreation Commission,
State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

Duplicate letters sent to:
Hon. Edmund S. Muskie
Hon. William Dodd Hathaway

Hon. Peter N. Kyros

cc: Regional Director, Northeast Region
LL-Mr. Melvin
T-Mr. Butterfield
HR
RCamble:mm
2/12/70

H34-HR

Properties added to the National Register of Historical Places

MAINE

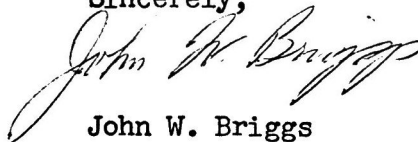
Montpelier	Knox County, Maine
Eagle Island	Cumberland County, Maine
Songo Lock	Cumberland County, Maine
Popham Colony	Sagadahoc County, Maine
Babb's Bridge	Cumberland County, Maine
Bennett Bridge	Oxford County, Maine
Hemlock Bridge	Oxford County, Maine
Robyville Bridge	Penobscot County, Maine
Lovejoy Bridge	Oxford County, Maine
Lowe's Bridge	Piscataquis County, Maine
Morse Bridge	Penobscot County, Maine
Porter-Parsonfield Bridge	York County and Oxford County, Maine
Sunday River Bridge	Oxford County
Watson Settlement Bridge	Aroostook County, Maine

8. Robyville Bridge - Corinth, Penobscot County (019) Maine (18). Built in 1876, it crosses the Kenduskeag Stream.
9. Lovejoy Bridge - South Andover, Oxford County (017) Maine (18). Built in 1868 it crosses the Ellis River.
10. Lowe's Bridge - Routes 15 and 16 Sangerville and Guilford, Piscataquis County (021) Maine (18). Built in 1857 it crosses the Piscataquis River.
11. Morse Bridge - once located on Valley Avenue in Bangor over the Kenduskeag stream was dismantled in 1961. It has since been re-assembled down stream at Coe Park. Bangor, Penobscot County (019) Maine (18). It is the largest covered bridge in Maine (212 feet in length) and was built in 1882.
12. Porter-Parsonfield Bridge - Porter, York County (031) and Parsonfield, Oxford County (017) Maine (18). Built in 1858 it crosses the Ossipee River.
13. Sunday River Bridge - Newry, Oxford County (017) Maine (18). Built in 1872 it crosses the Sunday River.
14. Watson Settlement Bridge - Littleton, Aroostook County (003) Maine (18). Built in 1911 it crosses the Meduxnekeag Stream.

We are most mindful of your need for original maps which should accompany nomination forms. May we please take a liberty at this time in respect to maps for the locations of the above listed properties on these advance nominations. We have prepared the actual U.S.G.S. topographic maps. We wish to retain them in our files until the actual separate nominations for the properties are completed for your review and/or not approval. We are then making Xerox copies of our maps which are enclosed for each property location. The original maps will accompany the actual nomination forms at a later date.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



John W. Briggs
Historian

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



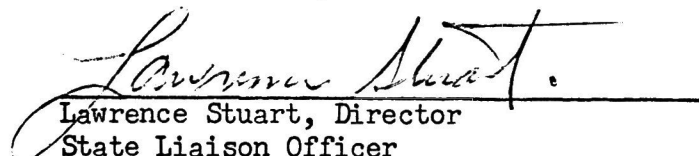
Ernest Allen Connelly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

properties have been reviewed and approved for
Committee for Historic Sites of the State Park
and this is certified by me.

FEB 16 1970

Date _____

ATTEST:



Lawrence Stuart, Director
State Liaison Officer



William J. Mustagh
Keeper of The National Register

FEB 11 1970

Date _____

6. Bennett Bridge - Lincoln Plantation, Oxford County (017) crosses the Magalloway River 1 1/4 miles south of Wilson Mills and 5 1/2 miles north of Wentworth Location, New Hampshire. The bridge is on a country road 1/8 of a mile due west from Route 16.
7. Hemlock Bridge - Fryeburg, Oxford County (017). This bridge crosses the Saco River 6 miles northeast of Fryeburg proper, at the mid point the third mile of a 6 mile country road which lies between U. S. Route 302 and Maine Route 5.
8. Robyville Bridge - Corinth, Penobscot County (019) crosses the Kenduskeag River 2 1/2 miles northwest of Kenduskeag Village. It is located on a country road which lies between Maine Route 15 and Maine Route 222. This bridge is 6 miles northwest of Bangor.
9. Lovejoy Bridge - South Andover, Oxford County (017). This bridge crosses the Ellis River at South Andover which is three miles south of Andover and 6 1/2 miles northwest of Rumford Point. It lies on a short cross road between Maine Route 5 and a country road which connects Andover with Rumford Point.
10. Lowe's Bridge - Route 15 and 16 Sangerville and Guilford, Piscataquis County (201). This bridge crosses the Piscataquis River 4 1/4 miles west of Dover-Foxcroft proper, and 25 miles due north of Newport, Maine.
11. Morse Bridge - Bangor, Penobscot County (019) today lies on a new site only a few yards downstream from its original location on the Kenduskeag River within the city limits of Bangor, Maine, a Valley Avenue.
12. Porter-Parsonfield Bridge, Porter, York County (031). This bridge crosses the Ossipee River 1/2 mile southwest of Porter Village proper. This point in Maine is located some 35 miles W.N.W. of Portland, Maine.
13. Sunday River - Newry, Oxford County (017). This bridge crosses the Sunday River on a road which is now closed. A country road leads by this bridge and continues up the Sunday River for 6 miles. This road leaves U. S. Route 2 five miles north of Bethel, Maine.
14. Watson Settlement Bridge - Littleton, Aroostook County (003). This bridge crosses the Meduxnekeag Stream 1 mile due west of the border between Maine U. S. and New Brunswick, Canada. It is at a point two miles off and east of U. S. Route 1 nine miles due north of Houlton, Maine.

We are enclosing an official Highway map of Maine. On this map we have designated the location of the 14 advance nominations named above.



STATE PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

State Office Building
Augusta, Maine 04330

LAWRENCE STUART
DIRECTOR

April 21, 1971

AREA CODE 207
289-3821



Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
National Park Service
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
801 19th Street
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

On December 24, 1969 there were submitted fourteen advance nominations of State owned historic properties. A copy of the accompanying letter of that date is enclosed.

The time is now imminent, May 1, when completed nominations must be received in your office. You will, therefore, find thirteen completed nominations. There will be no nomination for one place and this place, "Montpelier", may need to be removed from the National Register of Historic Places. I know that you are aghast at this development. There are reasons for this and they now follow.

It was on November 6, 1969 that I first assumed duties with the State Park and Recreation Commission. It was in December of 1969 that this office received the National Register Newsletter, Vol. 11, No. 7 requesting advance nominations. It was on December 9, 1969 that I first met with the Advisory Committee on Historic Sites to the State Park and Recreation Commission whose members are the Review Body for Maine nominations to the National Register. These people and the National Register program were both new to me. A copy of the minutes of that meeting are enclosed. "Montpelier," was recommended for a nomination and when it came time to forward advance nominations on December 24, 1969 it was included.

An error was made. "Montpelier", in Thomaston, Maine is a building. It was built in 1931 by the Knox Memorial Association through the generous gift of Mr. Cyrus Curtis. This building is an exact replica of the home of Gen. Henry Knox of Revolutionary War fame. Of the above fact I have long been well aware and equally so the Review Body members, as "Montpelier" is now owned by the State and administered by this Commission. This alone would not have excluded a National Register nomination, provided that this replica had been built on the site of the original Gen. Knox home. The site itself would be worthy. My recent investigation has developed the fact that this replica was built on a plot of land which is more than one mile from the original site of "Montpelier."

For your interest and understanding, I have enclosed in an envelope photographs of the replica and additional photos of the site of the original Montpelier. In this present day there remains an out building built in 1795

Dr. William J. Murtagh

2

April 21, 1971

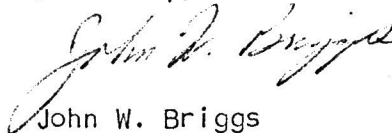
which was associated with Montpelier. The immediate area today about the site of the original Montpelier is crossed on one part by a railroad and over the balance are a construction company's office building and a lumber yard.

It is conceivable that a nomination could be developed for this true site, but the physical environment at this time negates that in my opinion.

If you should have any insights on this problem and will relate them to me, I will do anything I can to correct this problem.

Dr. Murtagh, I deeply regret the implications stated in this letter. It may cause you embarrassment. Errors do creep in.

Sincerely,



John W. Briggs
Historian

JWB/pk

Enc.