

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

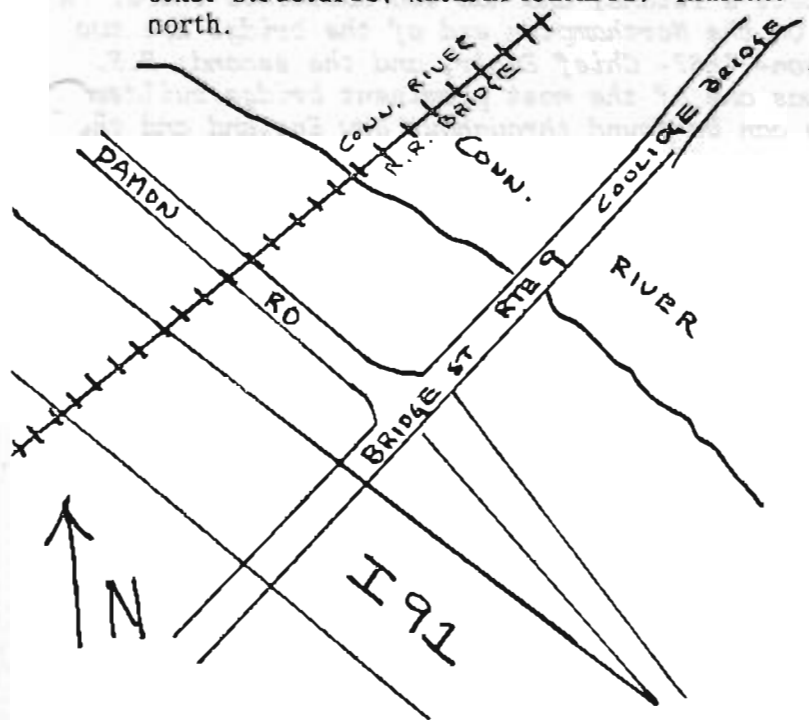


Northampton  
 crossing Connecticut River  
 (north of Rt. 9)  
 Connecticut River Railroad Bridge  
 use railroad bridge  
 owner

of structure (check one)

- gate \_\_\_\_\_
- kiln \_\_\_\_\_
- lighthouse \_\_\_\_\_
- other \_\_\_\_\_
- pound \_\_\_\_\_
- powder house \_\_\_\_\_
- street \_\_\_\_\_
- tower \_\_\_\_\_
- tunnel \_\_\_\_\_
- wall \_\_\_\_\_
- windmill \_\_\_\_\_

4. Map. Draw sketch of structure location in relation to nearest cross streets, buildings, other structures, natural features. Indicate north.



5. Description

Date 1837  
 Source plaque on bridge  
 Construction material iron  
 Dimensions 10' x 1500'  
 Setting near I-93 and Rt. 9  
 Condition good

6. Recorded by E. Lonergan  
 Organization NHC  
 Date May 1980

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE  
 USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_  
 MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Original use railroad bridge

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

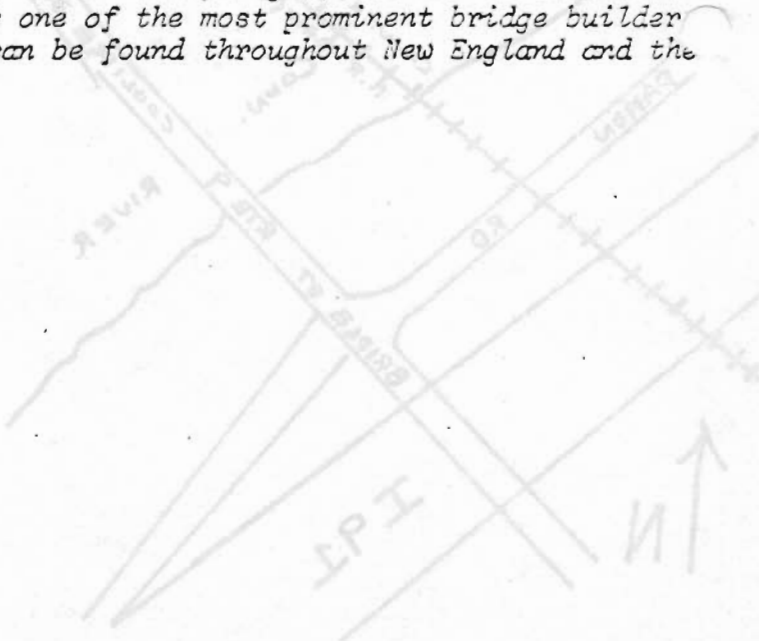
8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

- |                       |       |                            |       |                         |       |
|-----------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| Aboriginal            | _____ | Conservation               | _____ | Recreation              | _____ |
| Agricultural          | _____ | Education                  | _____ | Religion                | _____ |
| Architectural         | _____ | Exploration/<br>settlement | _____ | Science/<br>Invention   | _____ |
| The Arts              | _____ | Industry                   | _____ | Social/<br>humanitarian | _____ |
| Commerce              | _____ | Military                   | _____ | Transportation          | _____ |
| Communication         | _____ | Political                  | _____ |                         |       |
| Community development | _____ |                            |       |                         |       |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

*This bridge was built for the Mass. Central Railroad. The line split off the main north-south railroad in the center of town and headed east north of ridge St. After crossing the river the railroad continued east through Hadley and Belchertown to a junction with the Athol line.*

*The bridge crosses over Elwell's Island, and has two abutments there. All of the abutments are made of granite. On the Northampton end of the bridge are two oval plaques. The first states: G.M. Tompson- 1887- Chief Eng'r, and the second: R.F. Hawkins- Builder- Springfield. Mr Hawkins was one of the most prominent bridge builder of the late 19th century. His iron bridges can be found throughout New England and the surrounding states.*



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10. Bibliography and/or references such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.

*1884 and 1895 Atlases.*