

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	HLY.945
Historic Name:	NY, NH & H Railroad Bridge over Third Level Canal
Common Name:	Holyoke Mills Branch Railroad Bridge (#0.85)
Address:	
City/Town:	Holyoke
Village/Neighborhood:	Downtown
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Other Engineering; Other Transportation
Significance:	Engineering; Transportation
Area(s):	HLY.T: Holyoke Canal System
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (12/3/1980)



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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*** MASSHIGHWAY HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY ***

Town/City: Holyoke

MHD Dist.: 2

Facility Carried: n/f NY, NH, & H RR spur line
over

Feature Intersected: Third Level Canal overflow

Structure No:

Photo Nos.:

BDEPT No.: H-21-OFF-1

B.I.N.:

AASHTO Rating (date):

Common/Historic Name (source): former NY, NH & H RR Holyoke Mills Branch (Line 45) (Horn Track) Bridge No. 0.85, old number 778

National Register Eligibility Finding (by/date):

Year Built (source): 1878 (plaque, reported by Steven Schwartz, 1990; NY, NH & H RR bridge list gives 1879)

Years Rebuilt (source): 1917 - "steel trestle" constructed below (NY, NH & H RR bridge list)

Builder (source): Keystone Bridge Co. (plaque, reported by Steven Schwartz, 1990; also reported in NY, NH & H RR bridge list)

Designer (source):

Structural Type/Material: 910*

Single-span, pin-connected wrought iron Pratt through truss railroad bridge. Nine panels, with loop-welded counter-diagonals in three central panels only, eyebar diagonals in six panels flanking the central. Eyebar lower chords. Open deck.

*Since insertion of the "steel trestle" under the trusses in 1917, most loads are likely carried by the trestle rather than the original trusses. That trestle appears (from Steven Schwartz's 1990 photo) to be comprised of 8 timber pile bents (one under each truss lower panel point) carrying 2(?) steel beams which now support the original floorbeams(?) plus several intermediate sleepers in each panel.

Coursed brownstone ashlar masonry abutments.

Structure Length: ca. 143'

Length of Maximum Span: ca. 143'

Skew:

Deck Width (out-to-out):

Main Unit, No. Spans: 1

Lengths: ca. 143'

Approaches, No. Spans:

Lengths:

Plaque:

Location:

Alterations, unusual features, comments:

Visual Quality (bridge/setting): High ☐ Average ☐ Low ☐

BDEPT No: H-21-OFF-1

Site Integrity: Retained ☐ Lessened ☐ Violated ☐

Site Description:

On the western bank of the Connecticut River over the overflow/outlet channel of the Holyoke Canal system's Third Level Canal. Approximately 500' south of the Willimansett Bridge over the Connecticut (C-13-009/W-21-003).

History of Bridge and Site:

Sources: Steven Schwartz letter and photograph to Bill Smith, Massachusetts Historical Commission, July 13, 1990

BH:

RR:

Plans:

OBH:

Other: NY, NH & H RR bridge list (blueprint in MassDOT Bridge Section files, updated 9/21/1940)

Summary Statement of Significance:

Statement Prepared By:

Date:

Field Survey By:

Date:



Photo: Steven Schwartz, 1990