

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	NTH.906
Historic Name:	Coolidge, Calvin Memorial Bridge
Common Name:	
Address:	Bridge St
City/Town:	Northampton
Village/Neighborhood:	Northampton
Local No:	19-B
Year Constructed:	1939
Architect(s):	Desmond and Lord; Reidy, Maurice; Reidy, Maurice A.; W & L Engineering Company; W. and L. Engineering Company
Architectural Style(s):	Truss Warren with Verticals
Use(s):	Other Engineering; Other Transportation
Significance:	Engineering; Transportation
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	



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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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FORM F – STRUCTURE

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

19B	Easthampton		NTH.906 HAD.914
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Town/City: Northampton and Hadley

Place (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



Address or Location: Spanning the Connecticut River

Name: Calvin Coolidge Memorial Bridge

Ownership: *Public* *Private*

Type of Structure (*check one*):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> boat or ship | <input type="checkbox"/> pound |
| <input type="checkbox"/> canal | <input type="checkbox"/> powderhouse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> carousel | <input type="checkbox"/> street |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dam | <input type="checkbox"/> tower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fort | <input type="checkbox"/> tunnel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gate | <input type="checkbox"/> wall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> kiln | <input type="checkbox"/> windmill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lighthouse | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bridge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (<i>specify</i>) | |

Date of Construction: 1939

Source: Official Memorial Book

Architect, Engineer or Designer:

Maurice Reidy of Desmond & Lord, Consulting Architects
Boston; W & L Engineering Company. Consulting Engineers

Materials: concrete, steel

Alterations (*with dates*):

Highway Curbs Replaced, 1948,
Rehabilitated, 2003

Condition: good

Moved: *no* *yes* **Date:**

Acreage: Not Applicable

Setting: The bridge crosses the Connecticut River connecting towns of Northampton and Hadley in an east-west direction.

Locus Map

Please see attached continuation sheets.

Recorded by: Bonnie Parsons

Organization: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Date (*month / year*): March, 2011

RECEIVED

AUG 19 2011

MASS. HIST. COMM.

INVENTORY FORM F CONTINUATION SHEET

NORTHAMPTON/ HADLEY

BRIDGE STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	NTH.906 HAD.914
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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This bridge is on the National Register as part of the Hadley Center Historic District.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Describe important design features and evaluate in terms of other structures within the community.

The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Bridge is a steel and concrete Warren, continuous deck, single intersection, truss bridge that is 1,441 feet long and 50.8 feet wide. It is a five-span bridge resting on four concrete piers in the Connecticut River and anchored by abutments and approach walls at each end. As a Warren truss bridge the Coolidge Bridge has parallel chords between which are trusses arranged in equilateral triangles, and in this case they are reinforced by a vertical member for each triangular truss. The road bed is carried by the upper chord. The bridge approaches on both banks are composed of granite-faced abutments and approach walls scored into blocks, and each abutment is topped by two granite pylons, one at each side. The pylons, abutments and steel railings provide the ornament of the bridge that is visible to those crossing it; the Warren trusses are visible to those on the river. The pylons are scored granite blocks that rise from the land to tower over the bridge deck as four rectangular, battered monuments with flat-topped, stepped back upper stages of carved blocks ornamented with rows of scallop-shaped stones. Each corner of the pylon is carved with an Art Deco style eagle folding around its right angle. "Calvin Coolidge Memorial Bridge" is carved into bands on the road side of the pylons near their rooflines. In two of the pylons, the northwest and southeast, recessed bronze doors open to small rooms within the monuments. Bronze memorial plaques dedicated to Calvin Coolidge are mounted on the northeast and southwest pylons. In a 2003 bridge-widening, the pylons were made narrower to accommodate an extra lane for traffic on the deck, so the rooms are now narrower by approximately six feet so the rooms may have been largely reduced. Connecting the pylons across the bridge at each side of the roadway are 3 ½ feet high, ornamental steel railings beneath solid banisters, their steelwork rails formed into curved and geometric shapes. Light posts were originally attached to the railings with sodium fixtures but have been replaced by contemporary light fixtures. A pedestrian sidewalk is located on the north side of the bridge.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Explain the history of the structure and how it relates to the development of the community.

From the Forms B and F of 1980 and 1986 and the Massachusetts Historic Bridge Inventory Form and Recommendation, "The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Bridge was dedicated Oct. 12, 1939. Constructed of steel, the bridge rests on two concrete abutments and four concrete river piers. The architects were Desmond and Lord, of Boston, while Maurice Reidy and the W. & L. Engineering Co., also of Boston, served as consulting engineers. Builder was T. Stuart and Son Company.

Northampton and Hadley were two of the earliest towns in western Massachusetts, and were first joined by ferry across the Connecticut River in 1658. During 1803 a company was incorporated for the purpose of constructing a bridge. This first bridge was built in 1808 and was used for nine years. It was a wooden toll bridge. The next bridge was built from plans of Captain Isaac Damon, the well-known Northampton bridge builder and architect. This bridge was destroyed in 1824 by flood waters. In 1826 a new (third) covered bridge was built, under a joint contract with Captain Isaac Damon and Ithiel Towne. This bridge remained in use until 1877, when a tornado lifted it from the piers and dropped it into the water. The fourth bridge was an iron bridge, built in 1877 by the Canton Wrought Iron Bridge Co. of Ohio. During the early years of this century there was talk of a new bridge, but it wasn't until after the disastrous flood of 1936 that much was done about it as the Canton Wrought Iron Bridge was severely damaged. The fifth bridge, the Coolidge Bridge, was funded under the Hayden Cartwright Act, one of the numerous Federal aid programs designed to provide construction jobs during the Depression. The result was the present bridge, a memorial to Calvin Coolidge, 'Northampton's most notable contribution to U. S. history'. A plaque at the entrance to the bridge sums up his achievements.

1872-1933

Continuation sheet 1

INVENTORY FORM F CONTINUATION SHEET

NORTHAMPTON/ HADLEY

BRIDGE STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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Calvin Coolidge	1923-1929
Thirtieth President of the United States	1921-1928
Governor of Massachusetts	1919-1920
Lt. Governor of Massachusetts	1916-1918
President of the Massachusetts Senate	1914-1915
Massachusetts State Senator	1912-1915
Mayor of Northampton	1910-1911
Member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives	1907-1908

Born in Plymouth, Vermont July 4th 1872Died in Northampton Massachusetts January 5th 1933

A grateful State and Nation have erected this bridge in commemoration of his distinguished services.
1939"

The New York Times report on the event noted that 40,000 persons attended the dedication of the bridge, minus both the widow and son of the President who had other commitments. Governor Saltonstall led the dedication and the parade at the head of the Second Battalion, 104th Infantry. The Commissioner of Public Works, John W. Beal, presented the bridge to Hampshire County and it was accepted by John R. Callahan Jr., City Commissioner.

A correction to the above quoted forms is that Maurice Reidy was with Desmond and Lord, Architects, not W & L Engineering Company. According to the Massachusetts Historic Bridge Inventory completed by Steve Roper in 1986,..." this bridge is tied with the Turners Falls Bridge and the Sunderland Bridge as the 11th oldest of 18 single-intersection Warren deck truss bridges in the MDPW data base. The use of the long-span continuous truss for the three center spans makes the bridge more interesting technologically than the comparable Sunderland Bridge' the structurally similar Turner's Falls Bridge, though, with its deepened truss webs over the river piers and its much greater span lengths, is even more impressive than the Coolidge Memorial Bridge."

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

New York Times, October 13, 1939, "Northampton Opens Coolidge Bridge".

Beers, F. W. County Atlas of Hampshire Massachusetts, New York, 1873.Hales, John G. Plan of the Town or Northampton in the County of Hampshire, 1831.Miller, D. L. Atlas of the City of Northampton and Town of Easthampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, 1895.Walker, George H. and Company. Atlas of Northampton City, Massachusetts, Boston, 1884.Walling, Henry F. Map of Hampshire County, Massachusetts, New York, 1860.Farmer, Greg. Massachusetts Historical Commission Form F (Structure), April, 1986.

Lonergan, Edward. Massachusetts Historical Commission Form B .

Massachusetts Department of Public Works, Massachusetts Historic Bridge Inventory Form and Recommendation for National Register Eligibility , Completed by S.J Roper, MDPW, Historic Bridges Specialist November 24, 1986 (with Field Surveys Completed May 31, 1985 and September 17, 1985,)

Massachusetts Historical Commission Determination of Eligibility (MHC Opinion), W.Smith, March 23, 1987,

INVENTORY FORM F CONTINUATION SHEET

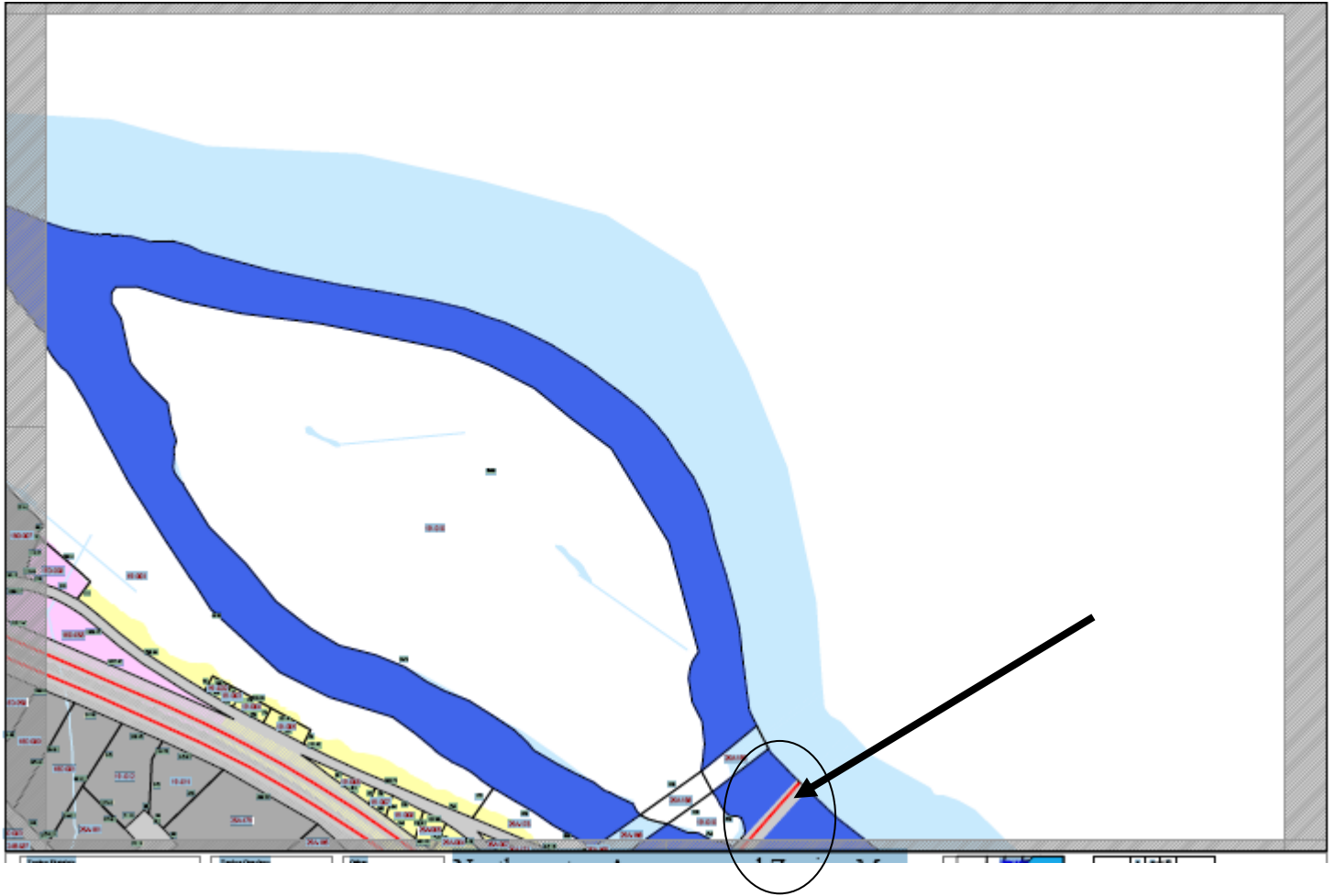
NORTHAMPTON/ HADLEY

BRIDGE STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	NTH.906 HAD.914
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INVENTORY FORM F CONTINUATION SHEET

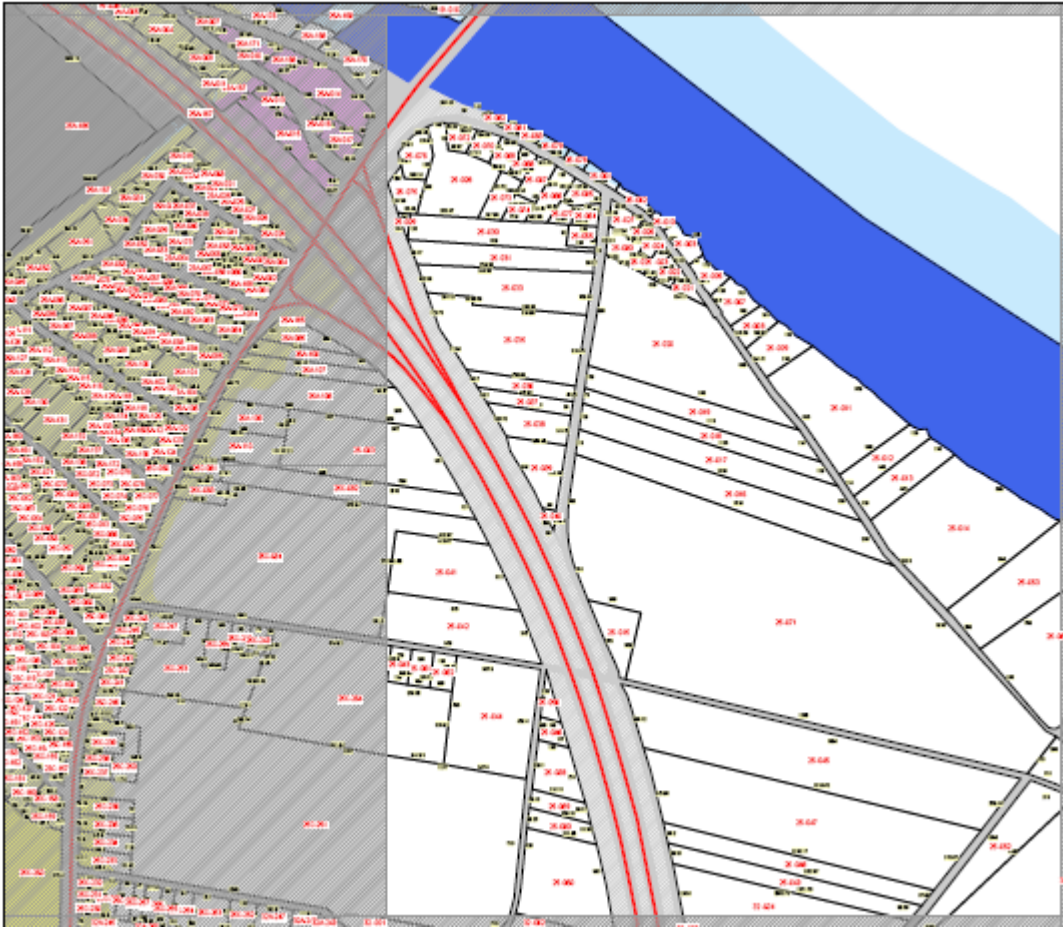
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BRIDGE STREET

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	NTH.906 HAD.914
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FORM F - STRUCTURE

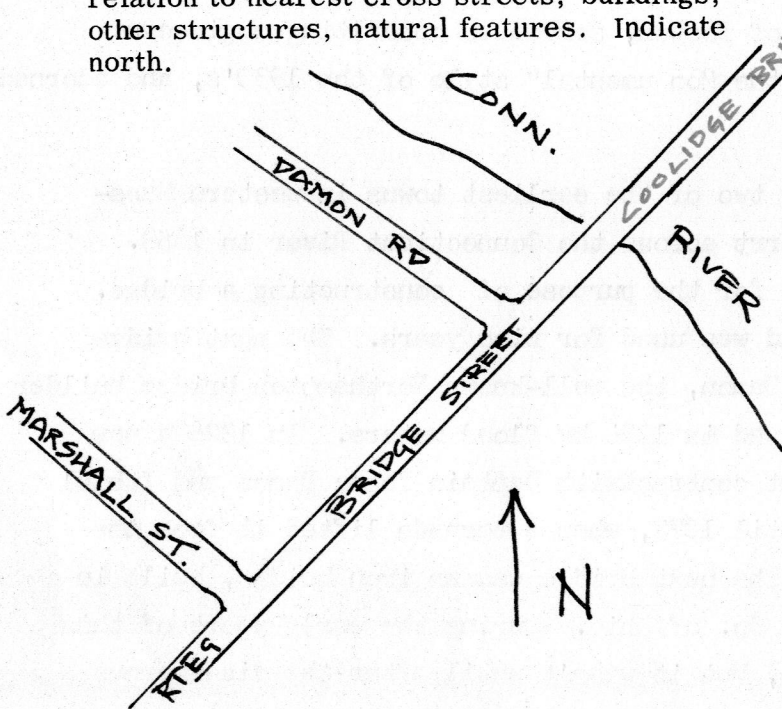
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

USGS-MT HOLY 143
In Area no. Form no. 19-B
906

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number

1. Town Northampton
Address connecting Bridge St. (Northampton)
to Russell St. (Hadley) across Conn. River.
Name Calvin Coolidge Memorial Bridge
Present use bridge
Present owner

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



3. Type of structure (check one)

bridge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	pound	<input type="checkbox"/>
canal	<input type="checkbox"/>	powder house	<input type="checkbox"/>
dam	<input type="checkbox"/>	street	<input type="checkbox"/>
fort	<input type="checkbox"/>	tower	<input type="checkbox"/>
gate	<input type="checkbox"/>	tunnel	<input type="checkbox"/>
kiln	<input type="checkbox"/>	wall	<input type="checkbox"/>
lighthouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	windmill	<input type="checkbox"/>
other	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Description
Date 1939
Source Official Memorial Book

Construction material steel on concrete
abutment
Dimensions 1440' long- 50' wide
Setting
Condition good

6. Recorded by E. lonergan
Organization NHC
Date Feb. 1980

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

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) County of Hampshire

Original use bridge

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	<u> x </u>
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

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

The Calvin Coolidge Memorial Bridge was dedicated Oct. 12, 1939. Constructed of steel, the bridge rests on two concrete abutments and four concrete river piers. The architects were Desmond and Lord, of Boston, while Maurice Reidy and the W. & L. Engineering Co., also of Boston, served as consulting engineers. The concrete abutments are designed in the "Monumental" style of the 1930's, and adorned with stylized eagles at the corners.

Northampton and Hadley were two of the earliest towns in western Massachusetts, and were first joined by ferry across the Connecticut River in 1658. During 1803 a company was incorporated for the purpose of constructing a bridge. This first bridge was built in 1808 and was used for nine years. The next bridge was built from plans of Captain Isaac Damon, the well-known Northampton bridge builder and architect. This bridge was destroyed in 1824 by flood waters. In 1826 a new covered bridge was built, under a joint contract with Captain Isaac Damon and Ithiel Towne. This bridge remained in use until 1877, when a tornado lifted it from the piers and dropped it into the water. The next bridge was an iron bridge, built in 1877 by the Canton Wrought Iron Bridge Co. of Ohio. During the early years of this century there was talk of a new bridge, but it wasn't until after the disastrous flood of 1936 that much was done about it. The result was the present bridge, a memorial to Calvin Coolidge, "Northampton's most notable contribution to U.S. history".

continued.

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

Calvin Coolidge Memorial Bridge- Official Souvenir and Tribute Book, Oct. 12, 1939, Northampton, MA.

NTH.906

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Northampton	Form No: 19-B
Property Name: Calvin Coolidge	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below. Memorial Bridge

9. Historical Significance.

A plaque at the entrance to the bridge sums up his achievements:

1872-1933

Calvin Coolidge

Thirtieth President of the United States	1923-1929
Vice President of the United States	1921-1928
Governer of Massachusetts	1919-1920
Lt. Governer of Massachusetts	1916-1918
President of the Massachusetts Senate	1914-1915
Massachusetts State Senator	1912-1915
Mayor of Northampton	1910-1911
Member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives	1907-1908

Born in Plymouth, Vermont July 4th 1872

Died in Northampton Massachusetts January 5th 1933

A grateful State and Nation have erected this bridge
in commemoration of his distinguished services.

1939

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

