

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	NTH.903
Historic Name:	Arch Street Bridge
Common Name:	New Haven and Northampton Railroad Overpass
Address:	
City/Town:	Northampton
Village/Neighborhood:	Leeds
Local No:	11B-A
Year Constructed:	C 1867
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Other Engineering; Other Rail Related; Other Transportation
Significance:	Engineering; Transportation
Area(s):	
Designation(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

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

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

11B-A

Easthampton

NTH.903

Town/City: Northampton

Place (*neighborhood or village*): Leeds

Photograph



Address or Location: Arch Street

Name: New Haven and Northampton Railroad Overpass
at Arch Street

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 type="checkbox"/> other (<i>specify</i>) Railroad overpass | |

Date of Construction: ca. 1867

Source: date of completion of railroad line

Architect, Engineer or Designer:

Materials: granite

Alterations (*with dates*):

Rails removed and rail bed became a rail trail.

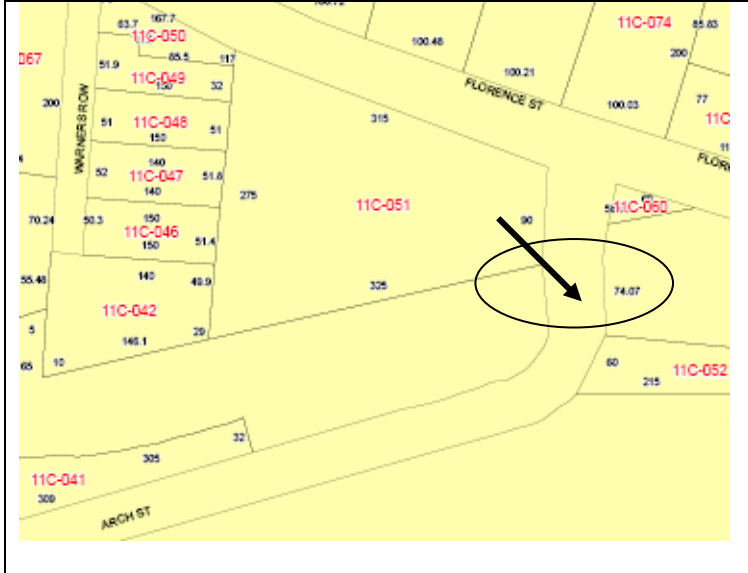
Condition: good

Moved: ☒ no ☐ yes **Date:**

Acreage: under one acre

Setting: The overpass is located in a residential area.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Bonnie Parsons

Organization: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Date (*month / year*): November 23, 2010

RECEIVED

AUG 19 2011

MASS. HIST. COMM.

INVENTORY FORM F CONTINUATION SHEET

NORTHAMPTON

ARCH STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

NTH.903

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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 Arch Street overpass is a stone arch approximately 17 feet high from pavement to overpass top, 24 feet deep measured along the inner face of the arch, and 40 feet wide from outer edge of wing to outer edge of wing. The arch is made of rough-faced granite blocks of varying size. There may be several blocks of stone other than granite in the mix, but the majority of the blocks are a grey granite. A row of keystones frames the arch; the balance of the stonework is made up of rows of random-sized blocks. All the stones are mortared together. At each side of the arch on both sides of the overpass wing walls curve toward the roadway and are laid in stepped, parapet fashion. Between the wing walls is a compacted earth berm that carries the rail trail to and away from the stone arch over the street.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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

From the Form F of 1980, "This large stone arch was built to carry the tracks of the Williamsburg division of the New Haven and Northampton Railroad over Arch Street just south of its junction with Florence Road. This branch railroad opened in 1867 and tied the industrial villages of Williamsburg as well as Leeds and Florence in Northampton to the main railroad line running north-south along the Connecticut River. The arch is similar in material, shape and design to the Beaver Brook Arch located off River Road, which is also for the Williamsburg division of the New Haven-Northampton Railroad."

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

PL - LEEDS

NTH 903

41

In Area no.	Form no.
	11B-A

903

1. Town Northampton
 Address Arch St.
(running under RR tracks)
 Name Arch St. Arch
 Present use Arch St. underpass
 Present owner _____

3. Type of structure (check one)

bridge	<u>x</u>	pound	_____
canal	_____	powder house	_____
dam	_____	street	_____
fort	_____	tower	_____
gate	_____	tunnel	_____
kiln	_____	wall	_____
lighthouse	_____	windmill	_____
other	_____		_____

5. Description

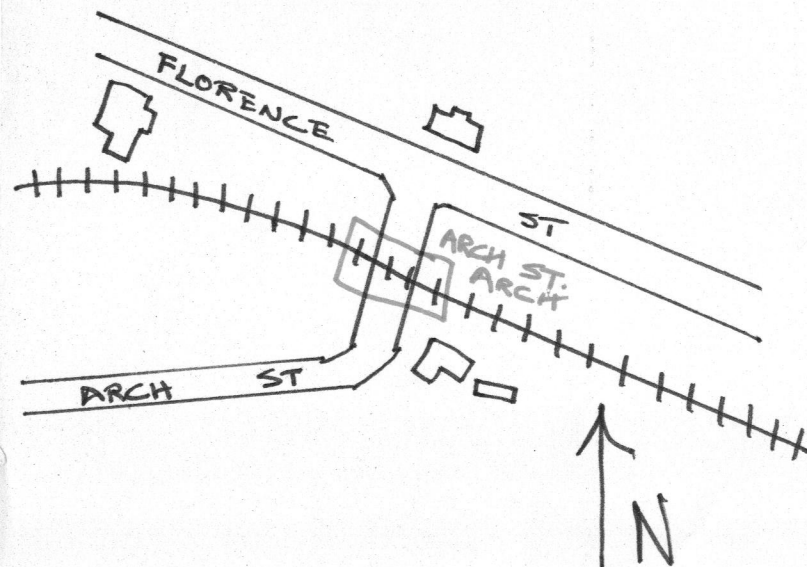
Date c. 1867
 Source _____
 Construction material stone
 Dimensions arch: 15' wide, 20' long
 Setting rural/suburban
 Condition good

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



ON
n

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ings,
licate



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

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) New Haven and Northampton Railroad
 Original use Railroad overpass
 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	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>x</u>				

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

This large stone arch was built to carry the tracks of the Williamsburg division of the New Haven and Northampton Railroad over Arch St. just south of its junction with Florence Road. This branch railroad opened in 1867 and tied the industrial villages of Williamsburg, as well as Leeds and Florence in Northampton to the main railroad line running north-south along the Connecticut River.

The arch is similar in material, shape and design to the Beaver Brook Arch located off River Road, which is also for the Williamsburg division of the New Haven-Northampton Railroad.

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

The Meadow City's Quarter-Millennial Book, 1904, p.83.

1860 County Map.

1873, 1884 and 1895 Atlases.