<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inventory No:</th>
<th>WSF.902</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historic Name:</td>
<td>Great River Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Name:</td>
<td>Westfield River Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City/Town:</td>
<td>Westfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village/Neighborhood:</td>
<td>Westfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local No:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Constructed:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architect(s):</td>
<td>Fay, Spofford and Thorndike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architectural Style(s):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use(s):</td>
<td>Other Engineering; Other Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance:</td>
<td>Engineering; Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area(s):</td>
<td>WSF.M: Elm Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designation(s):</td>
<td>Nat'l Register District (6/25/2013)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

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

This file was accessed on: Friday, March 07, 2014 at 4:14: AM
Date: April 29, 1981

Municipality: Westfield S.H. X N.S.H. ___

Route Name & Route #: Routes 10 & 202, N. Elm St.

Over

Route Name & Route #: Westfield River

Bridge No.: W-25-10 Bridge Key #: 020251034101 Dist. 2

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINATION OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Builders Contribution

Quantity

Unknown X Several Many

Name of Builder: Daniel O'Connell / Bethlehem Steel Co. fabricator (plaque)

Designer: Fay, Spofford & Thorndike, Engineers, Boston, Mass.

Plaque: Yes X No.

AGE: Pre 1850 1850-1900 1900-1930 1938-1939

TECHNICAL

Bridge Type: Steel Through Truss

Bridge Width: Roadway 40.0 ft., total width 51.0 ft.

Total Length of Bridge: 379'

Number of Spans: 2 Span Lengths: 184.0' 184.0'

Patented: Yes X No Unknown

Load Carrying Capacity: Adequate X Inadequate

Configuration: Unique Unusual X Common

Types of Materials: Concrete and steel

List Special Features and Modifications:

None

- upper chord angles turned in, creating a smooth, box-like appearance
- good original lamps on bracket arms on some verticals
- very good rivet-decorated pilastered entablature for the bronze builders plaque
- original "Boston type" handrail on approaches, modernized "Boston type" on bridge itself.
ENVIRONMENTAL

Aesthetics: Unusual _______ Good _______ Common X
Site Integrity: Retained X _______ Violated _______
History of Bridge and Area:

present bridge built on rehabilitated granite ashlar pier and abutments of earlier steel truss bridge

Unknown

ECONOMICS

Owner: Municipal _______ County _______ State X _______ Federal _______

R.R. _______

What is your recommendation?

Maintenance _______ Replacement _______ Rehabilitation X

Are materials available for Rehabilitation: Yes X _______ No _______

Is structure scheduled for replacement? Yes _______ No X

PHOTOS - INDICATE SHOTS TAKEN 31: 24A-29A

1. Setting
2. Builders Plaque
3. 3/4 View
4. Thru View
5. Under View
6. Elevation
7. Joint & Connections
8. Machinery
9. Decorative Features

COMMENTS & CONCLUSIONS

1. In your judgement, does this bridge have historic value? Yes _______ No X
2. Please explain your answer to #1

   This structure is a very common type. Not so. There are only 10 known continuous trusses in the MDPW database; the Great River Bridge is the 8th oldest of 14 single-intersection Warren through trusses in the database, and the oldest Warren through truss with polygonal upper chords. It has a variety of distinctive architectural and engineering details; aesthetically pleasing, if not outstanding, and in virtually untouched condition. Designed by a firm known as a leading pioneer in the improvement of the appearance of the cantilever and continuous truss bridge types. (see Carl Gondh, American Building, The Twentieth Century, pp 109-110, 345)

3. Additional Comments required on back of page.

   Additional comments by:

   reparer: John A. MacDonald
   title: Senior Civil Engineer
   date of Survey: April 28, 1981

   MDPW Historic Bridges Specialist
   13 March 1982

INCREASE TOPO SHEET SHOWING LOCATION
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey

Topography by planar surveys 1934. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, main land zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979
FROM N (7-17-85)

FROM SW (7-17-85)

FROM S (7-17-85)
MDPW RECOMMENDATION - NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY

Municipality: Westfield
Street on: N. Elm St. (US 308, ST 10)
No.: W-35-10

Historic evaluation

Significant because:
1) Unusual or unique type
   continuous 2-span single-intersection Warren through truss
   or rare survivor of common type

2) Early example of type

3) Design - Valuable contribution to bridge technology

4) Retains integrity
   Designer
   Fay, Spofford & Thorndike

5) Builder known and important

6) Bridge historically important to area

Not significant because:
1) Common type

2) Post-1931
   1938-39

3) Design - no contribution to bridge technology

4) Integrity lost because of: a) alterations
   b) disintegration

5) Builder unimportant or not known

6) No known significance in area

[X] Potentially eligible

Comments:
One of only 10 continuous trusses in the MDPW database; 6th oldest of 14 single-intersection Warren through trusses in the database; and the oldest Warren through truss w/ polygonal upper chords. Has a variety of distinctive architectural and engineering features; is aesthetically pleasing; is in virtually untouched condition; and was designed by a firm which was known for its improvements in the appearance of cantilever and continuous truss bridges.

19 March 1986

S.J. Roper  MDPW Historic Bridges Specialist
TO: Sally E  
FROM: Bill Smith  
DATE: 7/26/96  
TOWN: Westfield  
PROPERTY: W-25-10 north 5/10 sf over westfield river  
(NAME AND ADDRESS)

1. Does this property meet the criteria for NR eligibility?  
☐ YES  
☐ NO  

A. Criteria  
b. lives  
c. characteristics  
d. information  

B. Local: State: National: 

2. Statement of Significance: OR Why not eligible?  
1938-1939  
span warren through trusses  
with polygonal upper chords:  

one of few known continuous trusses in state,  
virtually untouched condition and has distinctive  
architectural and engineering feature:

☐ DOE LETTER WRITTEN  
FILED IN ER FILE:  
(DATE)
Westfield W-25-10 N. Elm St. over Westfield River

1938 two span with polygonal upper chords. Is in virtually untouched condition. Designed by Fay, Spofford & Thorndike.

The following bridges do not appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athol</td>
<td>A-15-7</td>
<td>Exchange St. over Millers River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>B-16-232</td>
<td>I-93 over Charles River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>C-1-20</td>
<td>Alewife Brook Plwy. over B &amp; M R.R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MHC determined not eligible January 30, 1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall River/Somerset</td>
<td>F-2-58/S-16-8</td>
<td>I-95 over Taunton River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MHC determined not eligible May 20, 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Barrington</td>
<td>G-11-2</td>
<td>Division St. over Housatonic River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Barrington</td>
<td>G-11-8</td>
<td>Brookstone Rd. over Housatonic River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence</td>
<td>L-4-22</td>
<td>So. Union St. over B &amp; M R.R.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee</td>
<td>L-5-11</td>
<td>Center St. over Housatonic River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>MHC determined not eligible July 7, 1980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ludlow/Wilbraham</td>
<td>L-16-3/W-35-1</td>
<td>Miller St. over Chicopee River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malden</td>
<td>M-1-5</td>
<td>Mountain Ave. over MBTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northfield</td>
<td>N-22-14</td>
<td>East Northfield Rd. over B &amp; M R.R.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Double-Intersection Warren Through Trusses

The following bridge was listed as a contributing element in the Turners Falls National Register Historic District May 10, 1982.

Montague M-28-16 Sixth St. over power canal

The following bridges appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Buckland/Shelburne B-28-22/S-11-1 Bridge St. over Deerfield River

1890 three span bridge is the second oldest Warren through truss in Massachusetts. Significant architectural details include latticed railing/portal bracing and builders plate. A visual landmark and an integral part of an historic village. Determined eligible by the Acting Keeper of the National Register December 17, 1981.
Groton

1898 one span bridge is the third oldest of its type in the state. Built by the Berlin Iron Bridge Company, it is set in a picturesque wooded rural area. The bridge retains integrity with only minor alterations. Determined potentially eligible by the MHC November 23, 1982.

Lawrence

1888 five span bridge is the oldest known Warren through truss in Massachusetts and is an integral part both visually and historically of the mill city of Lawrence.

Montague

Rare 1916 three span bridge is a unique triple barreled Warren through truss. There is no upper lateral bracing on the center roadway section. This bridge may be one of a kind.

Worcester

1910 one span Warren truss is an outstanding example of an unusual type of design.

The following bridge does not appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Boston

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact William Smith at this office.

Sincerely,

Valerie A. Talmage
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

cc: Mr. Robert McDonagh, MDPW
c/o Mr. Frank Bracaglia

VAT/WS/dr
Mr. James A. Walsh
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Transportation Systems Center
55 Broadway - 10th Floor
Cambridge, MA 02142

ATTN: Mr. H. Pearlman

RE: Warren Through Metal Bridges

Dear Mr. Walsh:

The Massachusetts Historical Commission staff has reviewed the historic bridge inventory forms prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works. The MHC concurs with the preliminary findings of the MDPW that the following bridges appear to meet criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Single-Intersection Warren Through Trusses**

- **Florida/Rowe**
  - F-5-1/R-10-5
  - Rowe RD over Deerfield River
  - 1916 unaltered two span bridge is the third oldest of its type in the state. On an historic crossing leading to the former Hoosac Tunnel station on the B & M R.R., the bridge remains today in a very picturesque rural setting.

- **Holyoke**
  - H-21-32
  - B & M R.R. over Lyman St.
  - 1928 one span bridge is notable for its skew and sliding bearing in its approach span. Located within the Holyoke Canal System National Register Historic District.
Westfield
Mass. Elm Street at the Westfield River
Great River Bridge
Bridge
Bridge
Commonwealth of Mass.

6. Recorded by  S. Heyl
Date  5/84

5. Description
Date  1939
Source  plaque on bridge
Construction material  steel
Dimensions
Setting  Major highway over Wfld. River
Condition  good

4. Name of structure (check one)

-  ___ pound
-  ___ powder house
-  ___ street
-  ___ tower
-  ___ tunnel
-  ___ wall
-  ___ windmill
-  ___ kiln
-  ___ lighthouse
-  ___ other

3. Relation of structure to nearest cross streets, buildings, other structures, natural features. Indicate north.

2. Present use  Bridge
Present owner

1. In Area no.  M
Form no.  902

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

SM-572-075074

(over)
7. Original owner (if known) Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Original use Bridge

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates

8. Historical significance.

The Great River Bridge was constructed in 1938-39 by the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works. The bridge is located at the site of numerous previous bridges that connected the "North Side" with downtown Westfield, including the old covered bridge which burned in June, 1896. Construction was supervised by the Board of Public Works of the City of Westfield, aided by Hampden County and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Works. Engineers were Fay, Spoffard and Thorndike. The General Contractor was Daniel O'Connell's Sons Inc. The super-structure was fabricated by the Bethlehem Steel Co.

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

Plummer, Edgar H. Westfield Welcome Home Celebration Westfield, Massachusetts: Sterling Press, 1946

p. 7