

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	WSF.941
<b>Historic Name:</b>	NY, NH & H Railroad Bridge #60.36
<b>Common Name:</b>	Pioneer Valley Railroad Bridge over Westfield Rvr
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>City/Town:</b>	Westfield
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Westfield
<b>Local No:</b>	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	
<b>Use(s):</b>	Other Engineering; Other Rail Related; Other Transportation
<b>Significance:</b>	Engineering; Transportation
<b>Area(s):</b>	WSF.M: Elm Street WSF.N: Westfield Center Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (6/25/2013)



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on:

Friday, March 07, 2014 at 4:19: AM

\* MASSHIGHWAY HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY \*

Town/City: Westfield MHD Dist: 2

Facility Carried: Pioneer Valley RR  
Over

Features Intersected: Westfield River

Structure Number: - Photo # #: 97:12,13; 245:29-36; 246:00-0

BDEPT#: W-25-OFF-1 B.I.N.: - AASHTO (date): -

Common/Historic Name: NY, NH & H RR line # 65, bridge # 60.36 (old # 673)

\*\*\*\*\*  
National Register eligibility finding (by/date): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
Year Built (source): 1910 (plate)

Years Rebuilt (source): raised 1919 (NY, NH & H RR bridge list)

Builder (source): Boston Bridge Works (plate)

Designer (source): \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
Structural Type/Material: Stl (riv)

2-span, riveted steel, double-intersection with hip and sub-verticals Warren through truss.  
Open floor; single-track RR line on bridge. Collision struts and sub-verticals in end panels.

concrete pier; N abutment is large-block granite ashlar lengthened and raised with concrete; S abutment not seen.

Structure Length: 325' 4" Length of Maximum Span: 161'

Skew: \_\_\_\_\_ Deck Width Out to Out: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Unit, # Spans: 2 Lengths: both 161' 0"

Approaches, # Spans: - Lengths: -

Plaque: 1 Location: SE end post of Sky truss.

Alterations, unusual features, comments:

Limited inspection from off the bridge did not reveal any obvious alterations, beyond the 'raising' of 1919.

Visual Quality (bridge/setting): High  Average  Low

Site Integrity: Retained  Lessened  Violated

Site Description: Stark geometry of trusses is striking against the wooded riverbanks stretching W., but the built elements of surroundings are less impressive -- scruffy, working RR yard to N, foundations and remnants of whip factories, warehouses along riverbanks S. of bridge.

History of Bridge and Site:

NY, NH & H RR bridge list says built for \$32,600.; original weight of steel in the bridge 916,034 lbs.

Sources: NY, NH & H RR bridge list (blueprint copy in MHD Bridge Section)  
BH No Mansfield Merriman and Henry S. Jacoby, A Textbook on Roofs and Bridges: Part III  
RR No  
Plans No Bridge Design, 4th Ed. (1902) pp. 356-57; and 5th Ed. (1912) pp. 376-78.

OBH 1928 photos

\*\*\*\*\*

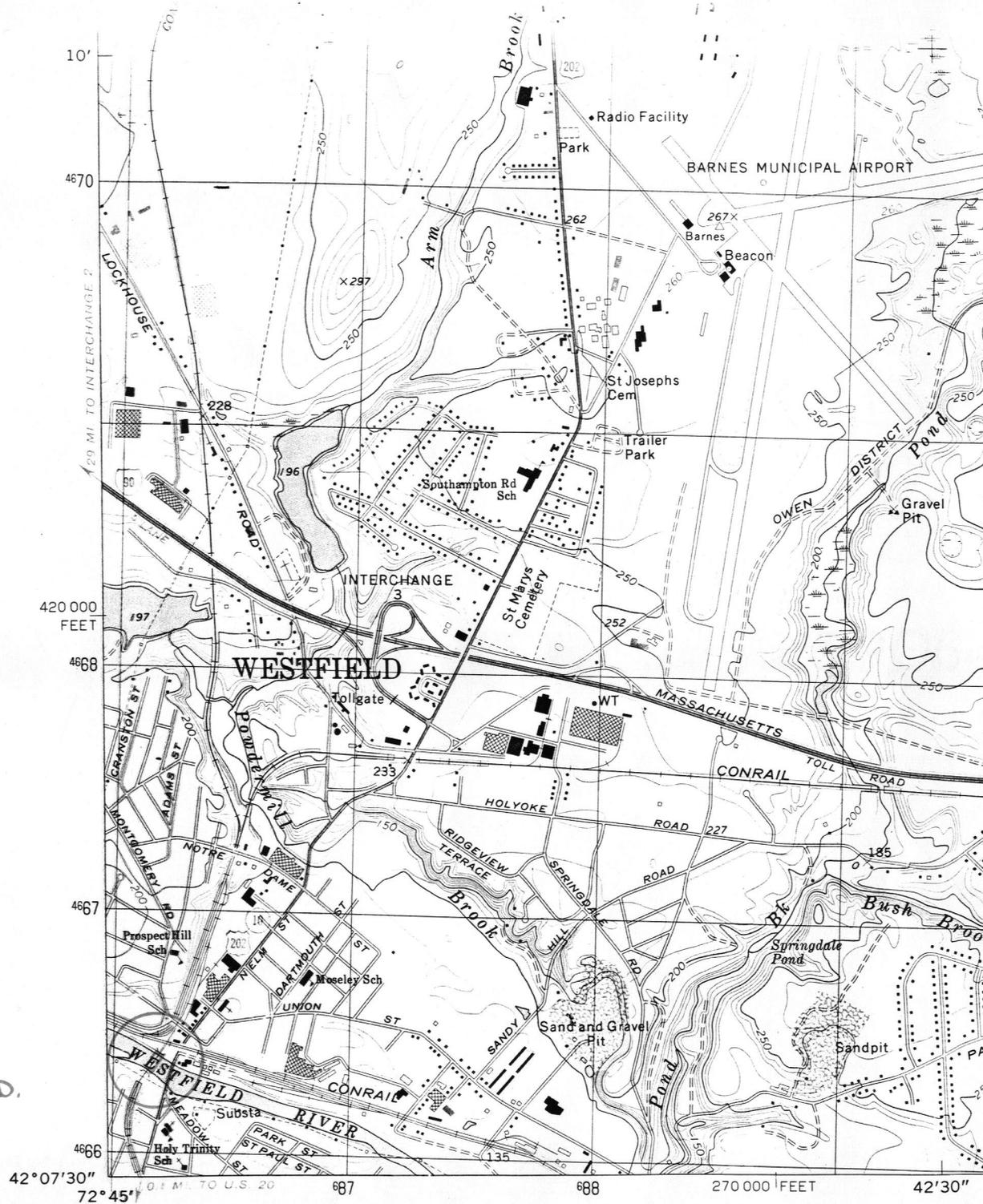
Summary Statement of Significance:

A well-preserved example of an uncommon metal truss bridge type -- the riveted, double-intersection Warren with sub-verticals through truss -- used primarily for railroad bridges around the turn of the century. This was not the most commonly used riveted truss type even among the railroad bridges of that period, as single-intersection versions of the Warren, Pratt, Parker, and Baltimore truss types were preferred. It is not known how many railroad bridges of this uncommon type still exist in Massachusetts. There are, however, just 7 double-intersection Warren through truss bridges identified in the MHD database, and only 2 of these 7 utilize sub-verticals. One of these (B-16-16A) is a lightly built 1901 highway bridge in Boston; the other is a massively constructed, double-barreled railroad bridge (W-44-140) built in Worcester in 1910. The Westfield bridge is similar to these but is distinguished by its multiple spans and its use of an open floor system. In an attractive but somewhat altered landscape setting

Statement Prepared By: S.J. Roper Date: 7-10-95

\*\*\*\*\*  
Field Survey By: S.J. Roper, MHD Historic Bridge Specialist Date: 8-20-87  
4-18-95

WSF. 941



W-25-OFF-1  
MT TOM QUAD.

(SOUTHWICK)  
6468 III SE

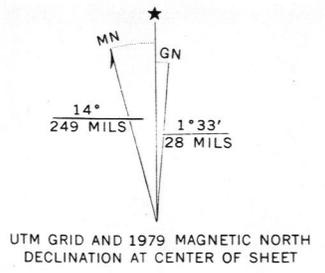
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey

Topography by planetable 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

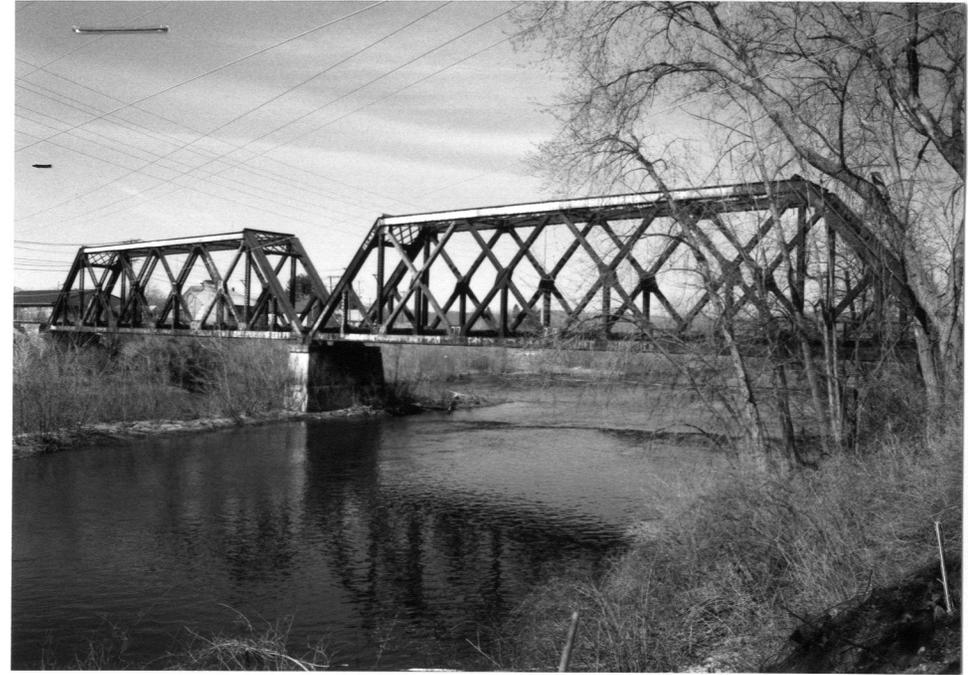
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of  
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other  
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



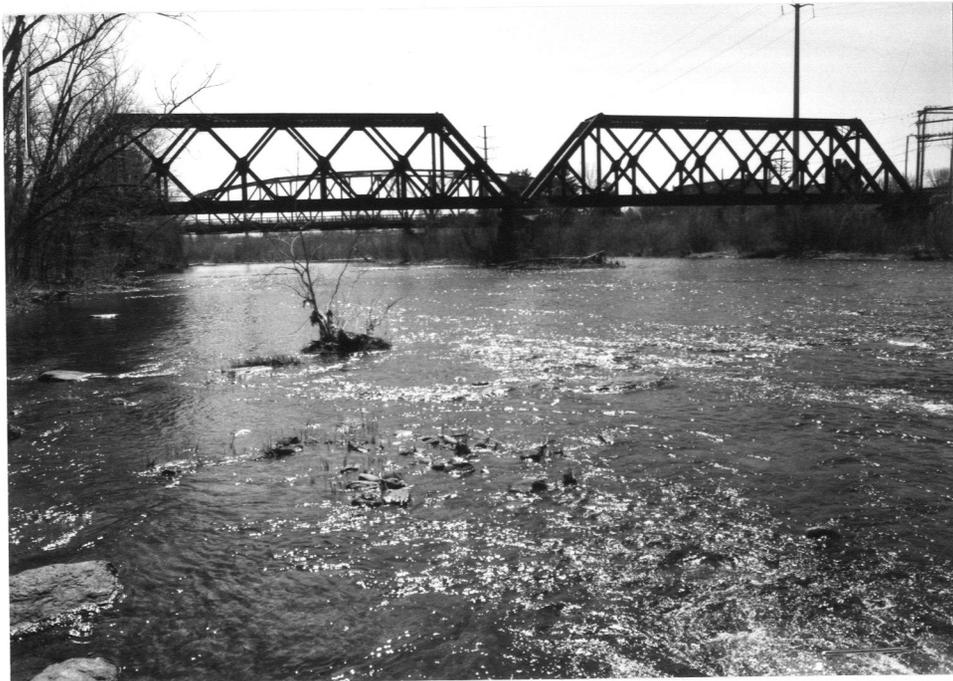
UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



FROM SE (4-18-95)



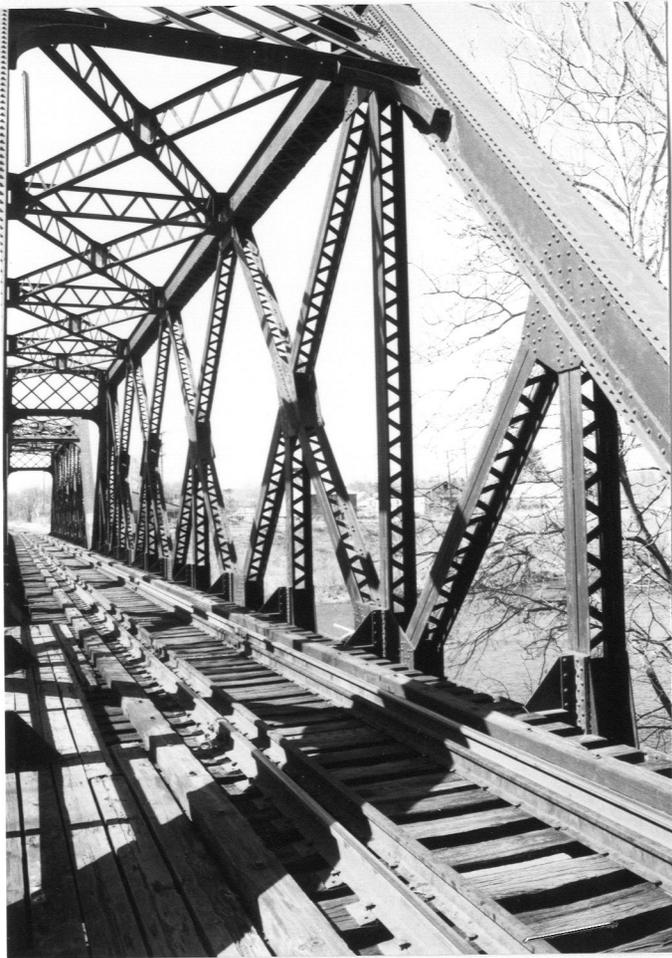
FROM NE (4-18-95)



FROM NW (4-18-95)



FROM S (4-18-95)



WESTERLY TRUSSES, FROM NE  
(4-18-95)



FROM SW (8-20-87)



FROM NE (4-18-95)



N SPAN, FROM NE (4-18-95)



N ABUTMENT (4-18-95)



N SPAN, FROM NE (4-18-95)



ON SE ENDPOST OF S TRUSS (8-20-87)



SOUTHERLY SPAN, FROM SW (4-18-95)

**MHD HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY**

**MHD RECOMMENDATION - NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY**

Municipality	On/Over	BDEPT#
Bridge: <u>Westfield</u>	<u>Pioneer Valley RR/ Westfield R.</u>	<u>W-25-OFF-1</u>

Historic evaluation

Significant because:

- 1) Unusual ~~or unique~~ type *double-intersection Warren w/ sub-verticals through truss*
- 2) Early example of type
- 3) Design - valuable contribution to bridge technology
- 4) Retains integrity
- 5) Builder known and <sup>somewhat</sup> important *Doston Bridge Works*
- 6) Bridge historically important to area

Not significant because:

- 1) Common type
- 2) Less than 50 years old
- 3) Design - no contribution to bridge technology
- 4) Integrity lessened because of: alterations   
deterioration
- 5) Builder unimportant or not known
- 6) No known significance in area

Potentially eligible       Not eligible  
 Not eligible individually, but located       Conditionally not eligible; review when 50 years old

Comments: A well-preserved example of an uncommon metal truss bridge type, distinguished by its multiple spans. In an attractive if somewhat altered setting.

Prepared by: *S.J. Roper, MHD Historic Bridge Specialist*      Date: 7-10-95

**NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY OPINION**

TO: **Betsy Friedberg**  
DATE **11/4/95**  
FROM: **W. Smith**

RETURN TO REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

TOWN: **Westfield**

PROPERTY : **(W-25-off-1) Pioneer Valley Rail Road over Westfield River**  
(MHD NO. AND ADDRESS)

COMMON/HISTORIC NAME: **NY, NH, &H RAILROAD LINE # 65.36**

1. Does this property meet the criteria for National Register eligibility?

<u>Individually</u>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	As a <u>contributing</u> element in a National Register District?	YES
	NO		NO
		Located within, or adjacent to a historic district or potentially eligible historic district?	YES NO
A. <u>Criteria</u>		More information needed	YES NO
A. Events			
B. Lives			
C. Characteristics			
D. Information			

B. <u>Level</u>	Local	State	National
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2. Statement of Significance or why not eligible?

**1910 Two spans, riveted double intersection with hip and sub verticals Warren through truss. Concrete pier and abutments are large granite ashlar blocks.**

**An unaltered example of an uncommon bridge type. One of eight double intersection Warren though truss bridges in Massachusetts and one of three Warren through truss bridges that has sub verticals members.**

Determination of Eligibility Letter Written

Filed in ER File (Date)

CONCUR. INDIVIDUALLY ELIGIBLE,

T. ADAMS  
7 DEC 95



December 11, 1995

Mr. Donald E. Hammer  
 Division Administrator  
 Federal Highway Administration  
 Transportation Systems Center  
 55 Broadway--10 Floor  
 Cambridge, MA 02142

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
 William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
 Massachusetts Historical Commission

ATTN.: Mr. Edwin P. Holahan

RE: Massachusetts Bridges, National Register Eligibility

Dear Mr. Hammer:

The Massachusetts Historical Commission has reviewed the historic bridge inventory forms prepared by the Massachusetts Highway Department and offer the following comments.

**The Massachusetts Historical Commission has reviewed the historic bridge inventory form prepared by the Massachusetts Highway Department and concurs with the preliminary finding of the MHD that the following bridge appears to meet criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.**

Westfield

W-25-off-1

Pioneer Valley Rail Road over Westfield River

1910 Two spans, riveted double intersection with hip sub verticals Warren through truss. Abutments are constructed of large granite ashlar blocks. An unaltered example of an uncommon bridge type. One of only eight double intersection Warren through truss bridges in Massachusetts and one of three Warren truss bridges that has sub vertical members.

**The following bridges did not appear to meet National Register criteria for individual listing. However, the bridges are within, or adjacent to an historic district or potentially eligible historic district, and plans for replacement should take into consideration potential impact to adjacent properties.**

Boston

B-16-237

State 2A/Massachusetts Avenue over Commonwealth Avenue

Bridge is within the Back Bay National Register Historic District, Back Bay Architectural District, and the Commonwealth Ave Mall Local Landmark District.

Cummington

C-21-4

Plainfield Road over Westfield River

Bridge is adjacent to late 18th century\19th century rural village of Cummington.

Groton/Pepperell

G-14-5/P-6-1

State 119 over Nashua River

Bridge is adjacent to potentially eligible historic district (inventory nos. Gro. 73 and Gro. 74)

Townsend

T-7-1

South Street over Squannacook River

Bridge is located within the Townsend Harbor Local Historic District