

The following property is a component of the **Hudson Highlands Multiple Property Resource Area**. The cover form for the multiple resource area is filed under Dutchess County. The resource area includes properties in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester Counties. Please note that the individual nomination-registration forms were not prepared for the 58 properties and historic districts that are components of the multiple resource area. Instead, the documentation was provided on expanded Building-Structure or District Inventory Forms.

Please see the cover form for contextual information about the components of the Hudson Highland Multiple Resource Area.

# BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. 087-05-0035  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR NAME: Elise M. Barry DATE: 4/29/82

YOUR ADDRESS: Cedar La., Rhinebeck, N.Y. TELEPHONE: 914-876-4931

ORGANIZATION (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

## IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Bear Mountain Bridge and toll house  
2. COUNTY: Rockland TY: Stony Point  
3. STREET LOCATION: Rte 6/202; over Hudson River  
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☒ b. private ☐  
5. PRESENT OWNER: N.Y.S. Bridge Authority ADDRESS: Highland, N.Y.  
6. USE: Original: bridge/toll house Present: same  
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐  
Interior accessible: Explain toll house-during business hours

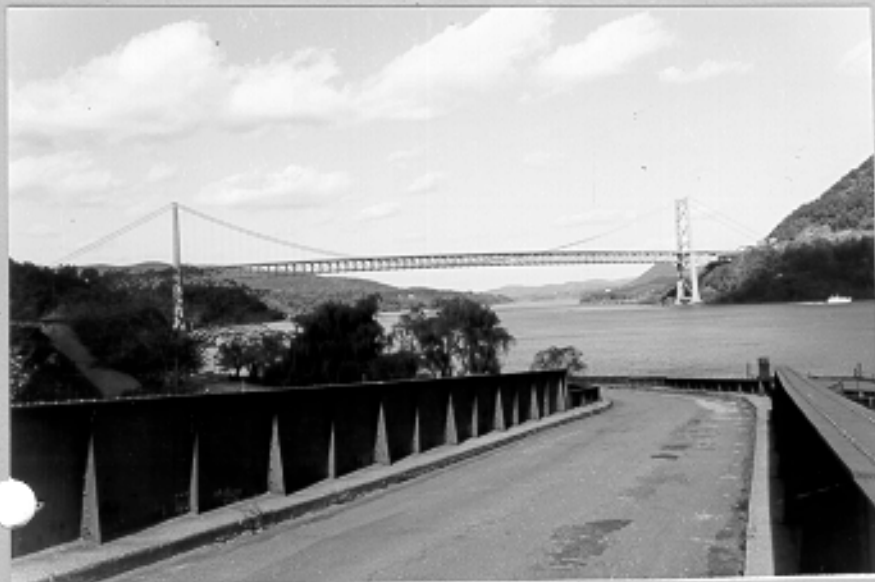
## DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☒ c. brick ☐ d. board and batten ☐  
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other: steel  
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐  
(if known) b. wood frame with light members ☐  
c. masonry load bearing walls ☒-toll house  
d. metal (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
e. other steel towers and wire cables  
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☐ b. good ☒ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐  
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

see attached maps



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☒ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐  
 d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐  
 f. other: \_\_\_\_\_
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:  
 a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐  
 d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐  
 g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐  
 i. landscape features: \_\_\_\_\_  
 j. other: toll house
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):  
 a. open land ☒ b. woodland ☒  
 c. scattered buildings ☐  
 d. densely built-up ☐ e. commercial ☐  
 f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☐  
 h. other: Hudson River

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

The Bear Mountain Bridge spans the Hudson River from Anthony's Nose on the east to Popolopen Creek and Fort Clinton on the west. The toll house faces north. It is situated at the western end of the span with modern toll booths west of it. The Palisades Interstate Park begins at the west end of the bridge and also lies south of it.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):  
 The specifications for the bridge called for a suspension bridge across the Hudson River having steel towers with a suspension span and wire cables to be located three miles above Peekskill and forty-five miles from Times Square. The main span was 32 ft. longer than that of the Williamsburg bridge, which was the longest suspension bridge in the world, in 1922. The bridge rises 153 ft. above the Hudson River. The two steel towers

**SIGNIFICANCE**

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1923-24 (see continuation sheet)

ARCHITECT: bridge- Howard C. Baird; unknown

BUILDER: Terry & Tench Construction Co., Carey Construction Co.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

In 1922 the New York State Legislature authorized a privately owned toll bridge to be built across the Hudson at Bear Mountain. It was the first bridge built south of Albany. The Poughkeepsie railroad bridge was the only other bridge on the river. The plans were approved by the State engineers, the War Dept., and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. It was the first bridge built with steel cables. In order to anchor the main cables, large shafts were blasted into the mountains on each side, 60 ft. below the surface on the east and 100 ft. on the west, removing 2,500 to 3,000 yards of granite. The Harriman family, through the Bear Mountain - Hudson River Bridge Co., built the bridge at a cost of \$6,000,000.00. It was begun on March 24, 1923 and opened for traffic on Thanksgiving Day, (see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES:

The Historic Hudson. vol. 2, no 2., June 1923., 'The Bear Mountain Bridge'.

22. THEME:

early-20th century bridge construction and design and commercial architecture

Historic Resources of the Hudson Highlands  
Bear Mountain Bridge and toll house  
Rockland and Westchester Counties, NY

18. are 355 ft. above their foundation piers which are set in solid rock on the river banks. These towers hold the 18 in. cables which support the 1632 ft. suspension span. The total length of the bridge is 2257 ft.. The asphaltic concrete roadway is 38 ft. wide with a 5 ft. sidewalk on each side.

The toll house on the west side of the Bear Mountain Bridge is a random-coursed, rustic stone structure composed of three parts: a one and one-half story gate keeper's residence, a three story tower and a single story wing. The entire structure is covered by a slate roof of an irregular pattern. The main entrance to the gate keeper's residence is framed with light sandstone quoins and a keystone and is flanked by banks of metal casement windows. The tower, with its pyramidal roof and octagonal metal cupola separates the main block of the building from the smaller wing on the western end. The north facade of the tower has a half timbered oriel with diamond paned windows projecting from the second story. The building also has shallow hipped roof dormers and stone chimneys.

20. November 27, 1924. In 1940 the State purchased it for \$2,275,000.00, although originally the bridge was to revert to the State at no cost after 30 years of private operation. The Bear Mountain Bridge is significant as a structure which possesses historic value. It is also significant as an important event in the history of transportation in the Hudson Highlands.

The toll house was begun and completed with the bridge. In 1940 when the State purchased the bridge, road and toll houses, it discontinued use of the road toll and collected tolls from the bridge toll house. Before 1940, the toll to cross the bridge was 80¢ for cars and driver plus 10¢ for each passenger. Pedestrians also paid 10¢. In 1940 the flat rate became 50¢. This is the most important structure of its type in the survey area. The architectural design is eclectic, containing elements of the Tudor, Elizabethan and English cottage styles. Of note are the steep slate roof, tower and stone construction. The toll house is a significant contributing element to the Bear Mountain Bridge.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

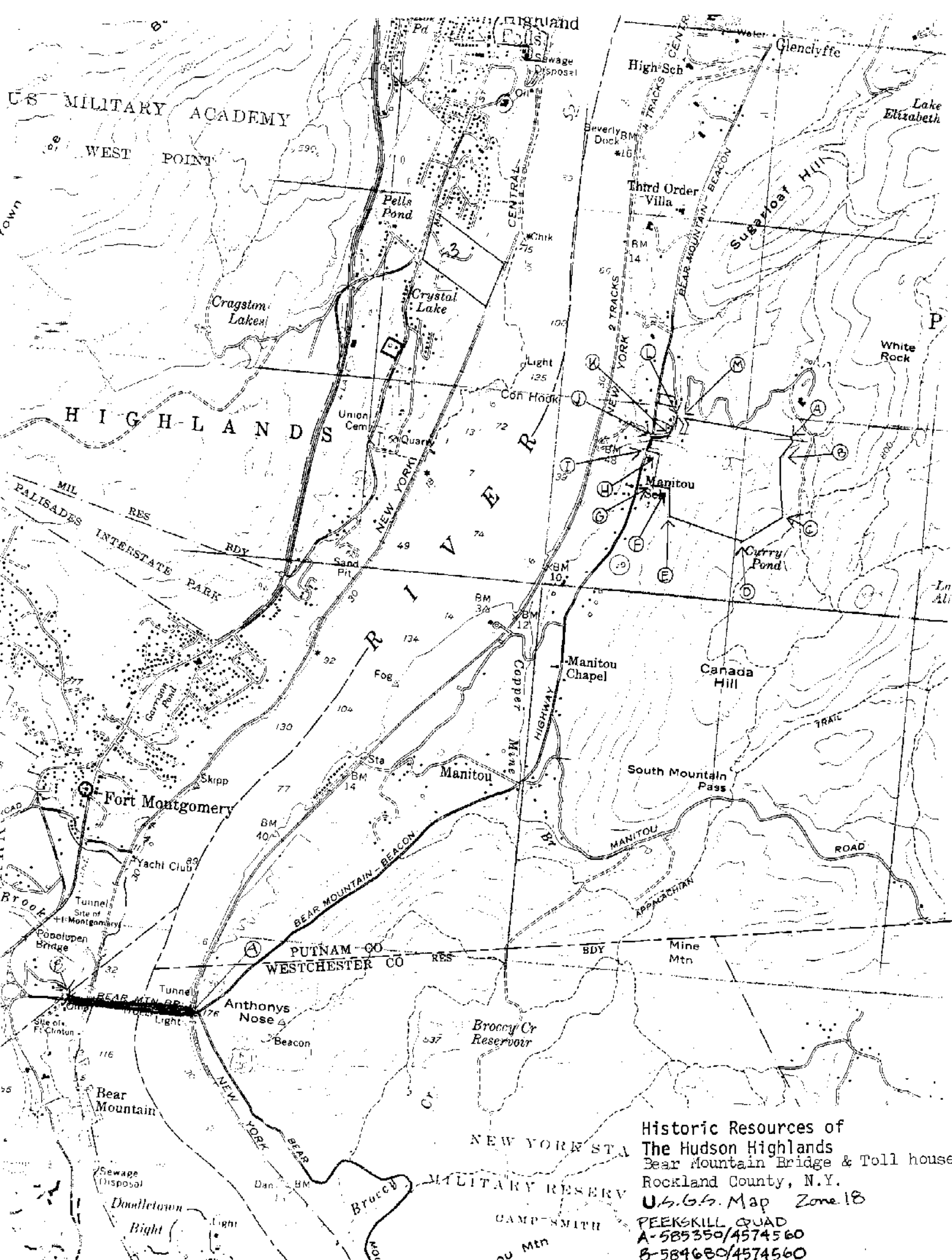
The eastern boundary of the Bear Mountain Bridge and its right-of-way is located 175 feet east of the point where the bridge meets the eastern shore of the Hudson River. From the center line of the bridge, the boundary extends and 75 feet south perpendicular to the bridge. The 150 feet right-of-way traverses the Hudson River to a point 450 feet west of the point where the bridge meets the western shore of the river. The property is enclosed by a rectangular right-of-way 150 feet wide north to south and 2257 feet long east to west. The toll house is located on the west bank of the Hudson River just south of the bridge within the right-of-way.

Acreage 7.77.

Historic Resources of the Hudson Highlands  
Bear Mountain Bridge and toll house  
Rockland and Westchester Counties, NY



View of front facade of toll house on bridge



Historic Resources of  
The Hudson Highlands  
Bear Mountain Bridge & Toll house  
Rockland County, N.Y.

U.S.G.S. Map Zone 18

PEEKSKILL QUAD  
A-585350/4574560  
B-584680/4574560

# BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. 087-05-0035  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

D34

L

YOUR NAME: Rosemary A. Sorkin DATE: 1/4/80  
14 Reggie Drive  
YOUR ADDRESS: Wappingers Falls, N.Y. TELEPHONE: 914-297-7420  
ORGANIZATION (if any): H.A.D.A.C., P.O. Box 274, Hurley, N.Y.

## IDENTIFICATION

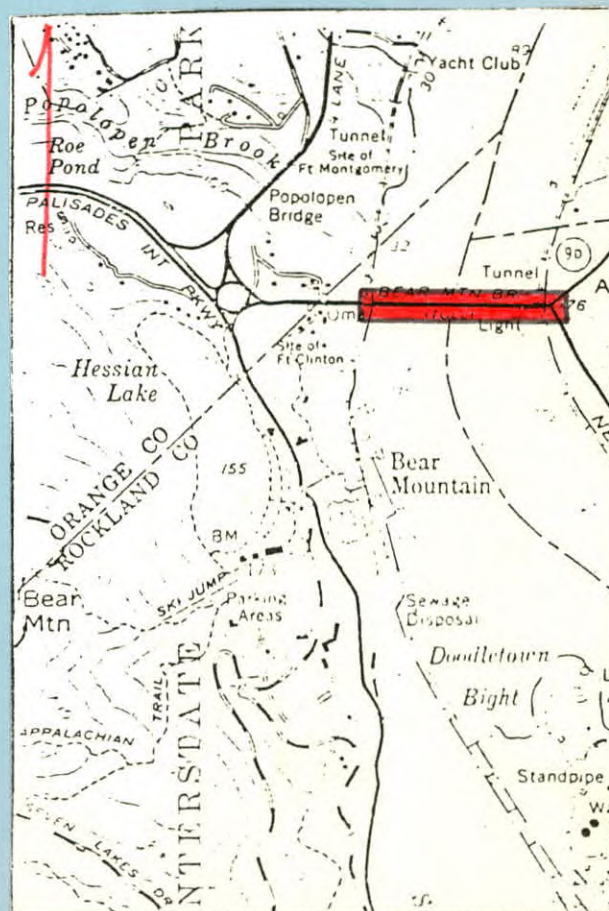
1. BUILDING NAME(S): Bear Mountain Bridge
2. COUNTY: Rockland TOWN/CITY: Stony Point VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_
3. STREET LOCATION: Rte 6 <sup>202</sup> across Hudson River
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☒ b. private ☐
5. PRESENT OWNER: N.Y.S. Bridge Authority ADDRESS: Highland, N.Y.
6. USE: Original: \_\_\_\_\_ Present: \_\_\_\_\_
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐  
Interior accessible: Explain \_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☒ c. brick ☐ d. board and batten ☐  
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other: steel
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐  
(if known) b. wood frame with light members ☐  
c. masonry load bearing walls ☐  
d. metal (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
e. other \_\_\_\_\_
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☐ b. good ☒ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☒ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐  
d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐  
f. other: \_\_\_\_\_

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:  
a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐  
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐  
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐  
i. landscape features: \_\_\_\_\_  
j. other: toll house

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):  
a. open land ☐ b. woodland ☒  
c. scattered buildings ☒  
d. densely built-up ☐ e. commercial ☐  
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☐  
h. other: Hudson River

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

The Bear Mountain Bridge runs from east to west across the Hudson River. Anthony's Nose is on the east & the Fort Clinton site & the Palisades Interstate Park are on the west.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

The Bear Mountain Bridge is a steel suspension bridge rising 153 feet above the Hudson River. The two steel towers are 355 feet above their foundation piers which are set in solid rock on the riverbanks. These towers hold the 18 inch cables which support the 1632 foot suspension span. The total length of the bridge is 2257 feet. The asphaltic concrete roadway is 38 ft wide with a five foot sidewalk on each side.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1923-24

ARCHITECT: Howard C. Baird

BUILDER: Terry & Tench Construction Co., Carey Construction Co.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

In 1922, the New York State Legislature authorized a privately owned toll bridge to be built across the Hudson River at the Bear Mountain site. It was the <sup>auto. first</sup> ~~only~~ bridge <sup>built</sup> south of Albany. ~~besides~~ The Poughkeepsie railroad bridge ~~was the only other bridge on the river.~~

The plans were approved by the State engineers, the War Department & the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. It was the first bridge to test the use of steel cables.

The Harriman family through the Bear Mountain-Hudson River Bridge Company had it built for a cost of \$6,000,000. It was begun in May, 1923 & was opened to traffic on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1924. In 1940, the State purchased it for \$2,275,000.

21. SOURCES: Solvitur Ambulando. In the Hudson Highlands. Appalachian Mountain Club: New York, 1945.; Bear Mountain Bridge plaque.; Chester A. Smith. Peekskill, a Friendly Town: Its Historic Sites & Shrines: A Pictorial History of the City from 1654 to 1952. The  
22. THEME: Friendly Town Assoc.: Peekskill, 1952.  
Twentieth century bridge construction and design.

# BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. 087-05-0035  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

08705,000035

YOUR NAME: Elise M. Barry DATE: 4/29/82

YOUR ADDRESS: Cedar La., Rhinebeck, N.Y. TELEPHONE: 914-876-4931

ORGANIZATION (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

## IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Bear Mountain Bridge and toll house  
2. COUNTY: Rockland & Westchester TOWN/CITY: Stony Point/Cortlandt  
3. STREET LOCATION: Rt. 6/202  
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☒ b. private ☐  
5. PRESENT OWNER: N.Y.S. Bridge Authority ADDRESS: Highland, N.Y.  
6. USE: Original: bridge/toll house Present: same  
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐  
Interior accessible: Explain toll house-during business hours

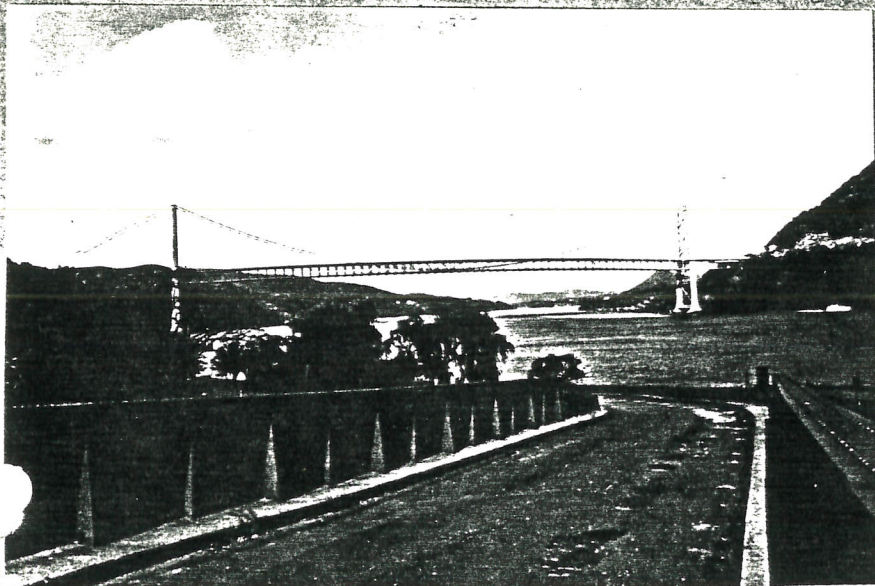
## DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☒ c. brick ☐ d. board and batten ☐  
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other: steel  
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐  
(if known) b. wood frame with light members ☐  
c. masonry load bearing walls ☒-toll house  
d. metal (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
e. other steel towers and wire cables  
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☐ b. good ☒ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐  
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

see attached maps



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☒ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐  
d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐  
f. other: \_\_\_\_\_

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:

- a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐  
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐  
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐  
i. landscape features: \_\_\_\_\_  
j. other: toll house

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):

- a. open land ☒ b. woodland ☒  
c. scattered buildings ☐  
d. densely built-up ☐ e. commercial ☐  
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☐  
h. other: Hudson River

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

The Bear Mountain Bridge spans the Hudson River from Anthony's Nose on the east to Popolopen Creek and Fort Clinton on the west. The toll house faces north. It is situated at the western end of the span with modern toll booths west of it. The Palisades Interstate Park begins at the west end of the bridge and also lies south of it.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

The specifications for the bridge called for a suspension bridge across the Hudson River having steel towers with a suspension span and wire cables to be located three miles above Peekskill and forty-five miles from Times Square. The main span was 32 ft. longer than that of the Williamsburg bridge, which was the longest suspension bridge in the world, in 1922. The bridge rises 153 ft. above the Hudson River. The two steel towers

**SIGNIFICANCE**

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1923-24 (see continuation sheet)

ARCHITECT: bridge- Howard C. Baird; unknown

BUILDER: Terry & Tench Construction Co., Carey Construction Co.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

In 1922 the New York State Legislature authorized a privately owned toll bridge to be built across the Hudson at Bear Mountain. It was the first bridge built south of Albany. The Poughkeepsie railroad bridge was the only other bridge on the river. The plans were approved by the State engineer the War Dept., and the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. It was the first bridge built with steel cables. In order to anchor the main cables, large shafts were blasted into the mountains on each side, 60ft. below the surface on the east and 100 ft. on the west, removing 2,500 to 3,000 yards of granite. The Harriman family, through the Bear Mountain - Hudson River Bridge Co., built the bridge at a cost of \$6,000,000.00. It was begun on March 24, 1923 and opened for traffic on Thanksgiving Day, (see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES:

The Historic Hudson. vol. 2, no 2., June 1923., 'The Bear Mountain Bridge'.

22. THEME:

early-20th century bridge construction and design and commercial architecture

Historic Resources of the Hudson Highlands  
Bear Mountain Bridge and toll house  
Rockland and Westchester Counties, NY

18. are 355 ft. above their foundation piers which are set in solid rock on the river banks. These towers hold the 18 in. cables which support the 1632 ft. suspension span. The total length of the bridge is 2257 ft.. The asphaltic concrete roadway is 38 ft. wide with a 5 ft. sidewalk on each side.

The toll house on the west side of the Bear Mountain Bridge is a random-coursed, rustic stone structure composed of three parts: a one and one-half story gate keeper's residence, a three story tower and a single story wing. The entire structure is covered by a slate roof of an irregular pattern. The main entrance to the gate keeper's residence is framed with light sandstone quoins and is flanked by banks of metal casement windows. The tower, with its pyramidal roof and octagonal metal cupola separates the main block of the building from the smaller wing on the western end. The north facade of the tower has a half timbered oriel with diamond paned windows projecting from the second story. The building also has shallow hipped roof dormers and stone chimneys.

20. November 27, 1924. In 1940 the State purchased it for \$2,275,000.00, although originally the bridge was to revert to the State at no cost after 30 years of private operation. The Bear Mountain Bridge is significant as a structure which possesses high historic value. It is also significant as an important event in the history of transportation in the Hudson Highlands. The toll house was begun and completed with the bridge. In 1940 when the State purchased the bridge, road and toll houses, it discontinued use of the road toll and collected tolls from the bridge toll house. Before 1940, the toll to cross the bridge was 80¢ for cars and driver plus 10¢ for each passenger. Pedestrians also paid 10¢. In 1940 the flat rate became 50¢. This is the most important structure of its type in the survey area. The architectural design is eclectic, containing elements of the Tudor, Elizabethan and English cottage styles. Of note are the steep slate roof, tower and stone construction. The toll house is a significant contributing element to the Bear Mountain Bridge.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

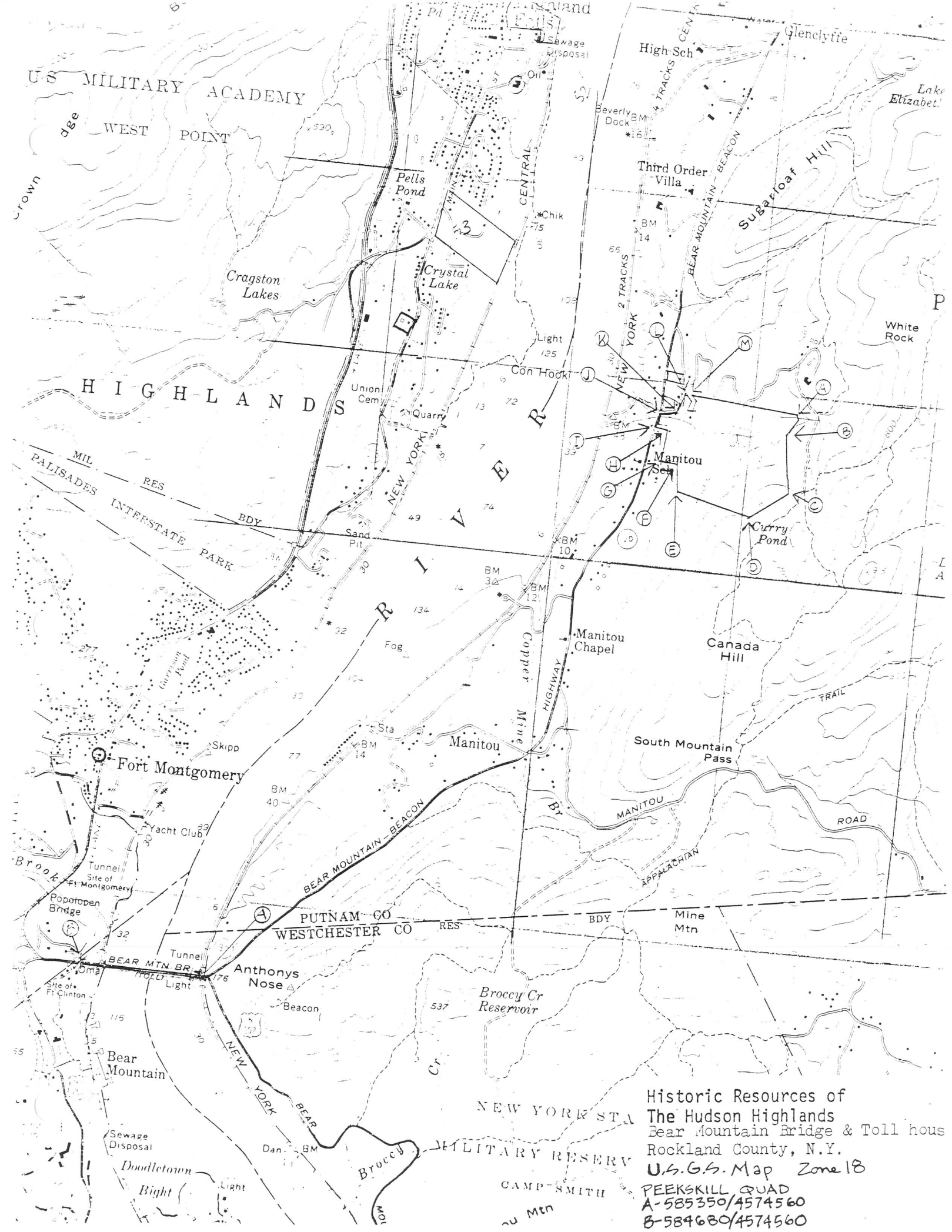
The eastern boundary of the Bear Mountain Bridge and its right-of-way is located 175 feet east of the point where the bridge meets the eastern shore of the Hudson River. From the center line of the bridge, the boundary extends and 75 feet south perpendicular to the bridge. The 150 feet right-of-way traverses the Hudson River to a point 450 feet west of the point where the bridge meets the western shore of the river. The property is enclosed by a rectangular right-of-way 150 feet wide north to south and 2257 feet long east to west. The toll house is located on the west bank of the Hudson River just south of the bridge within the right-of-way.

Acreage 7.77.

Historic Resources of the Hudson Highlands  
Bear Mountain Bridge and toll house  
Rockland and Westchester Counties, NY



View of front facade of toll house on bridge



Historic Resources of  
The Hudson Highlands  
Bear Mountain Bridge & Toll house  
Rockland County, N.Y.  
U.S.G.S. Map Zone 18  
PEEKSKILL QUAD  
A-585350/4574560  
B-584680/4574560

# BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. 087-05-0034  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

D33

YOUR NAME: Rosemary A. Sorkin DATE: 1/4/80  
14 Reggie Dr.  
YOUR ADDRESS: Wappingers Falls, N.Y. TELEPHONE: 914-297-7420  
ORGANIZATION (if any): H.A.D.A.C., P.O. Box 274, Hurley, N.Y.

## IDENTIFICATION

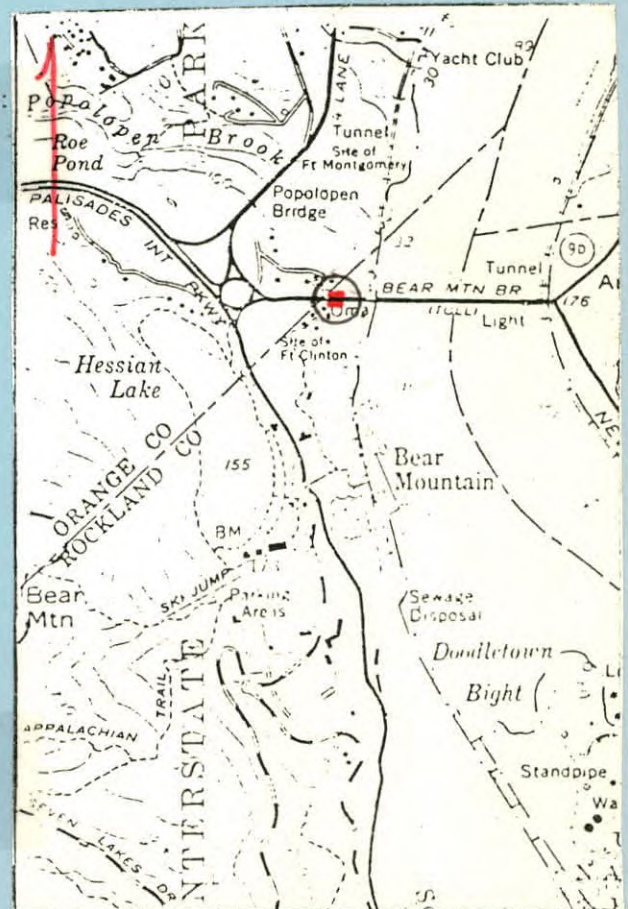
1. BUILDING NAME(S): Bear Mountain Bridge Toll House
2. COUNTY: Rockland ~~TOWN~~ CITY: Stony Point VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_
3. STREET LOCATION: Rte 6/202; at west end Bear Mt Bridge
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☒ b. private ☐ Authority \_\_\_\_\_
5. PRESENT OWNER: New York State Bridge ADDRESS: Highland, NY
6. USE: Original: toll house Present: same
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐  
Interior accessible: Explain during business hours

## DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☒ c. brick ☐ d. board and batten ☐  
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐  
(if known) b. wood frame with light members ☐  
c. masonry load bearing walls ☒  
d. metal (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
e. other \_\_\_\_\_
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☐ b. good ☒ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

## 12. PHOTO:

## 13. MAP:



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☒ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐  
d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐  
f. other: \_\_\_\_\_

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:

- a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐  
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐  
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐  
i. landscape features: \_\_\_\_\_  
j. other: Bear Mountain Bridge

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):

- a. open land ☐ b. woodland ☒  
c. scattered buildings ☒  
d. densely built-up ☐ e. commercial ☐  
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☐  
h. other: \_\_\_\_\_

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

Facade faces north, bridge roadway- east, Hudson River- south, parkland, zoo- west, toll booths.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

One story, five bay building; stone foundation; entrance is framed with quoins & keystone; metal casement windows; flat & hipped roof dormers; steep slate gable roofs; three story tower has stone corbels, half timbered projecting bay with diamond pane windows, pyramidal slate roof & a metal octagonal cupola with a pointed roof.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1923-24

ARCHITECT: unknown

BUILDER: Terry & Tench Construction Co. & Carey Construction Co.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

The toll house was begun March 24, 1923 & was opened November 27, 1924. When the State took over the operation of the Bear Mountain Bridge in 1940, the east shore road toll house was closed down & only this one was used to collect the bridge tolls.

Before 1940, the toll was eighty cents for a car & driver plus ten cents for each passenger. Pedestrians also paid ten cents. In 1940, the state made it a flat fifty cents.

This is the most important structure of its type in the survey area. The architectural design is eclectic, containing elements of the Tudor, Elizabethan and English cottage styles. Of particular note architecturally are the steep slate roof, tower, stone construction,

21. SOURCES:

Solvitur, Ambulando. In the Hudson Highlands. Appalachian Mountain Club: New York, 1945.; Chester A. Smith. Peekskill, A Friendly Town: Its Historic Sites & Shrines: A Pictorial History of the City

22. THEME: from 1654 to 1952. The Friendly Town Assoc: Peekskill, 1952.  
Early twentieth century commercial architecture.

CONTINUATION SHEET

20. cut stone door surround and half timbering. Along with the associated bridge, this structure comprises a unique complex in the survey area.

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NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION  
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. 087-05-0035  
QUAD \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES \_\_\_\_\_  
NEG. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

D34

L

YOUR NAME: Rosemary A. Sorkin DATE: 1/4/80  
14 Reggie Drive  
YOUR ADDRESS: Wappingers Falls, N.Y. TELEPHONE: 914-297-7420  
ORGANIZATION (if any): H.A.D.A.C., P.O. Box 274, Hurley, N.Y.

## IDENTIFICATION

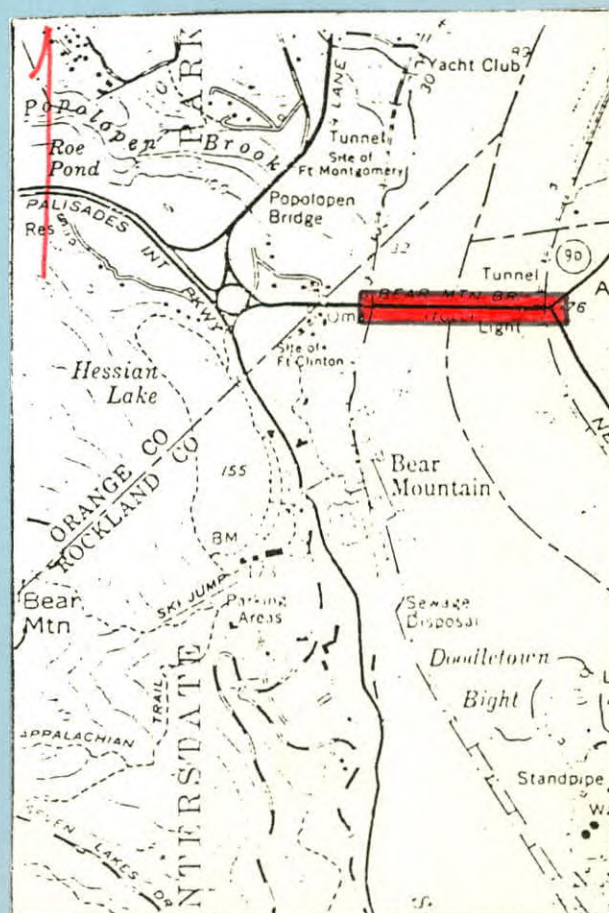
1. BUILDING NAME(S): Bear Mountain Bridge
2. COUNTY: Rockland TOWN/CITY: Stony Point VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_
3. STREET LOCATION: Rte 6 <sup>202</sup> across Hudson River
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☒ b. private ☐
5. PRESENT OWNER: N.Y.S. Bridge Authority ADDRESS: Highland, N.Y.
6. USE: Original: \_\_\_\_\_ Present: \_\_\_\_\_
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐  
Interior accessible: Explain \_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☒ c. brick ☐ d. board and batten ☐  
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other: steel
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐  
(if known) b. wood frame with light members ☐  
c. masonry load bearing walls ☐  
d. metal (explain) \_\_\_\_\_  
e. other \_\_\_\_\_
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☐ b. good ☒ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? \_\_\_\_\_  
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☒ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐  
d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐  
f. other: \_\_\_\_\_

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:  
a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☐  
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐  
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐  
i. landscape features: \_\_\_\_\_  
j. other: toll house

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):  
a. open land ☐ b. woodland ☒  
c. scattered buildings ☒  
d. densely built-up ☐ e. commercial ☐  
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☐  
h. other: Hudson River

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

The Bear Mountain Bridge runs from east to west across the Hudson River. Anthony's Nose is on the east & the Fort Clinton site & the Palisades Interstate Park are on the west.

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

The Bear Mountain Bridge is a steel suspension bridge rising 153 feet above the Hudson River. The two steel towers are 355 feet above their foundation piers which are set in solid rock on the riverbanks. These towers hold the 18 inch cables which support the 1632 foot suspension span. The total length of the bridge is 2257 feet. The asphaltic concrete roadway is 38 ft wide with a five foot sidewalk on each side.

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1923-24

ARCHITECT: Howard C. Baird

BUILDER: Terry & Tench Construction Co., Carey Construction Co.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

In 1922, the New York State Legislature authorized a privately owned toll bridge to be built across the Hudson River at the Bear Mountain site. It was the <sup>auto. first</sup> ~~only~~ bridge <sup>built</sup> south of Albany. ~~besides~~ The Poughkeepsie railroad bridge ~~was the only other bridge on the river.~~

The plans were approved by the State engineers, the War Department & the Palisades Interstate Park Commission. It was the first bridge to test the use of steel cables.

The Harriman family through the Bear Mountain-Hudson River Bridge Company had it built for a cost of \$6,000,000. It was begun in May, 1923 & was opened to traffic on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1924. In 1940, the State purchased it for \$2,275,000.

21. SOURCES: Solvitur Ambulando. In the Hudson Highlands. Appalachian Mountain Club: New York, 1945.; Bear Mountain Bridge plaque.; Chester A. Smith. Peekskill, a Friendly Town: Its Historic Sites & Shrines: A Pictorial History of the City from 1654 to 1952. The  
22. THEME: Friendly Town Assoc.: Peekskill, 1952.  
Twentieth century bridge construction and design.