

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

OMB NO. 1024-0018, NPS FORM

1329

RECEIVED 2280

OCT 7 1999

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties or districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Ranney Bridge

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number Serves private road off NYS Route 73 and crosses the East Branch of the AuSable River [N/A] not for publication

city, town Keene Valley [N/A] vicinity

state New York code NY county Essex code 031 zip code 12943

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

J.W. Allen  
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation  
Signature of certifying official

8 June '99

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

N/A

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

N/A

State or federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby, certify that this property is:  
☒ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ see continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

E. for  
Edson H. Beall  
Signature of keeper

Date of Action

11-12-99

Ranney Bridge  
Name of Property

Essex County, New York  
County and State

### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many  
boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(do not include previously listed  
resources in the count)

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

☐ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☒ structure  
☐ object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		sites
<u>1</u>		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

**Name of related multiple property  
listings** (enter "N/A" if property is  
not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register**

**Historic Bridges of the AuSable River Valley**

N/A

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Function**

(enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**

(enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Pratt Pony Truss Bridge

**Materials**

(enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls

roof

other metal bridge, stone abutments,  
wood deck

### Narrative Description

(describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more  
continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Ranney Bridge  
Essex County, New York

Section number 7 Page 1

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Bridge Description Summary

**Bridge type:** Pratt pony truss

**Date of construction:** 1902

**Date moved to present site:** c.1925

**Material:** metal with wood deck surface

**Length/span:** 59 ft. 5 in.

**Width:** 15 ft. 9 in. out-to-out; 13 ft. 9 in. curb-to-curb

**Height:** 7 ft. 4 in.

**Fabrication of:**

top chords: riveted channels with cap plates and lattice bracing  
end posts: inclined riveted channels with cap plates and lattice  
bracing  
posts: two pairs of angle iron with lattice bracing  
bottom chords: pairs of rectilinear and square eye bars  
diagonals: square and rectilinear eye bars  
counters: rods with turnbuckles

**Connections:** pin connected

**Deck Materials:** wood over steel I-beam substructure

**Abutments:** stone

**Other details:** 2 bridge plaques:

"Canton Iron Bridge, Co., Canton, Ohio"

"1902, Geo. F. Agnew, Commissioner"

**Alterations:** deck material replaced in-kind (date unknown)

**Piers:** none

**Number of lanes:** 1

**Setting:**

The **Ranney Bridge** is a single lane bridge, which spans the East Branch of the AuSable River in a very rural setting, several miles upstream from the hamlet of Keene Valley. Keene Valley is situated in the northeastern part of New York State, inside the Adirondack Park and, due to its mountainous surroundings, is known as the "home of the High Peaks." The bridge provides access from NYS Route 73, the major through route of the upper AuSable Valley, to a seasonal home on the east side of the river. In this area, the river and Route 73 meander together for several miles and the surroundings are wooded and very sparsely settled.

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Ranney Bridge  
Essex County, New York

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**Integrity:**

Although the exact location of where the Ranney Bridge was moved from in the hamlet of New Russia is unknown, the physical characteristics (i.e., scale, density, topography and landscape) of the hamlet of Keene Valley are very similar those of New Russia. Therefore, it can be assumed that the bridge's integrity of setting has been largely retained. The bridge has also retained much of its original structural/architectural integrity with its original components, including lattice railings, builder's plate and cast-iron finials intact.



Ranney Bridge  
Name of Property

Essex County, New York  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark an "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☒ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):      Primary location of additional data:

- |                                                                                                         |                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State historic preservation office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> previously listed in the National Register                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other State agency                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> previously determined eligible by the National Register                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> designated a National Historic Landmark                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Local government                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Building Survey # _____                          | <input type="checkbox"/> University                                    |
|                                                                                                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other                              |

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

TRANSPORTATION

ENGINEERING

### Period of Significance

c.1902 - 1948

### Significant Dates

1902 (constructed)

c.1925 (moved)

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Canton Iron Bridge Company

### Name of repository:

Friends of the North Country  
Keeseville, NY 12944

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEETRanney Bridge  
Essex County, New York

Section number 8 Page 1

The **Ranney Bridge** is a component in the multiple property submission, **Historic Bridges of the AuSable River Valley**. It was identified as a result of a comprehensive historic resources survey, the *AuSable River Historic Bridge Survey* (1991). Subsequently, with assistance from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Field Services Bureau, the Ranney Bridge was identified as meeting the criteria for listing on the State/National Registers of Historic Places. Additional contextual information for the Ranney Bridge can be found in **Section E:1F and 2B** of the Multiple Property Documentation Form. Additional associated property type information can be found in **Section F:3** of the Multiple Property Documentation Form.

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**Statement of Significance**

The **Ranney Bridge**, is significant as an intact and well-preserved example of a simple turn-of-the-century iron bridge, typical for small rural bridges of the pre-automobile era. It is also significant for the role it has played in the transportation history of the region. The bridge has retained much of its original integrity, still having most of its original components, including its lattice railing, builder's plate and cast-iron ball finials.

**History**

The **Ranney Bridge** is a pony truss based on the truss design patented by Thomas and Caleb Pratt in 1844, which was one of the most popular truss designs of the 19th century. It was a period when small, rural bridges still had relatively light members, some pin connections and still used eye bars and rods for bottom chords, diagonals and counters. The Ranney Bridge was fabricated by the Canton Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, which was organized in 1876. For the company's first 15 years, it fabricated and erected bridges mainly in its immediate region. After a new infusion of capital in 1891, the Canton Bridge Company was able to broaden its geographical service area and undertake projects in other areas including New York State.

The Ranney Bridge, originally erected in 1902 in nearby New Russia (Town of Elizabethtown, Essex County), was moved to its present site in Keene Valley, c. 1925, to replace a bridge that had been washed away in the devastating flood of 1924. This was a period when removing obsolete bridges from their original locations for reuse in new locations was common. In fact, four of the bridges in this multiple property listing (all in the town of Keene) were moved from other locations (**Ranney, Beer's, Walton and Slater**); three of them (**Ranney, Beer's and Walton**) to replace town of Keene bridges washed away by the 1924 flood.

Although the exact original location of the Ranney Bridge is unknown, it is apparent that, by 1925, it no longer met the needs of its crossing. The bridge was dismantled, moved and re-erected on its current site by two local men, Jim Brown and George Luck. On its new site, the bridge spanned the East

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National Park Service

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Ranney Bridge  
Essex County, New York

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Branch of the AuSable River and provided access to a small residential area off Route 73. As the hamlets of New Russia and Keene Valley are similar in density, scale, topography and landscape, the bridge was compatible with its new setting.

Today, the Ranney Bridge is privately owned and provides access to the Ranney cottage, a seasonal home on the east side of the AuSable River.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Ranney Bridge  
Essex County, New York

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Major Bibliographic References

Allen, Richard Sanders. Personal Notes on Bridges of the AuSable River and Covered Bridges of the Adirondacks.

Beer, Frederick W. Atlases of Clinton and Essex Counties, New York. New York: Beers, Ellis and Soule, 1869.

Darnell, Victor C. Directory of American Bridge-Building Companies, 1840-1900. Washington, D.C.: Society for Industrial Archeology, 1984.

Edwards, Llewellyn Nathaniel. A Record of History and Evolution of Early American Bridges. Orono, Maine University Press, 1959.

Engelhart, Steven. "AuSable Valley Historic Bridge Survey." For Friends of the North Country, Keeseville, NY, 1991.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Crossing the River: Historic Bridges of the AuSable River." Distributed by the Friends of the North Country, Keeseville, NY 1991.

Kansas State Historical Society. "Metal Truss Bridges in Kansas" (a thematic National Register nomination) 1989.

Keene Valley Library Archives. Bridges file and photo Albums #3, 4 and 7, (Keene Valley, N.Y.)

Ohio Department of Transportation. The Ohio Historic Bridge Inventory, Evaluation and Preservation Plan. Ohio DOT, 1983.

Pluntz, Norman and Goodwin, Tony, "Historical Study, Town of Keene," Keene Valley Library, Keene Valley, N.Y., unpublished.

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office. "Metal Truss, Masonry and Concrete Bridges in Vermont" (multiple property National Register nomination), 1990.

Whitney, Nettie Holt. "Reminiscences of Keene Valley." (undated xerox).

Ranney Bridge  
Name of Property

Essex County, New York  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u>	2														
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting												
3					4													
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting												

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the heavy line on the attached map. It includes the entire bridge structure including the abutments.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary encompasses all functional and aesthetic parts of the bridge and includes all features related to its historic significance.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Steven Engelhart (Adirondack Architectural Heritage), Consultant  
organization Friends of the North Country, Inc. date 2/20/98  
street & number 1A Mill St., PO Box 446 telephone 518-834-9606  
city or town Keeseville state NY zip code 12944

**Form Edited By:**

(6/4/99) Linda M. Garofalini, Historic Preservation Program Analyst  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation  
Peebles Island, PO Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189 Phone: 518-237-8643 ext. 3267

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(name Normand F Smith III  
street & number 1 Beacon Street telephone 617-854-4000  
city or town Boston state MA zip code 02108

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



33.004  
3.5 Ac. (c)

**Ranney Bridge**  
Town of Keene, Essex County, NY  
Boundary Map, 1" = approx. 200'  
From Essex County Tax Map #62.16, Block 5

24  
4.7 Ac  
5.2 Ac. (c)

23  
5.9 Ac

25  
2.4 Ac. (c)

29  
1.2 Ac.  
(c)

**Ranney Bridge**

26  
11.7 Ac. (c)

*Hopkins (AKA McKensie)*

1116001  
State of New York

27  
3.8 Ac  
4.7 Ac. (c)

74(s)  
28  
225(s)  
245(s)

## ESSEX COUNTY REAL PROPERTY TAX MAP

These maps were prepared for Tax Administration Purposes only. They are not intended to be used in the conveyance of property. There is no guarantee of accuracy or completeness. All information on these maps is subject to such variations and corrections as might result from an accurate instrument by a licensed surveyor.

ESSEX COUNTY  
REAL PROPERTY TAX MAP  
No. 62-16 Block 5  
Town Keene  
Village \_\_\_\_\_  
SCALE 1" = 200'  
Subject to Revision  
for Tax Purpose Only

Approx.  
Grid  
North

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Ranney Bridge  
NAME:

MULTIPLE AuSable River Valley Bridges MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Essex

DATE RECEIVED: 10/07/99 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/21/99  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/06/99 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/21/99  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 99001329

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 11.12.99 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



~~Photo # 21~~

Ranney Bridge

Keene Valley, Essex County, NY

View from the southwest

Steven Engelhart, photographer  
(1990)

Negative in the Friends of the  
North Country archives  
Keeseville, NY





~~Photo # 37~~

Ranney Bridge

Keene Valley, Essex County, NY

View from The Southwest

Steven Engelhart, photographer  
(1990)

Negative in the hands of the  
North Country archives  
Keeseville, NY



~~Photo # 23~~

Ranney Bridge

Keene Valley, Essex County, NY

Truss details

Steven Engelhart, photographer  
(1990)

Negative in the Friends of  
the North Country archives  
Keeseville, NY



THE CANTON BRIDGE CO.  
CANTON, OHIO

1902  
GEO. E. AGNEW  
COMB.

~~Photo # 29~~

Ranney Bridge

Keene Valley

Essex County, NY

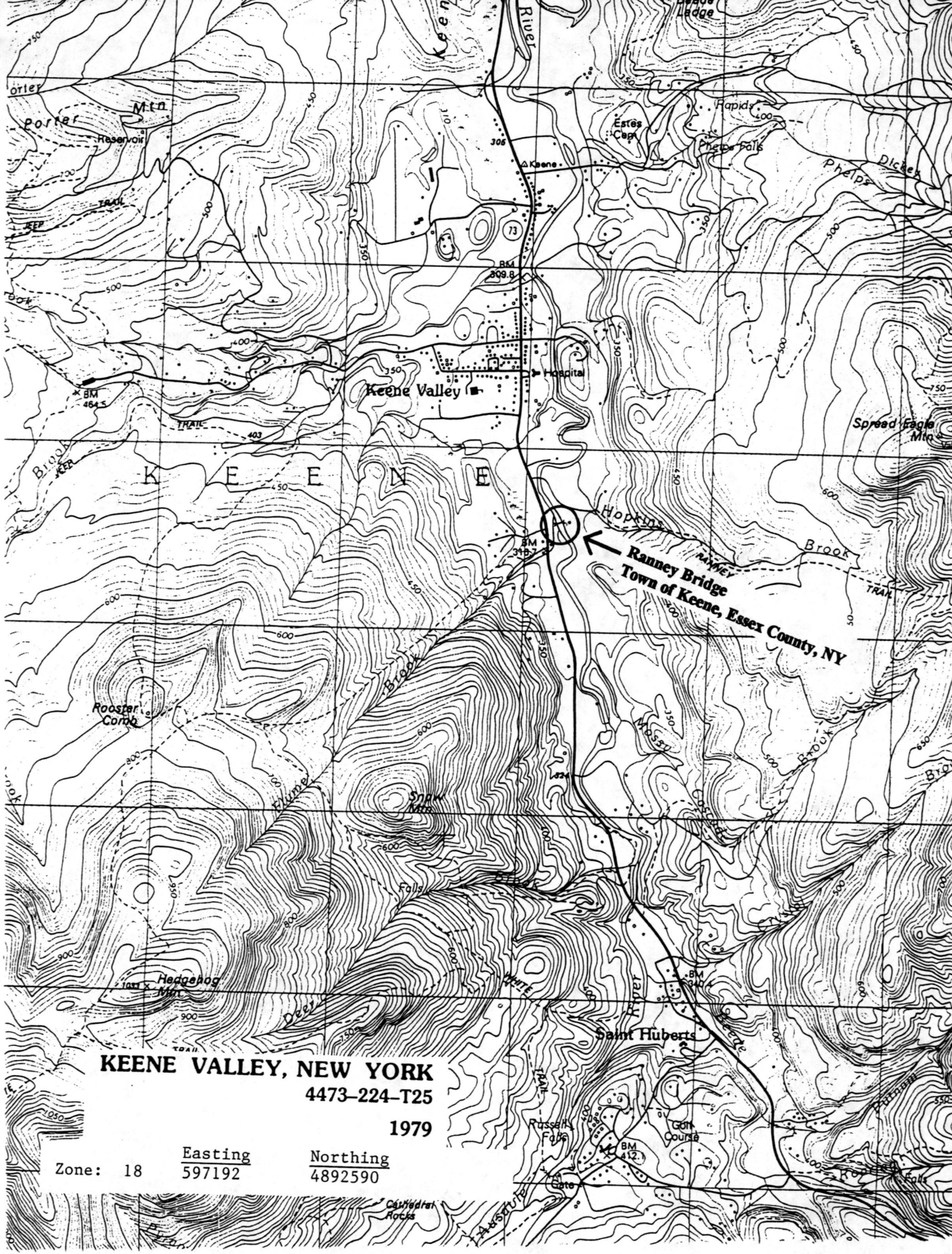
Truss details

Steven Engelhart,  
photographer (1990)

Negative in the Friends  
of the North Country  
archives

Keeseville, NY





**KEENE VALLEY, NEW YORK**

**4473-224-T25**

**1979**

Zone: 18      Easting      Northing  
597192      4892590

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500443