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083-40-0031

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NEW YORK STATE HISTORIC TRUST #  
STATEWIDE SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

08340.000031

1. Name (Common and Historic) WATERFORD-LANSINGBURG (BR "UNION") BRIDGE

Location 2. RENSSELAER-SARATOGA County 3. WATERFORD Town 4. CITY OF TROY Village or City

5. Address or Location Rte 4; across Hudson River

BETWEEN WATERFORD AND LANSINGBURG

6. Type STEEL THRU TRUSS ON 7. Subject or Theme ARCHITECTURE - TRANSPORTATION *Scene here*

8. Date of Construction 1804 9. Architect (If Known) THEODORE BURR

10. Builder (If known) THEODORE BURR

11. Original Owner UNION BRIDGE COMPANY

12. Original Use TOLL BRIDGE

13. Present Owner STATE OF NEW YORK, DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Name ALBANY, N.Y. 12226  
Address

14. Present Use U.S. HIGHWAY CROSSING OF HUDSON RIVER

15. Physical Condition GOOD

16. Surveys

17. Future Action EXPECTED TO BE KEPT INTACT, WITH NORMAL REPAIRS, ORIGINAL STONE PIERS HAVE BEEN ENCASED IN CONCRETE, BUT RETAIN ORIGINAL FORM AND SHAPE

18. Surveyed by Richard S. Allen *IN ENGINEERING HISTORY*  
Date Surveyed 12/67

History and Significance: PIERS IN HUDSON RIVER HERE ARE THE ORIGINALS,  
ERECTED IN 1804 UNDER DIRECTION OF MASTER BRIDGE-BUILDER THEODORE  
BURR (1771-1822), THE ORIGINAL WOODEN BRIDGE (1804-1909)  
WAS THE PROTOTYPE OF THOUSANDS OF BRACED FRAMED ARCH STRUCTURES  
IN THE U.S., BUILT BOTH OF WOOD AND STEEL. BURR PATENTED THE  
TYPE IN 1805. HE ALSO PATENTED (1815) THE BRIDGE PIERS WITH  
SHARP, EXTENDED ICE BREAKERS, STILL TO BE SEEN ON THE ORIGINAL  
(ENCASED) PIERS HERE.

PRESENT STEEL BRIDGE IS ONLY THE SECOND ON THE SITE,  
BUILT ON ORIGINAL PIERS AFTER FIRST BRIDGE BURNED IN 1909.

Sources of Information: \_\_\_\_\_

AMERICAN RAILROAD BRIDGES; THEODORE COOPER (1888)  
COVERED BRIDGES OF THE NORTHEAST; R.S. ALLEN (1957)

Photograph: Date

12/67

Direction of View

N.W.

Map Location:  
GS Coordinates



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