

# Emerson Simmons Bridge

(Simmons Bridge)



*Photograph by Melissa Davies, 2012*

General Information	Physical Details
Bridge No. ML4	Type: Pony Truss
Ownership: Township of Mapleton	Span: Single
Construction Date: 1952	Dimensions: 65.3m x 10.1m (LxW)
Water Crossing: Conestogo River	Materials: Steel, Reinforced Concrete



Evaluation Form		Check
<b>Design/Physical Value</b>		
I. Is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method		✓
II. Displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit		✓
III. Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement		
<b>Historic/Associative Value</b>		
I. Has direct association with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to the community		✓
II. Yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of the community or culture		
III. Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, engineer, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community		
<b>Contextual Value</b>		
I. Is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area		✓
II. Is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings		
III. Is a landmark		

## General Description

The Emerson Simmons Bridge is located on County Road 11 (Wellington Street), 0.20 km north of Wellington County Road 8 in the community of Drayton. It was constructed in 1952 and is one of six remaining steel truss bridges in the Township of Mapleton, five of which are pony trusses. In addition to the Emerson Simmons Bridge, the group of pony truss bridges includes: Mallet River, Bosworth, Flax, Moorefield and Rothsay Bridges, all of which were constructed between 1949 and 1954, with the exception of the Mallet River Bridge, which was constructed in 1910.

This two-span steel pony truss bridge was constructed for the County of Wellington by contractor A.H. MacLellan and County Engineer, W.H. Keith, both of which are credited with working on many other truss bridges in the County. The bridge is set at a 45 degree skew, and is unique for its double truss, required to span the Conestogo River. The steel used for most truss bridges in Ontario was sourced from the United States, however, “ALGOMA CANADA” is pressed in the bridge’s steel girders. This indicates that the material was sourced in Canada from Algoma Steel, a company founded in 1902 and located on the St. Marys River in Sault Ste. Marie, ON.

The bridge was dedicated to Emerson Simmons to “commemorate long and distinguished service as a bridge foreman.” The Simmons Bridge underwent repairs in 1993, and included a deck replacement and installation of guide rails.

Sources: County of Wellington Bridge Inventory  
 County of Wellington, 2007 Bridge Appraisals  
 Emerson Simmons Bridge plaque, 1957

