

Salem Bridge

(Woolwich Street Bridge)



Photograph by Melissa Davies, 2012

General Information	Physical Details
Bridge No. CW25	Type: Warren Pony Truss
Ownership: County of Wellington	Span: Single
Construction Date: 1952	Dimensions: 32.6m x 9.8m (LxW)
Water Crossing: Irvine Creek	Materials: Steel



Evaluation Form	Check
Design/Physical Value	
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	
Historic/Associative Value	
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	
Contextual Value	
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 Salem Bridge (Woolwich Street Bridge) is located on Woolwich Street West, 0.1 km east of Wellington Road 7. It was constructed in 1952, and represents a landmark in the small community of Salem. There are five remaining steel truss bridges in Centre Wellington, and together with Centre Wellington Bridge 1-P, the Salem Bridge is one of only two remaining pony truss bridges. This bridge is a traditionally composed mid-20th century pony truss. It could be thought of as a companion bridge to the Metcalfe Street Bridge in Elora as they were both built within a year of each other and share similar design details.

Contractor, Albert Reeves and the Hamilton Bridge Company with County Engineer, W.H. Keith, constructed this rivet-connected Warren pony truss bridge for the County of Wellington. “Bethlehem, USA” is pressed in the bridge’s steel beams as they were cast by the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, based in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Buffalo, New York. This company was at one time America’s second-largest steel producer, operating from 1857 to 2003. It was not uncommon for steel used in truss bridge construction to be sourced from the United States.

The Salem Bridge contributes to a cultural heritage landscape given its location next to the historic Wissler Mill. Built circa 1852, Wissler’s Mill was a gristmill that ceased operation in 1965. It was subsequently converted to a private residence.

Sources: *Township of Centre Wellington 2008 Structure Inventory Data*
Historicbridges.org
Harold Stiver, Ontario’s Old Mills, 2012

