

4.2.11

Hartman Bridge

Score: 70



Wilmot Township

Documentation**Builder**

The Hartman Bridge was named after the Hartman family who initially owned the land across the river and donated it toward the bridge's construction. It was built by the Hamilton Bridge and Tool Company²⁰⁷. See Appendix A for more information about this company.

Age

The bridge was built in 1936, during the depression.²⁰⁸ The age and the builder are stamped on a bronze plaque attached to one of the main beams.

Technology**Materials**

The Hartman Bridge is made of steel. Concrete was the popular building material at the time but the steel was cheaper and a utilitarian bridge was required.²⁰⁹

Design/Style

The bridge was designed by J. D. Emery, Waterloo County Engineer.²¹⁰ It is a single span, eight panel Pratt Through Truss bridge with riveted connections.²¹¹ It imitates this popular bridge design of the 1910s but is built with thick riveted stringers. The two traffic lanes



²⁰⁷ Spanning the Generation – Phase 2: Heritage Assessment, “Hartman Bridge,” May 2004, p. 30-34.

²⁰⁸ Ibid.

²⁰⁹ Ibid.

²¹⁰ “Hartman Bridge - Ontario Heritage Bridge List Nomination Form.” Region of Waterloo. April 19, 2005.

²¹¹ Historic Bridges of Michigan and Elsewhere, “Bridges by County: Waterloo Region, Ontario.” March 14, 2007

indicate it was designed to hold automobiles.

Prototype

The Hartman Bridge is not a prototype. In fact the design was quite old (26 years), but the bridge was built during the depression and thus an inexpensive and utilitarian structure was needed.

Structural Integrity

The Hartman Bridge has eight panels of Pratt Through Truss with riveted connections, the unusual deck is slightly arched. The portal brace has a V-laced design. V-lacing is also present within the steel of the portal bracing, as well as on the sway bracing and the verticals. There is lattice under the top chord and end spots. The western portal bracing was damaged in the past, and portions of it were replaced prior to 2006.

In 2006, the Region of Waterloo rehabilitated the bridge while preserving its architecture and heritage.²¹² The rehabilitated bridge has an “Exodermic” deck and sidewalk, which is a composite of steel grating and concrete. The asphalt wearing course was replaced by a concrete finish.

Bridge Aesthetics and Environment

Visual Appeal

The Hartman Bridge illustrates an excellent example of structural engineering of the 1930s. The bridge is not enclosed which allows one to see through the bridge, and to have an attractive view of the surrounding landscape. The Bridge is utilitarian and was not designed to be attractive, although some might argue otherwise.²¹³

Integrity

The bridge has high integrity; it remains at its original location since it was first built. Also, it is the last remaining steel truss bridge on the Regional road system.

Landmark

The bridge is a distinctive landmark. It forms an attractive centerpiece of New Hamburg.²¹⁴ It is hard to miss the large superstructure when passing through the town. In 1992, the Township of Wilmot designated a Heritage Conservation District in the heart of the Town of New Hamburg²¹⁵ including the bridge. And in 2005 the bridge was nominated to the Ontario Heritage Bridge List.

²¹² Township of Wilmot, “New Hamburg Steel Truss (Hartman) Bridge Rehabilitation and Peel Street/Huron Street Reconstruction. Notice of Completion. February 11, 2005

²¹³ Spanning the Generation – Phase 2: Heritage Assessment, “Hartman Bridge,” May 2004, p. 30-34

²¹⁴ Historic Bridges of Michigan and Elsewhere, “Bridges by County: Waterloo Region, Ontario” March 14, 2007

²¹⁵ Township of Wilmot. “A By-Law to Designate an Area Situated in the Settlement Area of New Hamburg in the Township of Wilmot as A Heritage Conservation District.” By-Law NO. 92-90. October 13, 1992.

Gateway

The Hartman Bridge divides the east and west sides of the town. Crossing the bridge, the eastbound traveler enters the commercial district of New Hamburg which also is the oldest part of the town.

Character Contribution

This steel bridge contributes to the character of New Hamburg and Wilmot Township. Wilmot possesses the majority of the steel truss bridges in Waterloo Region. There are five steel truss bridges in Wilmot, which contribute to the rustic and rural image of the Township.²¹⁶

Historical Association

Bridge Group

The Hartman Bridge is part of the group of similar truss bridges in the surrounding area. The other bridges are Shade Street, Holland Mills, Haysville, Oxford-Waterloo, and Bridge Street.²¹⁷

History of Hartman Bridge

The current Hartman Bridge replaced the original Hartman Bridge. The first Hartman Bridge was built around 1900 and named after a prominent merchant. A bridge has existed in this location since New Hamburg was founded. As a local landmark, the bridge attracted filmmakers to use it in making movies. The bridge was used twice in the past for filming. The first time was in the 1980's,²¹⁸ and later in 1995 when a Kitchener-based film production company chose the bridge for filming a family movie.²¹⁹

Human Interest

Wilmot Township is very rich in through Pratt Truss bridges. It has Shade Street, Holland Mills Road, and Haysville (demolished) bridges in addition to the Hartman Bridge. This group of bridges symbolizes Wilmot's farming community.²²⁰ Also, there is another style of Truss bridges in the Township, the Camelback Truss bridges; this group includes the Oxford-Waterloo Road Bridge, and Bridge Street Bridge.

Other Points of Interest

The Hartman Bridge is part of the Heritage Conservation District in the Town of New Hamburg. It provides the connection to the heritage core of New Hamburg. The bridge also complements the riverfronts of Kirkpatrick and Scott Parks. It is an integral part of the landscape and has therefore been

²¹⁶ Spanning the Generation – Phase 2: Heritage Assessment, “Hartman Bridge,” May 2004, p. 30-34.

²¹⁷ Ibid

²¹⁸ Ritz, Ernst. Personal Interview. November 23, 1998.

²¹⁹ New Hamburg Independent, “Bridge to be closed for film.” August 23, 1995

²²⁰ Spanning the Generation – Phase: 2 Heritage Assessment, “Hartman & Haysville Bridges” May 2004, p. 30-34 & 47-53

designated as part of the New Hamburg Heritage Conservation District by the Township of Wilmot under Part V of Ontario Heritage Act. This designation will ensure that the bridge cannot be demolished, removed or altered without a permit issued by the Township Council.

The 2006 rehabilitation work of the bridge took that into consideration; the architectural and heritage value of the bridge was respected and preserved. The bridge had to be closed for a period of time for rehabilitation purposes, and that affected daily life in town. People had to take longer routes and business owners were afraid of trade slowing down. However, after rehabilitation was finished, residents of New Hamburg were happy to save the bridge by means of restoration and not replacement by a new concrete bridge.²²¹

²²¹ New Hamburg Independent, "A bridge apart." September 13, 2006

Hartman Bridge

Location MTO Site No. 33-117, Huron Street, 0.2 km east of Waterloo Street, Village of New Hamburg, Township of Wilmot.

General Information

<i>Bridge No.</i>	000404
<i>Jurisdiction</i>	Regional Municipality of Waterloo
<i>Year built</i>	1936
<i>Drawings</i>	Regional HQ

Physical Components

<i>Type</i>	through Truss
<i>Spans</i>	1
<i>Dimensions</i>	Length 41.5 m Width 11.4 m
<i>Load Limit</i>	None posted

Descriptive details

This is a single span structural steel through truss bridge with a concrete deck and asphalt wearing surface. It spans a length of 41.5 m with a deck width of 11.4 m over the Nith River.

It has a concrete sidewalk with a steel-latticed handrail. In relative terms this bridge is better preserved than the other truss bridges in the area and according to the 1993 bridge appraisal report there is no serious evidence of structural distress. Most of the structure is intact but slightly modified. The Hamilton Bridge Company built this bridge in 1936. At the time D.J. Emery was the County Engineer.²²²



Source: Planning Housing and Community Services, Region of Waterloo

²²² Spanning the Generation – Phase 1: Inventory. “Hartman Bridge,” May 2004, p. 1.81-1.82

Hartman Bridge

East View



North View



Hartman's Bridge Bibliography

Historic Bridges of Michigan and Elsewhere. Bridges by County: Waterloo Region, Ontario. 14 March, 2007. <http://www.historicbridges.org>

New Hamburg Independent. A bridge apart. 13 September, 2006

New Hamburg Independent. Bridge to be Closed for Film. 23 August, 1995

Region of Waterloo: Planning Housing and Community Services Department. Hartman Bridge - Ontario Heritage Bridge List Nomination Form. Report # P-05-031. 19 April, 2005.

Region of Waterloo: Planning Housing and Community Services Department. Spanning the Generations - Phase 1: Inventory – Hartman Bridge. May 2004, P. 1.81 – 1.82

Region of Waterloo: Planning Housing and Community Services Department. Spanning the Generations - Phase 2: Heritage Assessment – Hartman Bridge & Haysville Bridges. May 2004, P. 30-34 & 47-53.

Ritz, Ernst. Personal Interview. 23 November, 1998.

Township of Wilmot, the Region of Waterloo. New Hamburg Steel Truss (Hartman) Bridge Rehabilitation and Peel Street/Huron Street Reconstruction. Notice of Completion. 11 February, 2005

Township of Wilmot. By-Law NO. 92-90. A By-Law to Designate an Area Situated in the Settlement Area of New Hamburg in the Township of Wilmot as a Heritage Conservation District. 13 October, 1992

Hartman Bridge

Score:70



Documentation

Builder

The Hartman Bridge in New Hamburg was built by the Hamilton Bridge and Tool Company. This company was a prolific bridge builder between 1910 and 1950, specializing in steel truss bridges. Three companies monopolized steel bridge construction in Waterloo County. These companies were the Hamilton Bridge Company (1910-1950), the Hamilton Bridge Works Co. (1900-1920), and the Hamilton Bridge and Iron Co. (1880-1900). Waterloo County purchased steel, and steel bridges, from these companies because they were always able to underbid their competitors.²²

Age

The bridge was built in 1936, during the Depression. The age and the builder are stamped on a bronze plaque attached to one of the main beams.

Technology

Materials

The Hartman Bridge is made of steel. Concrete was the popular building material at the time but the steel bridge was cheaper and a utilitarian bridge was required.

Design/Style

The bridge is a single-span, Pratt truss bridge. It imitates a popular bridge design of the 1910s but is built with thick rivetted stringers. The two traffic lanes indicate it was designed to hold automobiles.

Prototype

The Hartman Bridge is not a prototype. In fact, the design was quite old (26 years), but the bridge was built during the Depression and thus an inexpensive and utilitarian structure was needed.

Structural Integrity

The Hartman Bridge has been repainted in the recent past, and reinforced with additional steel members. It is a sturdy bridge.

Bridge Aesthetics and Environment

Visual Appeal

The bridge illustrates an excellent example of structural engineering of the 1930s. The bridge is not enclosed, which allows one to see through the bridge, and to have an unrestricted view of the surrounding landscape.

²²Generalization made from the *Waterloo County Minutes*, 1880-1930.

Integrity

The Hartman Bridge remains at its original location.

Landmark

The bridge is a distinctive landmark. It is hard to miss the large superstructure when passing through New Hamburg.

Gateway

The Hartman Bridge divides the east and west sides of the Town. By crossing the bridge, the east-bound traveller enters the commercial district of New Hamburg, which is also the oldest part of the Town.

Character contribution

This steel bridge contributes to the character of New Hamburg and Wilmot Township. Wilmot possesses the majority of the steel truss bridges in Waterloo Region. There are five steel truss bridges in Wilmot, which contribute to the rustic and rural image of Wilmot.

Historical Association

The current Hartman Bridge replaced the original Hartman Bridge. The first Hartman Bridge was built around 1900 and named after a prominent merchant. A bridge has existed in this location since New Hamburg was founded. In the 1980s, the bridge was used in the making of a movie.

Bridge Group

The Hartman Bridge is part of the group of similar truss bridges in the surrounding area. The other bridges are Shade Street, Holland Mills, Haysville, Oxford-Waterloo, and Bridge Street bridges.

Hartman Bridge

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General Information

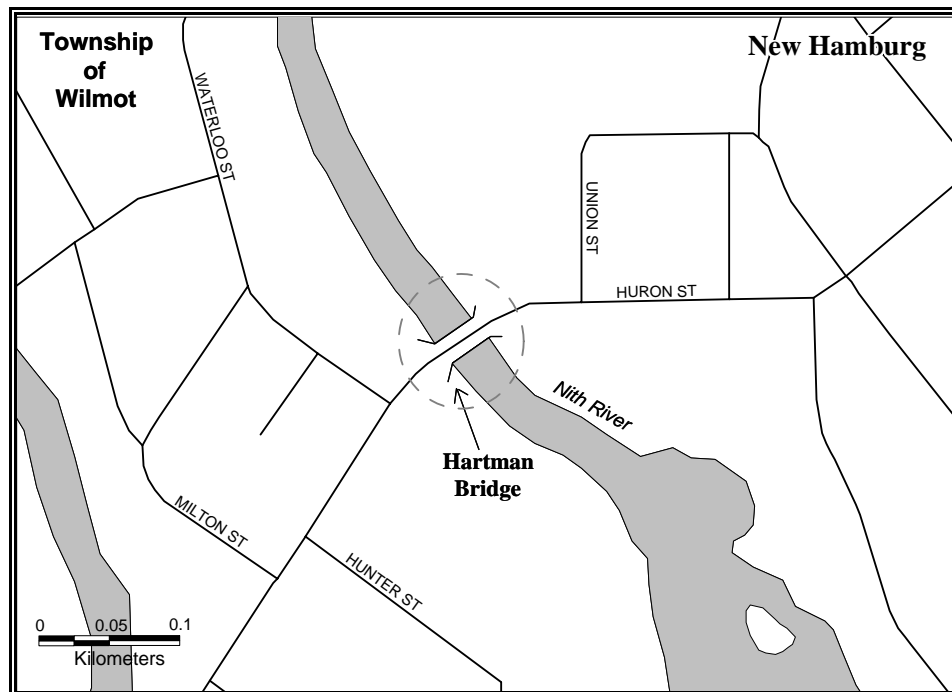
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Physical Components

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Descriptive details

This is a single-span, structural steel through truss bridge with a concrete deck and asphalt wearing surface. It spans a length of 41.5 m, with a deck width of 11.4 m, over the Nith River. It has a concrete sidewalk with a steel-latticed handrail. In relative terms, this bridge is better preserved than other truss bridges in the area. According to the 1993 bridge appraisal report, there is no serious evidence of structural distress. The structure is intact, but has been slightly modified.



Hartman Bridge

North View



East View



Hartman Bridge Bibliography

Regional Municipality of Waterloo. Clerks Department. County Council Minutes. 1880-1930.

Ritz, Ernst. Personal Interview. 23 Nov 1998.