

## DIVISION STREET BRIDGE

- **BRIDGE #965**
- Division Street over Seekonk River
- Pawtucket
- 1876-77
- Maximum Span Length: 54 feet  
(9 spans, 425 feet total)

Rising high above the Seekonk River, a short distance below the Falls in Pawtucket, Division Street Bridge is the longest masonry arch structure in Rhode Island. Its nine segmental arches (three of which cross the river) spring from tall piers of rough-hewn granite blocks. The arch rings and keystones are made up of squared and dressed blocks,

but the sides of the bridge are built of irregularly shaped stone. The arches themselves are constructed of brick. Cushing & Company of Providence designed the bridge and Pawtucket mason Horace Foster built it. Its impressive size, fine stone work, and original ironwork make Division Street Bridge a significant example of nineteenth-century masonry arch construction.

In 1874 the portion of the community on the west side of the river, which up until then had been part of North Providence, was legally joined with the Town of Pawtucket on the east side. Thus the bridge provided both an important river crossing and a symbol of Pawtucket's unity. It cost \$95,000.

Restoration of Division Street Bridge's masonry earned the State the Federal Highway Administration's 1986 Excellence in the Design of Highway Facilities Award. The bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

