

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Division Street Bridge

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Division Street at Seekonk River 1/3 mile below Pawtucket Falls  not for publication

city, town Pawtucket  vicinity of #1 - Fernand J. St Germain  
~~Congressional district~~

state Rhode Island code 44 county Providence code 007

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name City of Pawtucket

street & number 137 Roosevelt Avenue

city, town Pawtucket  vicinity of state Rhode Island 0286

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

street & number

city, town state

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

HAER - Rhode Island: An Inventory of Historic  
title Engineering and Industrial Site has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street

city, town Providence state Rhode Island 0290

# Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Division Street Bridge is a nine-arch, stone and brick highway bridge approximately 425 feet long between abutments carrying a 27-foot roadway and two 7-foot wide projected walkways over Taft Street and the Seekonk River one-third of a mile below Pawtucket Falls. The bridge's nine segmental arches each have an approximate 50-foot span, and each rises roughly 12 feet above its springing points; the six shore arches (four on the western bank, two on the eastern) have spans of approximately 40 feet and rises of only about 10 feet. The height of the roadbed above the mean water level of the Seekonk River is roughly 45 feet. The bridge's piers and abutments are constructed of rock-faced, coursed granite ashlar; the voussoirs are dressed granite with enlarged single keystones; spandrels are filled with heavily mortared random granite rubble; the arch barrels are of brick. Railed iron walkways are projected on iron brackets from both sides of the bridge. The only obvious alterations of the original structure are the present asphalt paving of the roadway, and the reinforced concrete sheathing over the footings of the river piers.

# B. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/
			<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1876-77

Builder/Architect

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Division Street Bridge is the finest and the longest stone-arch highway bridge remaining in Rhode Island. It was erected in 1875-77 by the Town of Pawtucket at a cost of \$95,000 to link the two rapidly growing neighborhoods which were then developing along both banks of the Seekonk south of the historic town centers closer to Pawtucket Falls. It also represented something of a grand symbolic gesture--the two villages on the opposite banks of Pawtucket Falls had belonged to separate towns (and, even, to separate states) from the dates of their foundings until 1874. In that year, the two communities were finally united as a single political entity. It is undoubtedly significant that one of the first major projects undertaken by the consolidated Town of Pawtucket was the erection of this costly and striking masonry bridge which joined the two neighborhoods.

The town committee responsible for the direction of the bridge project included the accomplished Rhode Island architect and Pawtucket resident, William R. Walker, but it is not known what influence (if any) the architect might have had upon the actual appearance of the bridge. Cushing & Company, and, later, Cushing & Shedd were the consulting engineers on the project; the Pawtucket master mason, Horace Foster, was the general contractor; and the iron walkways were manufactured by Crowell & Sisson of Providence.

# J. Major Bibliographical References

HAER - Rhode Island: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites, 1978.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Providence

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	9	3	0	2	0	8	0	4	6	3	8	1	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen J. Roper, Consultant in Architectural History

organization Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

date December, 1980

street & number 150 Benefit Street

telephone 401-277-2678

city or town Providence

state Rhode Island 02903

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

#1



DIVISION STREET BRIDGE  
PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND

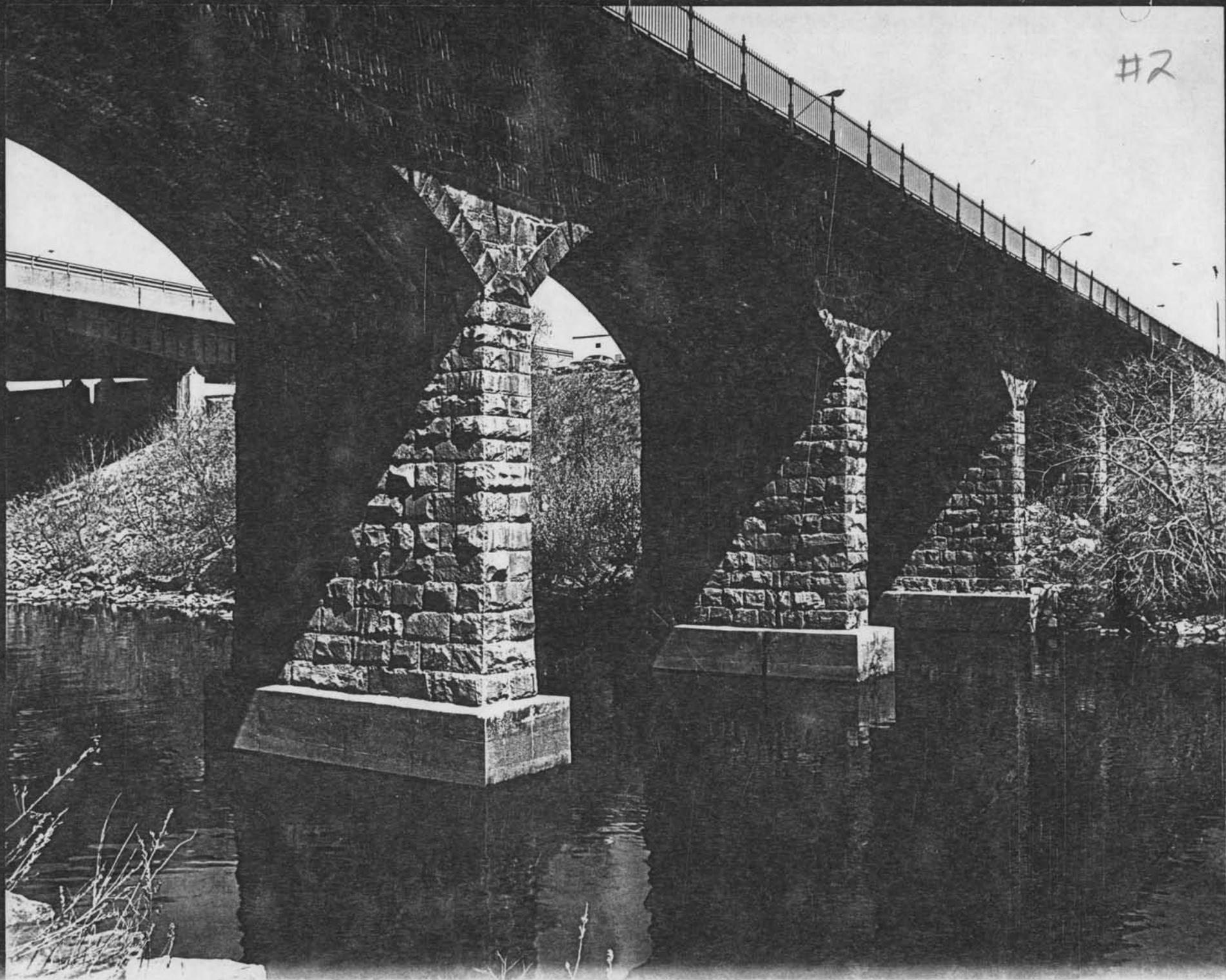
Photographer: Warren Jagger  
Date: March, 1982

Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903

View: Road bed and projected southern sidewalk, from  
western end of the bridge.

Photo #1

#2



DIVISION STREET BRIDGE  
PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND

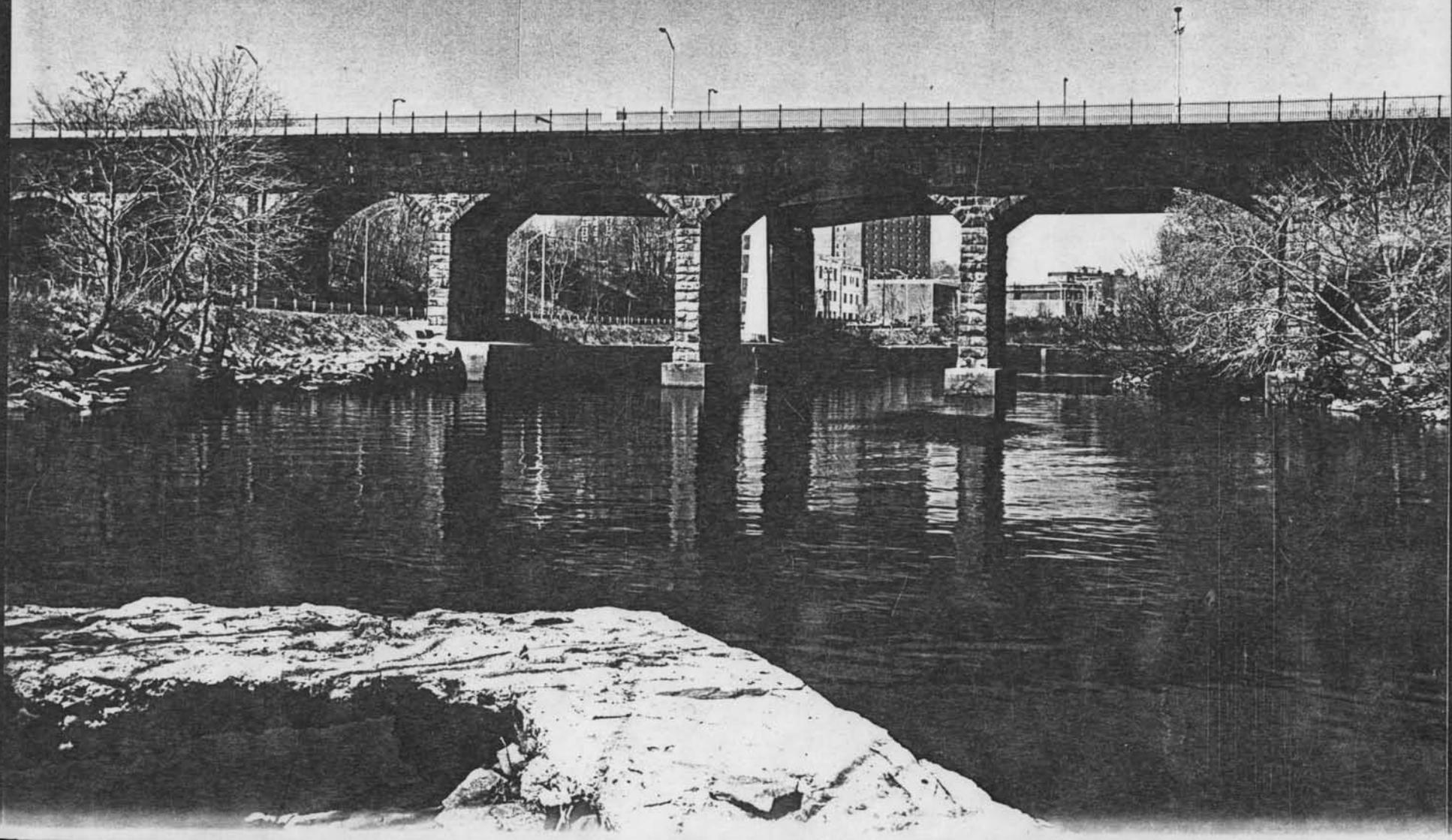
Photographer: Warren Jagger  
Date: March, 1982

Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903

View: From southwest along downstream side.

Photo #2

#3



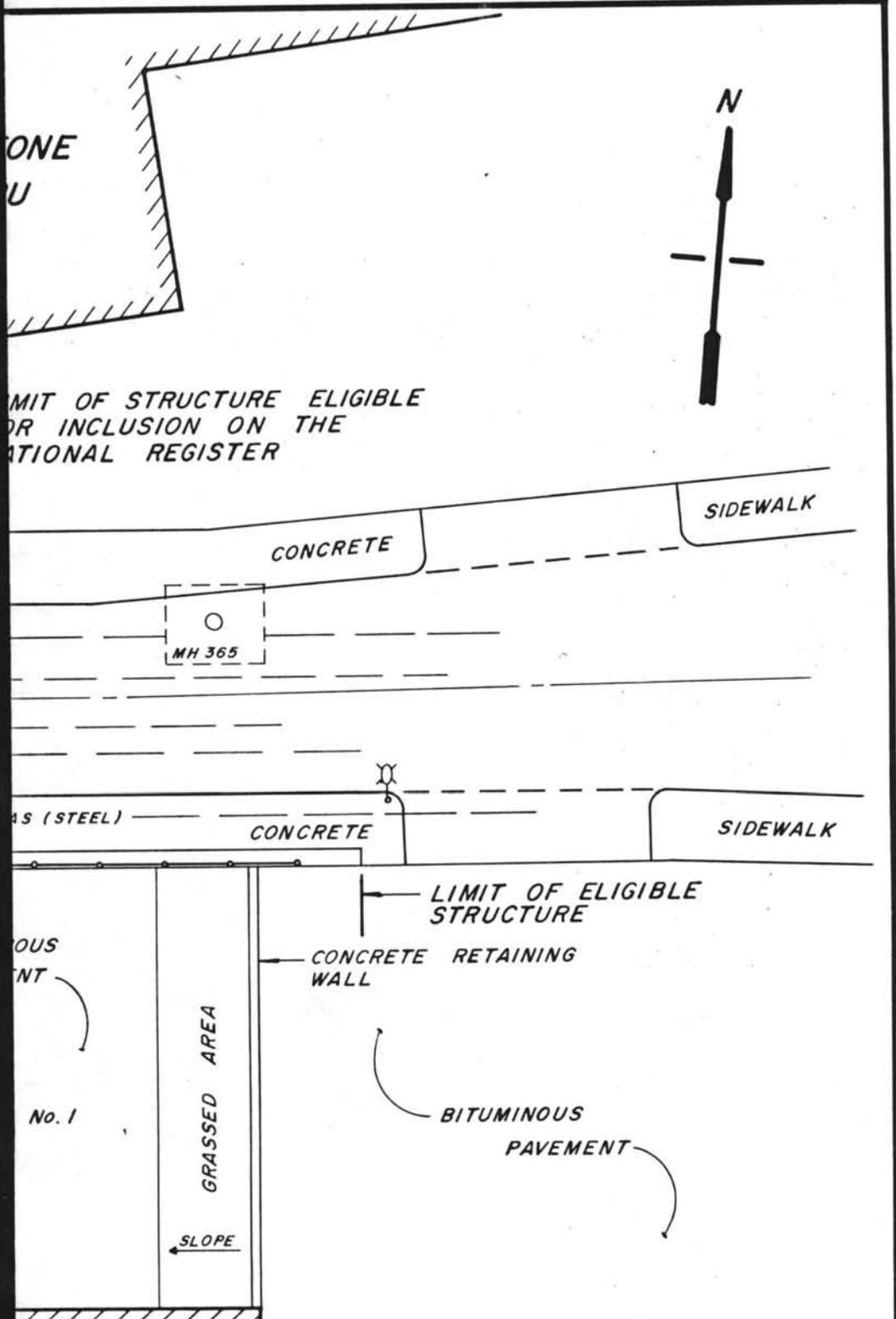
DIVISION STREET BRIDGE  
PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND

Photographer: Warren Jagger  
Date: March, 1982

Negative filed at: Rhode Island Historical  
Preservation Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903

View: From the south (downstream).

Photo #3



**PLAN**

EXHIBIT G

SCALE: 1" = 20'

PREPARED BY:  
**Lee Pare & Associates, Inc.**  
 CONSULTING ENGINEERS  
 PAWTUCKET, R.I. • NORWICH, CT.

**DIVISION STREET BRIDGE  
 REHABILITATION**  
 PAWTUCKET, RHODE ISLAND

BOT. OF SLOPE  
AND TOP OF  
RETAINING WALL

BLACKSTONE  
SUBARU

GRASSED  
AREA

BITUMINOUS  
CONCRETE CURB

1 1/2 : 1  
SLOPE  
(APPROX.)

CONCRETE BLOCK  
RETAINING WALL  
(STEPPED)

FACE OF EAST  
ABUTMENT

1.3'

LIMIT OF STRU  
FOR INCLUSION  
NATIONAL REC

POST &  
RAILING  
BRACKETS

14+00

ELECT. DUCTS

24" WATER

12" GAS

TEL. DUCTS (8 VIT.)

12" GAS (STEEL)

TIMBER  
SIDEWALK  
DECK

BOT. OF EXIST.  
FILLED SLOPE

GUARD  
RAIL

BITUMINOUS  
PAVEMENT

STA. 13+50.5

STA. 13+99.1

STA. 14+42.3

PIER 7

PIER 8

DRILL HOLE No. 1

EXIST. CAST IRON POST  
& WROUGHT IRON RAILING  
AND SUPPORT BRACKETS

1 1/2 : 1  
SLOPE  
(APPROX.)

BITUMINOUS  
CONCRETE CURB

G AND THOSE THAT  
EXISTING STRUCTURE  
USE EFFECTS THE  
WILL HAVE ON THE  
INCLUSION ON THE  
O PRESENT THOSE  
DISFACTORILY MITIGATE  
(SEE PLATE No. 2  
USE EFFECTS)

MERCHANTS  
TIRE CO.

PREPARED BY:

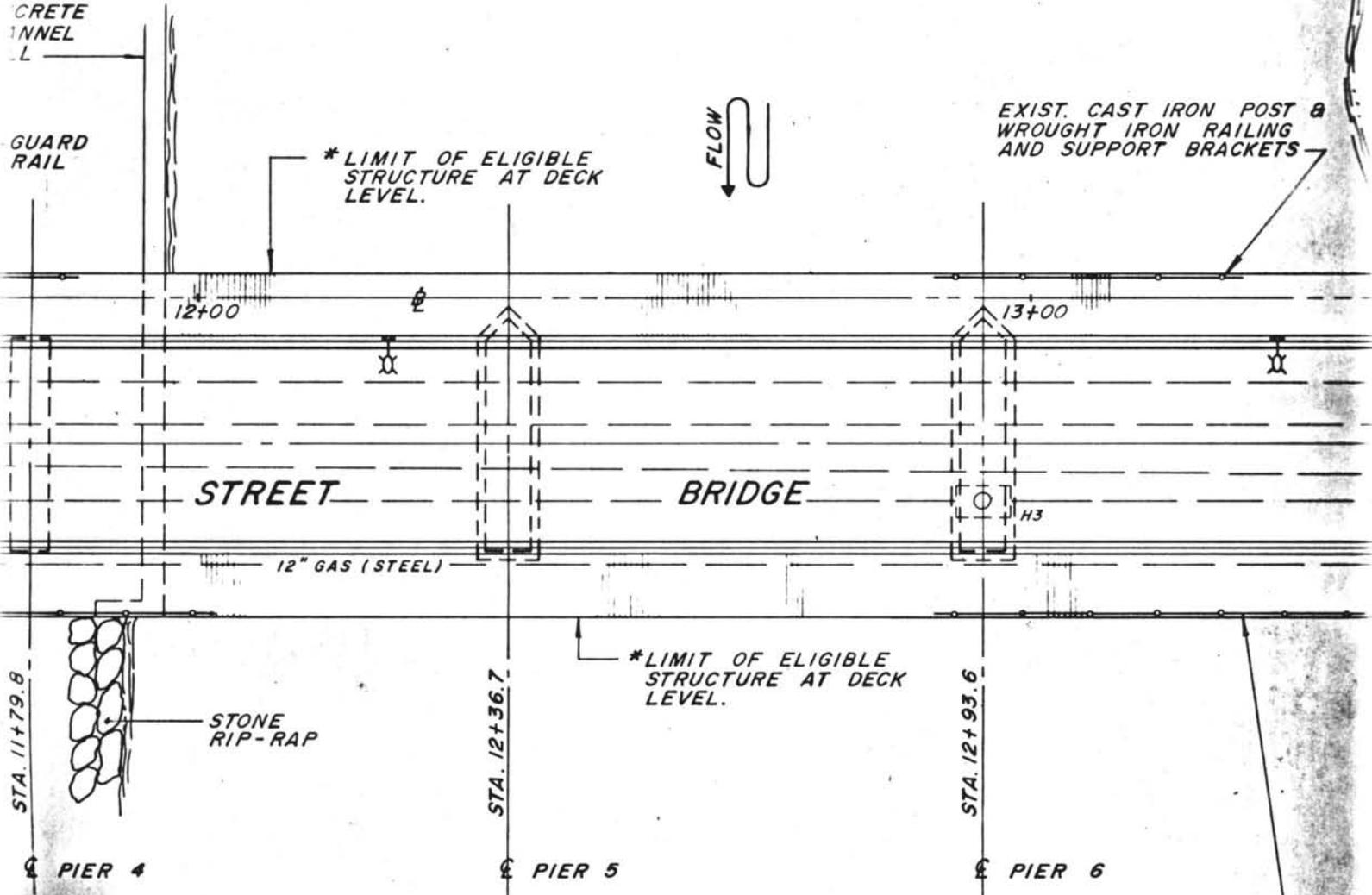


**Lee Pare & A**  
CONS.  
PAWTUCKET, R.I.

THIS IS THE BRIDGE PROPER.  
 DIMENSIONS CONTAINED WITHIN  
 LATERAL DIMENSIONS FOR  
 AND THE ABUTMENT WIDTH.

BOT. OF S.  
 AND TOP  
 RETAINING

# PAWTUCKET RIVER

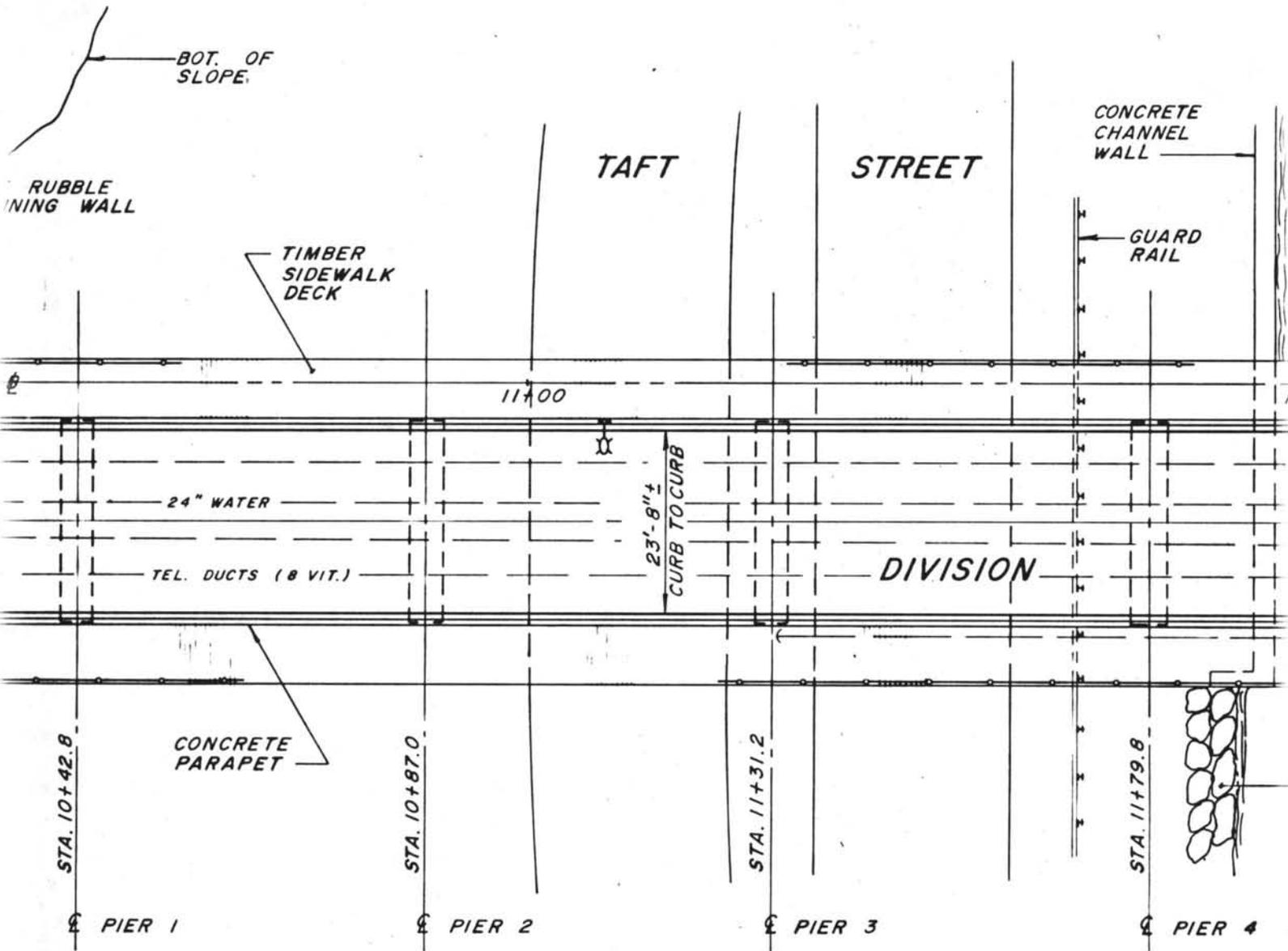


EXISTING AND  
 WORK EXCEPT  
 AND ARE  
 GE TO  
 ILITATION.  
 ONLY AS  
 ON (SEE

## SPECIAL NOTE :

THE INTENT OF THIS DRAWING AND THE  
 FOLLOW IS TO SHOW THE EXISTING STR  
 AND TO INDICATE THE ADVERSE EFFECT  
 PROPOSED REHABILITATION WILL HAVE  
 STRUCTURE ELIGIBLE FOR INCLUSION O  
 NATIONAL REGISTER, AND TO PRESENT  
 MEASURES INTENDED TO SATISFACTORIL  
 THOSE ADVERSE EFFECTS. (SEE PLAT  
 FOR THE LISTING OF ADVERSE EFFECT

\* THE LIMIT OF THE ELIGIBLE STRUCTURE IS THE  
IT ENCOMPASSES ALL BRIDGE ELEMENTS CONT  
THE VERTICAL PROJECTION OF THE LATERAL D  
THE ARCH WIDTH, THE PIER WIDTH AND THE



**NOTES:**

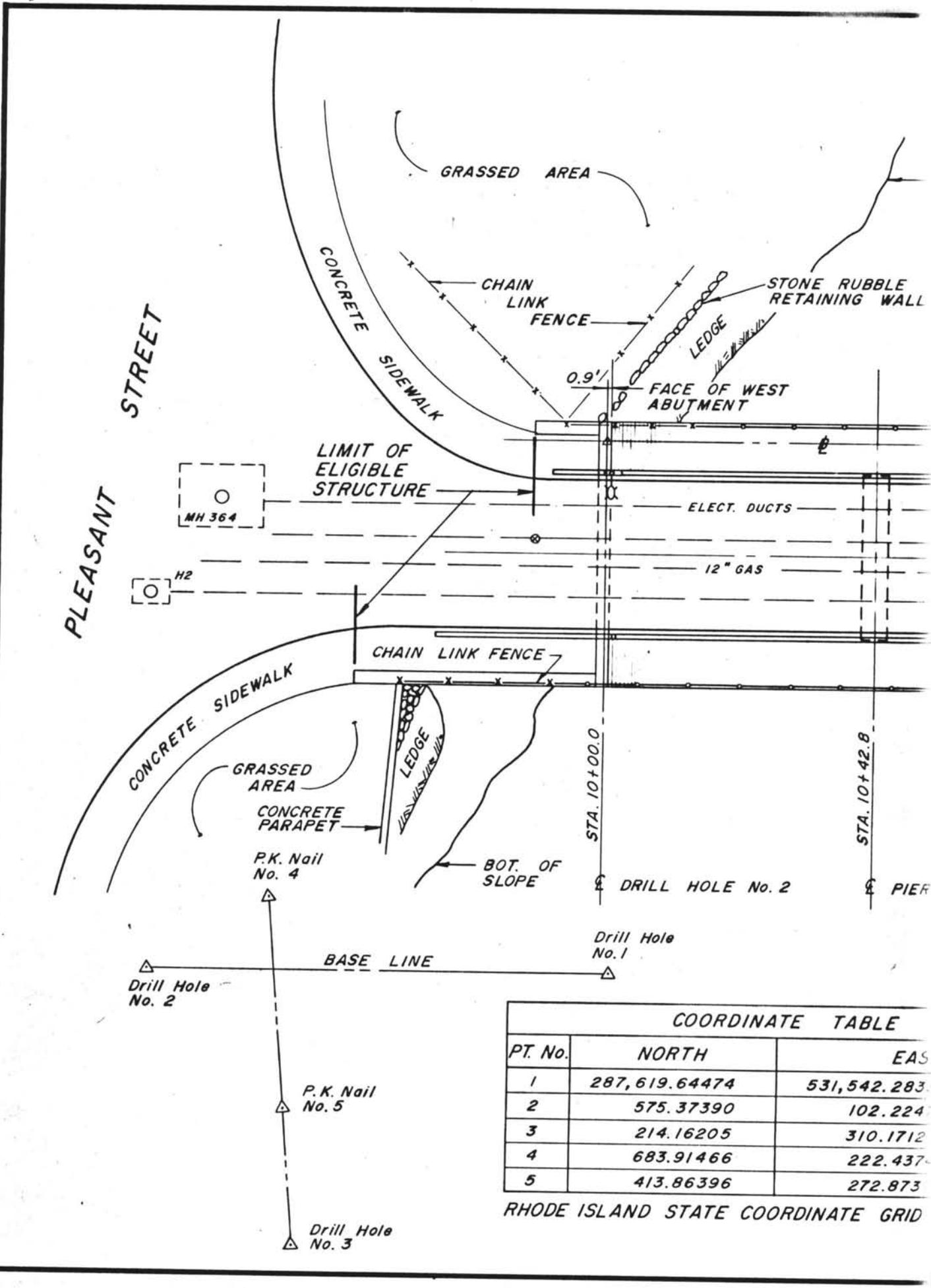
1. ALL ITEMS SHOWN IN PLAN ARE EXISTING AND DO NOT REFLECT THE PROPOSED WORK EXCEPT AS NOTED.
2. ALL UTILITY LOCATIONS ARE EXISTING AND ARE TO BE RELOCATED WITHIN THE BRIDGE TO ACCOMODATE THE STRUCTURE REHABILITATION.
3. THE EXISTING STRUCTURE IS AFFECTED ONLY AS INDICATED IN THE PROPOSED SECTION (SEE PLATE No. 4)

**TABLE**

**EAST**

531,542.28339	E. ABUT.
102.22470	W. ABUT.
310.17121	
222.43743	
272.87370	

ORDINATE GRID SYSTEM



**COORDINATE TABLE**

PT. No.	NORTH	EAS
1	287,619.64474	531,542.283
2	575.37390	102.224
3	214.16205	310.1712
4	683.91466	222.437
5	413.86396	272.873

RHODE ISLAND STATE COORDINATE GRID

