

MILL STREET BRIDGE
Spanning the Susquehanna River at Mill Street
Cooperstown
Otsego County
New York

268
HAER No. NY-286

HAER
NY
39-COOP
12-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

MILL STREET BRIDGE

HAER No. NY - 268

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NY
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12-

Location: Mill Street over Susquehanna River
Village of Cooperstown
Otsego County, New York

UTM:18.506460.4726620
Quad: Cooperstown, NY, 1:24,000

Date of Construction: 1887

Engineer: Not known
Builder: ~~Craton~~ ^{Groton} Iron Bridge Company
~~Craton~~ ^{Groton}, New York

Present Owner: Towns of Middlefield and Otsego

Present Use: Foot bridge; closed to vehicles

Significance: The bridge is typical of many Pratt truss bridges constructed in this area during the late 1800's and early 1900's. The structure is located within the Cooperstown Historic District and is a contributing component.

Project Information: An evaluation of the bridge conducted in 1991 revealed that it was potentially dangerous and replacement was recommended. To mitigate the adverse effect, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation stipulated that historic documentation of the structure be prepared and accepted prior to demolition. This documentation has been undertaken to fulfill that stipulation.

Edward L. Horn, P.E.
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Summary Description of Bridge and Setting

This bridge carries Mill Street over the Susquehanna River. Built in 1887, the bridge is a single-span wrought iron and steel pin-connected Pratt truss. The span length is 94.5' and the roadway consists of a single travel lane 16' wide; there are no sidewalks. The abutments are of masonry construction and the concrete wingwalls extend to a small dam 20' downstream from the bridge. The vertical clearance ranges between 6' to 8' depending on the level of the river.

The bridge is typical of many Pratt type trusses built in the central New York area during the late 1800's and early 1900's. The upper chord of the truss consists of riveted plate and double wide flange sections while the lower chord is comprised of double eyebars. The diagonals and end verticals are also double eyebars and the interior verticals are channel sections with riveted lacing. The floorbeams and stringers are wide flange sections. All truss connections are of the pin type. The deck is timber with an asphalt overlay.

The bridge is located in the southeast corner of the Village of Cooperstown, at the Middlefield/Otsego town line, and provided the first crossing at this site. The bridge is at an elevation 40' to 50' lower than that of the Village proper and is substantially screened on all sides by mature hillside woods. Originally, a saw mill was located near the east end of the bridge and there were several residences along the banks of the Susquehanna River in the vicinity of the bridge. This crossing was important locally because it reduced the haul distance between the saw mill and Cooperstown at a time when significant growth and development was occurring. The following newspaper records and references were reviewed for information on the bridge without success:

1. Freeman's Journal (local newspaper).
2. History of Cooperstown, Cooper, Shaw, Littell and Hollis, Published by New York State Historical Association, 1976.
3. History of Otsego County, Published by Everts & Fariss, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1878; Republished by Morrison and Company, Ovid, New York, 1978.

The modern Bassett Hospital buildings, the hospital parking lot and the Village water treatment plant are presently the only structures within close proximity of the bridge.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Negative #4-2094, New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, New York.
2. Negative #5-17, New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, New York.
3. Bridge plaques (2), New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, New York.

SITE PLAN

