

GRASSMERE ROAD BRIDGE
Grassmere Road spanning the
Pinnebog River
Caseville vicinity
Huron County
Michigan

HAER No. MI-85

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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HAER No. MI-85

Location: Grassmere Road spanning
the Pinnebog River
Caseville vicinity,
Huron County, Michigan

UTM:17.329350.4868380
Quad: Rush Lake, Michigan

Date of Construction: 1910, Modification in 1959

Contractor: Unknown

Present Owner: Huron County Road Commission
Huron, MI

Present Use: Vehicular bridge

Significance: With a total bridge length of
21.9 m (72'), it is an unusual
for a Pratt Pony Truss bridge
to be this long.

Project Information: The bridge replacement became
more critical after the 1991
bridge inspection indicated
the 5 ton load limit. To
mitigate the adverse effect,
the State Historic Preservation
Office stipulated documentation
of the historic bridge. This
documentation was undertaken
to fulfill the first stipulation
of the Memorandum of Agreement.

R.S. Scott Associates
405 River Street
Alpena, MI 49707

Summary Description of Bridge and Setting

The Grassmere Road Bridge is located near the city of Carsonville in Huron County. Grassmere Road is a north-south road on a 20.12 m (66') right-of-way with two 3.05 m (10') lanes and 1.22 m (4') shoulders. The total approach roadway width is 8.53 m (28') constructed of gravel material north and south of the bridge. The existing bridge is a three span steel structure. The center span is a 14.94 m (49') Pratt pony truss with pinned connections and stringer approach spans 3.05 m (10') and 4.11 m (13.5') long. The bridge has four 0.76 m (30") corrugated metal pipes filled with concrete used as piers. The piers were placed under the bridge in 1959 to accommodate the heavier traffic loads which were causing the bridge to sag. The existing bridge deck width is 4.78 m (15'-8") wide with a 0.09 m (3.5") thick concrete wearing surface. The total bridge length is 21.95 m (72'). The present average daily traffic (ADT) is 125 vehicles and the future expected traffic is 220 vehicles in the year 2015. The existing Grassmere Road Bridge crosses the Pinnebog River at a 90° angle with no skew. The bridge is presently posted for 15 mph and a 5 ton load limit.

Historically roads were built where horse and buggy trails had been. Usually these trails were on higher ground making them the most accessible during the rainy seasons. In the case of the Grassmere Road, the shortest distance across the Pinnebog flood plain is between these higher grounds which makes the bridge's location the most feasible place to be located.

The information came from the Huron County Road Commission's bridge surveys and inspection reports. Other sources which were all checked but did not have any information on the site are the Bad Axe Library, the Bay Port Chamber of Commerce, the Huron Historical Society, the Pigeon Historical Society, and the Pigeon Public Library.

The bridge is significant to local farming operations, emergency vehicles, school buses, fire trucks, and commercial vehicles in this area. Currently, all vehicles except cars and pickups must detour 6.44 km (4 miles).

Bibliography

Huron County Road Commission, Grassmere Road over the Pinnebog River Survey Notes and Bridge Inspection, 1992.

