

**CONNECTICUT RIVER BRIDGE
08 – CLAREMONT – WEATHERSFIELD**

NH Bridge ID: Claremont 065/134

CARRYING: Main Street, NH 12, NH 103

PRESENT BRIDGE NAME: Ascutney Bridge

DATE BUILT: 1969

LAT/LONG: 43.403114,-72.400396

CROSSING CHRONOLOGY

- 1837 First wooden toll bridge replaces ferry
- 1901 First bridge destroyed in freshet
- 1908 Second bridge, steel truss, free
- 1969 Third bridge, steel girder

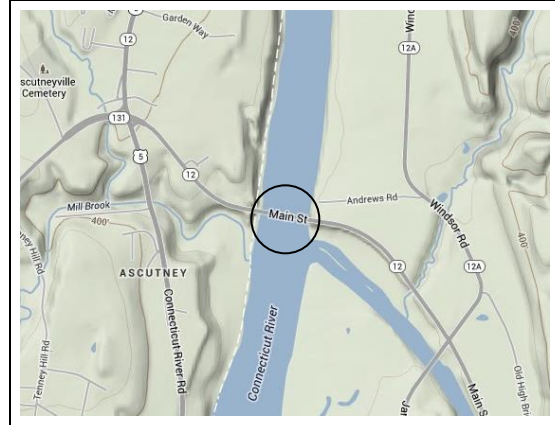


FIGURE 1: Present Ascutney Bridge, four span continuous welded plate girder built 1969 (Historic Documentation Company Inc. 2013).

CROSSING HISTORY

Ferry crossing and first bridge: The date of the ferry at Claremont is unknown, but it had been in operation for some time when a corporation formed for the purpose built the first toll bridge at this location in 1837. The bridge was destroyed by a freshet in March 1901.

Second bridge: In the aftermath of the bridge collapse, many local citizens agitated for an end to the bridge toll in the event a new span was built. In 1908, the town completed the second bridge as a toll-free crossing, a three-span steel Parker truss structure supported by concrete abutments with one concrete pier and one stone pier. The bridge firm of Storrs & Storrs served as consulting engineer and the United Construction Company was the contractor. Based on a plan in the NHDOT bridge inventory, the bridge's New Hampshire abutment was undermined by the great flood of 1927 and was replaced in the following year with a reinforced concrete pier and a new 40-foot approach span of steel I-beam construction, making the bridge a four-span structure.

Third bridge: The 1908 bridge was replaced with the current structure in 1969. It is a four-span steel welded plate girder stringer deck bridge, 467'-8" in length with a reinforced concrete floor. There are six lines of continuous-span variable depth, welded plate girders. The bridge was built by the state of New Hampshire at a cost of \$54,444. The general contractor was Callahan Brothers of Mechanic Falls, Maine. The deck underwent rehabilitation in 1991.

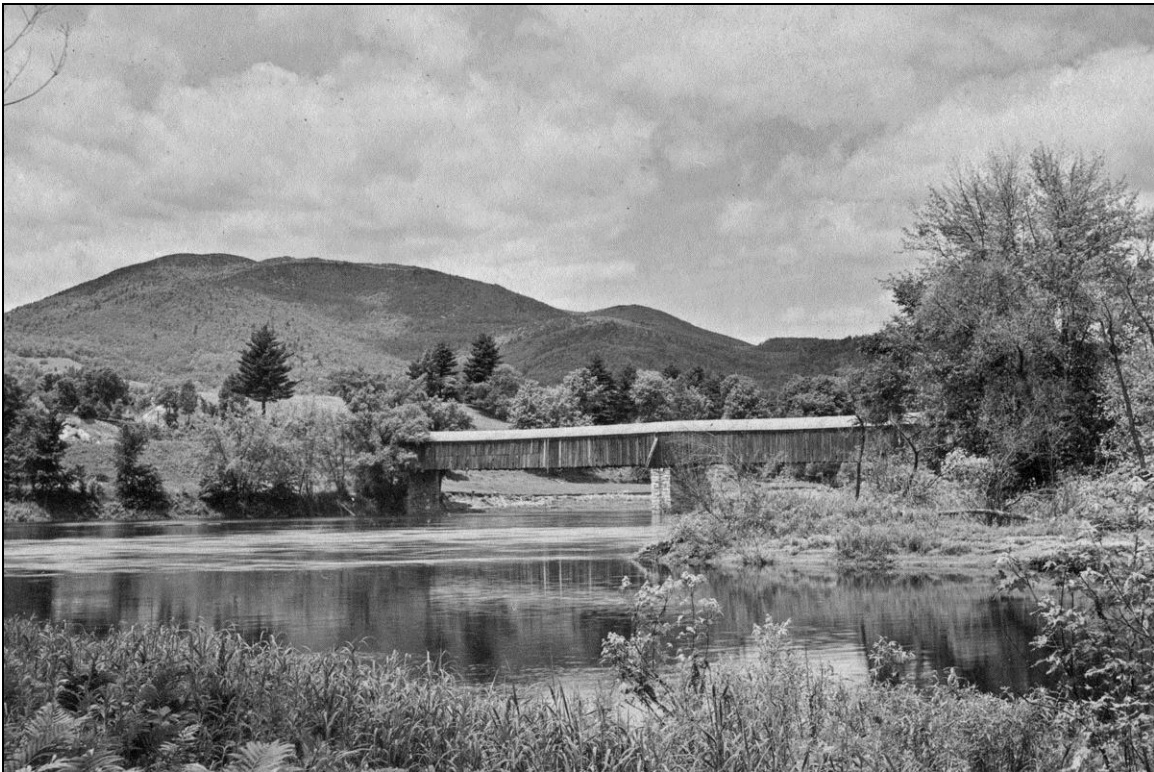


FIGURE 2: Claremont Toll Bridge, three span, 600' covered wood truss bridge, destroyed by freshet and ice in 1901 (Claremont Historical Society, no date).



FIGURE 3: Ascutney Bridge, built 1908. Photo of downstream side in 1940. Parker Truss designed by Storrs & Storrs. Demolished 1969 (NHDOT 1940).



FIGURE 4: Ascutney Bridge, built 1908. Photo of New Hampshire end in 1940 (NHDOT 1940).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bacon, Edwin Monroe. *The Connecticut River and the Valley of the Connecticut: Three Hundred and Fifty Miles from Mountain to Sea*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1906.

Claremont Historical Society Photograph Collection.

Garvin, James. *Metal Truss Bridges in New Hampshire*. Mss, compiled 2005. On file at NH Division of Historical Resources, Concord.

Marshall, Richard G. *A Link with our Past – New Hampshire's Covered Bridges*. Brattleboro, VT: Stephen Green Press, 1994.

NHDOT Bridge Cards, Claremont 065/137, 1940 and Claremont 065/134, 1969. On file at NHDOT, Concord.

Report of the Bridge Commissioners of the State of New Hampshire. Manchester: State of New Hampshire, 1906.

Waite, Otis F.R. *History of the Town of Claremont*. Manchester: John B. Clarke Company, 1895.