

**CONNECTICUT RIVER BRIDGE
026 – STRATFORD – MAIDSTONE**

NH Bridge ID: Stratford 098/064

CARRYING: Bog Road
PRESENT NAME: Janice Peaslee Bridge
DATE BUILT: 1893, rebuilt 2005
LAT/LONG: 44.651937,-71.562597

CROSSING CHRONOLOGY

1893 Stratford Hollow bridge built,
a High Pratt pin-connected truss
1958 Repaired
2005 Reconstructed and renamed
Janice Peaslee Bridge



FIGURE 1: Janice Peaslee Bridge. New Hampshire end (Historic Documentation Company Inc. 2012).

CROSSING HISTORY

First bridge: In 1893, Fred N. Day, Esquire, Stratford's representative to the legislature, undertook a strenuous personal campaign to secure the construction for two bridges spanning the Connecticut River for the town. Day succeeded in pushing through the passage of a bill, approved by the House of Representatives on March 9, 1893, authorizing the construction of two free bridges over the Connecticut,

one at some convenient point opposite the village of Stratford Hollow, between said town of Stratford and town of Maidstone, Vermont, and one opposite the village of North Stratford, on or near the site of the Baldwin bridge, so called, and to take the franchise and so much of the property of the Baldwin Company, chartered in 1850, as may be necessary . . .

Day also ushered through the House and Senate a joint resolution which granted state funding for one-third the cost of the two bridges, not to exceed \$4,000, provided the remaining two-thirds be paid by the town through the normal assessment of taxes. In addition to the \$4,000 provided by the state, the town of Stratford approved by vote the borrowing of \$9,500 to be hired at four percent. The Vermont towns of Maidstone and Brunswick each contributed \$500, and Bloomfield contributed \$2,860. The Baldwin Company was paid \$750 "in damages" for its bridge, which was demolished.

The Berlin Iron Bridge Company of East Berlin, Connecticut, won the contract for the construction of the two bridges for the total amount of \$16,065.30. Work began in November 1893, and both bridges were opened to traffic without ceremony on or about May 1, 1894. The Stratford-Maidstone Bridge, also known locally as the Stratford Hollow Bridge, consists of a 151'-long pin-connected Pratt truss. It stands today as the oldest metal truss bridge spanning the Connecticut River.



FIGURE 2: Stratford Hollow Bridge during repairs in 1958 (NHDOT 1948).

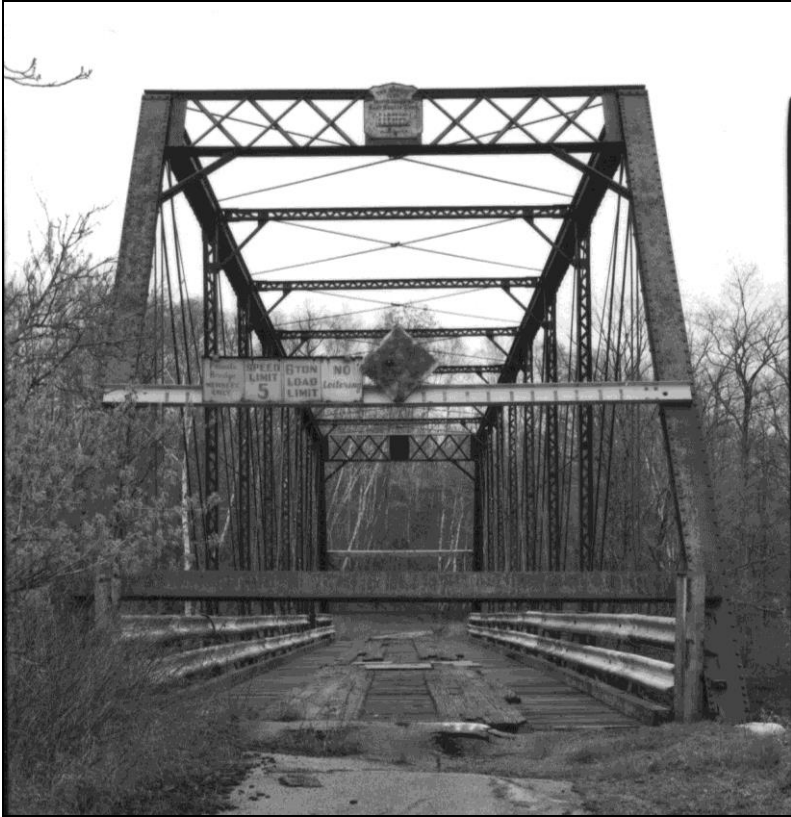


FIGURE 3: Stratford Hollow Bridge in August 2000 (Casella 2000).

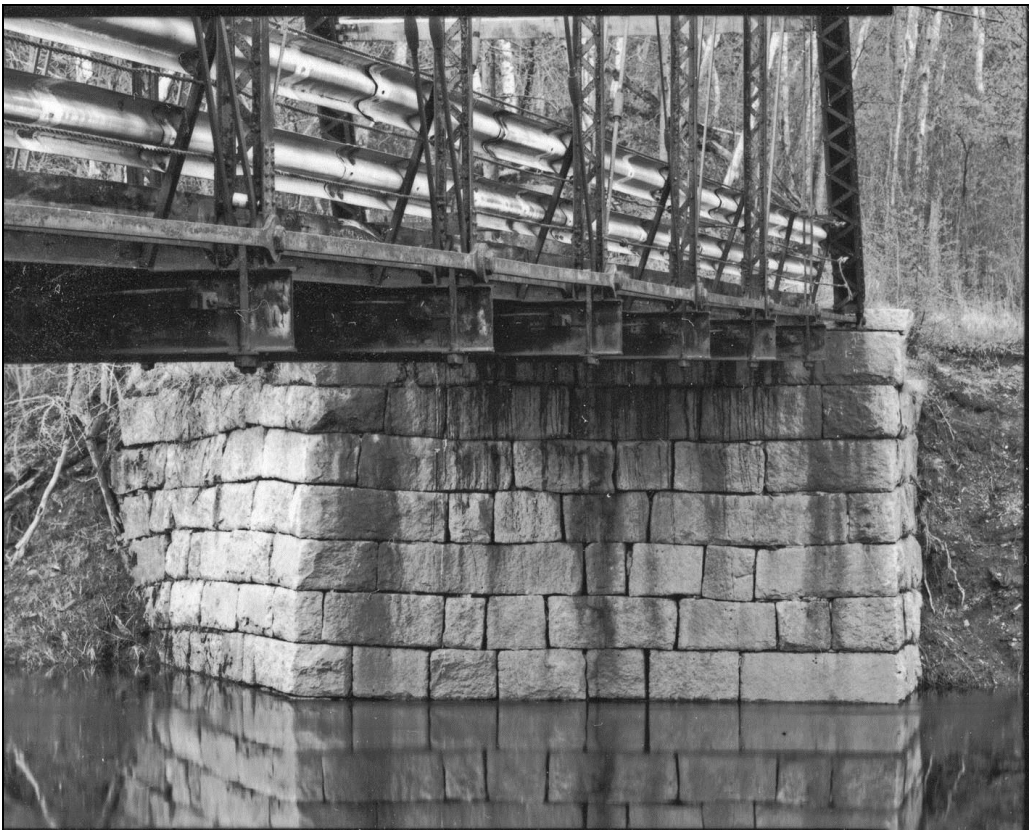


FIGURE 4: Stratford Hollow Bridge in August 2000 (Casella 2000).



FIGURE 5: Floor beam, post and lower chord reconstruction, 2005 (Historic Documentation Co. Inc. 2012).

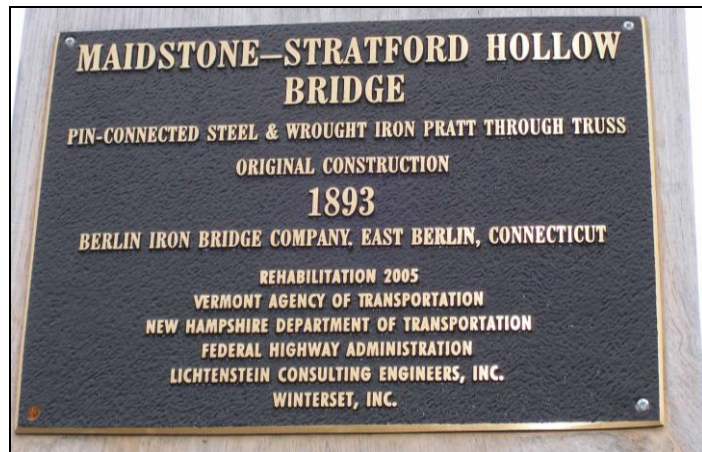


FIGURE 6: Plaque at bridge site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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