

**CONNECTICUT RIVER BRIDGE
030 STEWARTSTOWN-CANAAN**

NH Bridge ID: Stewartstown 028/145

CARRYING: VT 114, Main Street
PRESENT NAME: Main Street Bridge
DATE BUILT: 1990
LAT/LONG: 44.995716,-71.534793

CROSSING CHRONOLOGY

1820s First toll bridge built
1847 Bridge destroyed in spring freshet
c.1850 Second covered bridge built
1887 Bridge purchased by towns, toll removed
1927 Abutment collapses in flood
1928 Third bridge constructed
1991 Fourth bridge completed

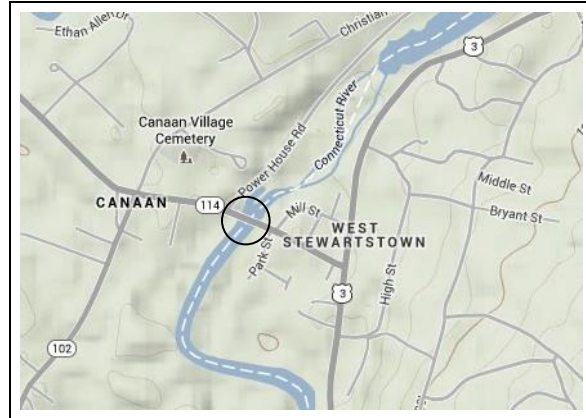


FIGURE 1: Main Street Bridge, built 1990. Downstream side from Vermont (Historic Documentation Company Inc. 2012).

CROSSING HISTORY

First bridge: According to historian James Garvin, the first bridge at this location was constructed in approximately the 1820s as a toll bridge. The first bridge was swept away by a spring freshet in 1847.

Second bridge: The Stewartstown Bridge Company constructed a three-span covered bridge as a replacement around 1850. In 1887, the towns of Stewartstown, NH, and Canaan, VT, joined forces to purchase the wooden bridge and remove the toll. Photographs made by the noted bridge engineer John W. Storrs in 1922 record the wooden bridge as it survived at that date. The main structure to the west comprised two covered Paddleford truss spans, 69 feet in length for the west span and 106 feet for the center span. Both had been reinforced at some date with interior arches. The easternmost span, 60 feet long, was a covered Howe truss structure. The east abutment of the bridge collapsed in the flood of November 1927.

Third bridge: In 1928, the New Hampshire Highway Department constructed a new single-span steel Pratt truss (Parker type) bridge, supported by concrete abutments and 224 feet in length. The American Bridge Company acted as contractor. In 1940 the bridge received a new floor.

Fourth bridge: During 1990-1991, NHDOT replaced the 1928 bridge with a 241-foot two-span steel plate girder structure carried on abutments of reinforced concrete.



FIGURE 2: Stewartstown Bridge Company covered bridge, built c.1850. Photo dated October 30, 1922 showing downstream side from Vermont (Storrs).



FIGURE 3: Stewartstown Bridge Company covered bridge, built c.1850. Photo dated October 30, 1922, showing upstream side and Vermont end (Storrs).



FIGURE 4: Stewartstown-Canaan Bridge, built 1928. Downstream side, shown in photo dated September 9, 1941 (NHDOT 1941).



FIGURE 5: Stewartstown-Canaan Bridge, built 1928. Vermont approach, photo dated September 9, 1941 (NHDOT 1941).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Garvin, James. Mss on Connecticut River bridges. Filed at NH Division of Historical Resources, Concord.

John Storrs Photograph Collection. Located at New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, Concord.

Merrill, George Drew. *History of Coos County, New Hampshire*. Syracuse: W.A. Ferguson & Co., 1888.

NHDOT Bridge Cards. Stewartstown 028/146, 1941; Stewartstown 028/145, 1990. Filed at NHDOT, Concord.