NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORIC PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION OSSIPEE BRIDGES 137/297 & 137/299 NH ROUTE 16 OVER BEARCAMP RIVER

NH State No. 744

LOCATION:	NH Route 16 & 25 over Bearcamp River, 2.5 miles south of Ossipee- Tamworth town line, Ossipee, Carroll County, New Hampshire. USGS Ossipee Lake, NH Quadrangle, 1998. UTM Coordinates: 19.324524.4851668
	State Plane Coordinates (NAD 83 feet): x 1,112,416.93, y 473,235.54
DATE BUILT:	1955
BUILDER:	New Hampshire Highway Department (NHHD)
ENGINEER:	Harold E. Langley, Bridge Engineer, Robert J. Prowse, Assistant Bridge Engineer, NHHD
CONTRACTOR:	Peter Salvucci & Sons, Inc., Waltham, MA

- **OWNER / USE:** NHDOT / State highway bridges
- **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ossipee Bridges 137/297 and 137/299, also known as Bearcamp River Bridge and Bearcamp River Relief Bridge, are examples of a continuous I-beam stringer deck highway bridge of an uncommon design that combined simple and continuous beam design. They were designed by Harold E. Langley, Bridge Engineer, and Robert J. Prowse, Assistant Bridge Engineer, noted engineers in the history of the NHHD and may have been the first of their type designed by the department. The bridges retain features representative of mid-20th c. bridges of the type, specifically the H-pile bents of double batter-pile design, the combined open-grid shoulder/steel curb/open-grid sidewalk assembly, and the original steel angle railings. Although these features were once common they may have seen limited use in New Hampshire; the number of intact examples remaining is unknown. The bridges therefore possess distinctive engineering characteristics, represent significant work of two engineers important to New Hampshire bridge engineering history, and may have played an important role in the development of a specialized bridge type in New Hampshire. The bridges retain integrity of location, setting, association, feeling, design, materials and workmanship. They were determined eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria C. For further information see: Individual Inventory Forms OSS0030 & OSS0031 and associated Determination of Eligibility form (dated 2/26/2013) on file at New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, Concord.
- **PROJECT INFORMATION:** Ossipee Bridges 137/297 and 137/299 were documented in accordance with the standards of the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR) and the Historic American Engineering Record in May 2017 by Historic Documentation Company Inc. (HDC), Portsmouth, RI, for the NHDOT Bureau of Environment. The documentation fulfills the Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement between Federal Highway Administration, NH Department of Transportation and the NH State Historic Preservation Office, dated January 18, 2017. The report was written and compiled by Richard M. Casella, Engineering Historian, Historic Documentation Company. Rob Tucher Photographic Documentation, High Bridge, NJ, conducted the large-format black and white film photography.

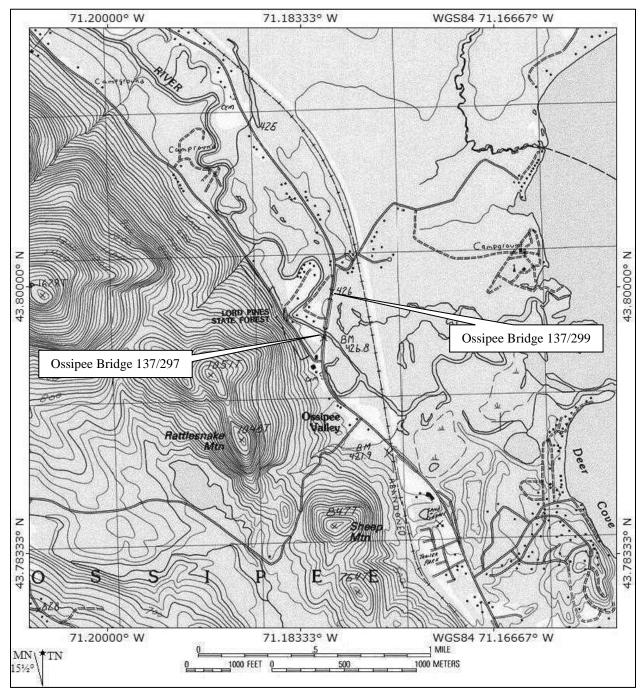


FIGURE 1: Location Map. (USGS Quad: Ossipee Lake, NH 1998).

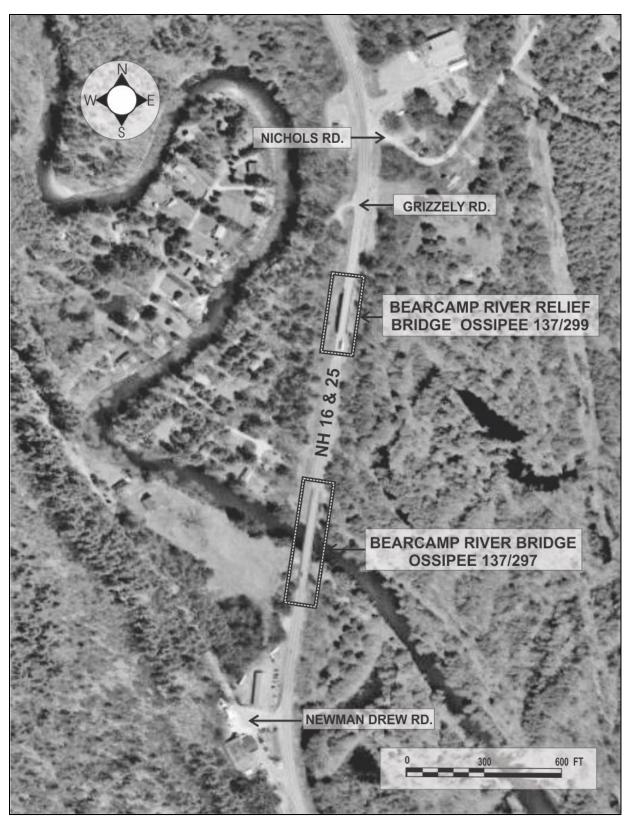


FIGURE 2: Location Map Detail (Microsoft Bing aerial mapping, 2016).

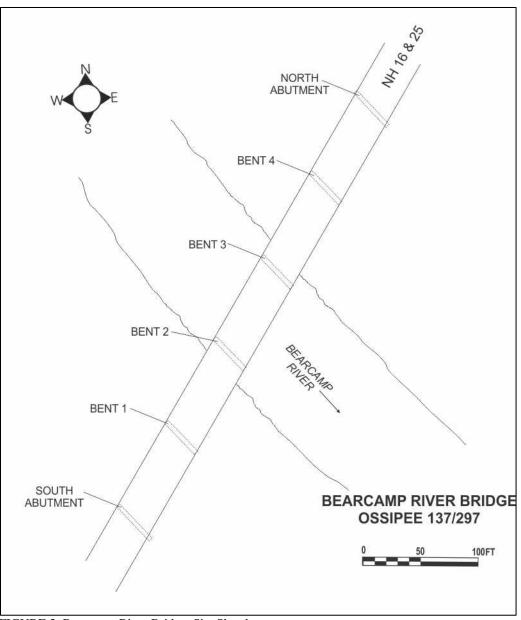


FIGURE 3: Bearcamp River Bridge, Site Sketch

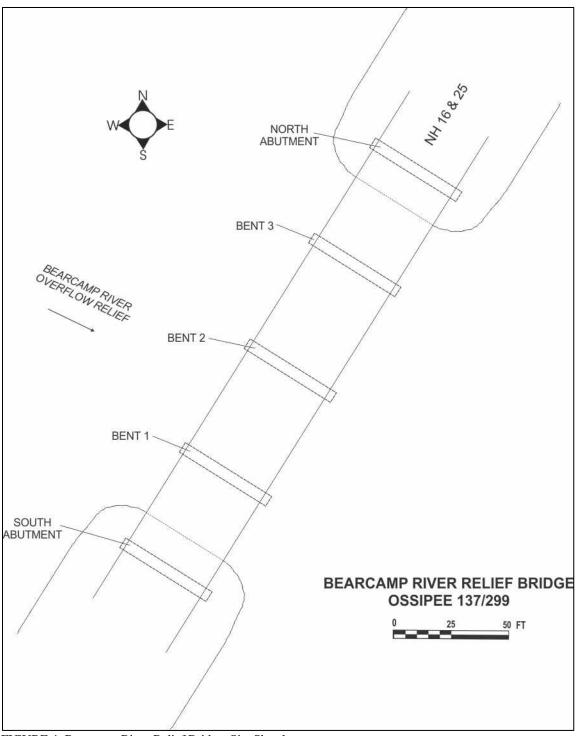


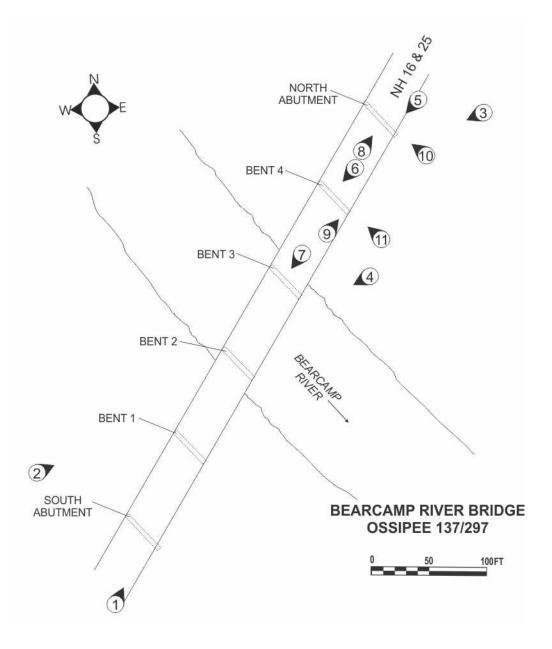
FIGURE 4: Bearcamp River Relief Bridge, Site Sketch

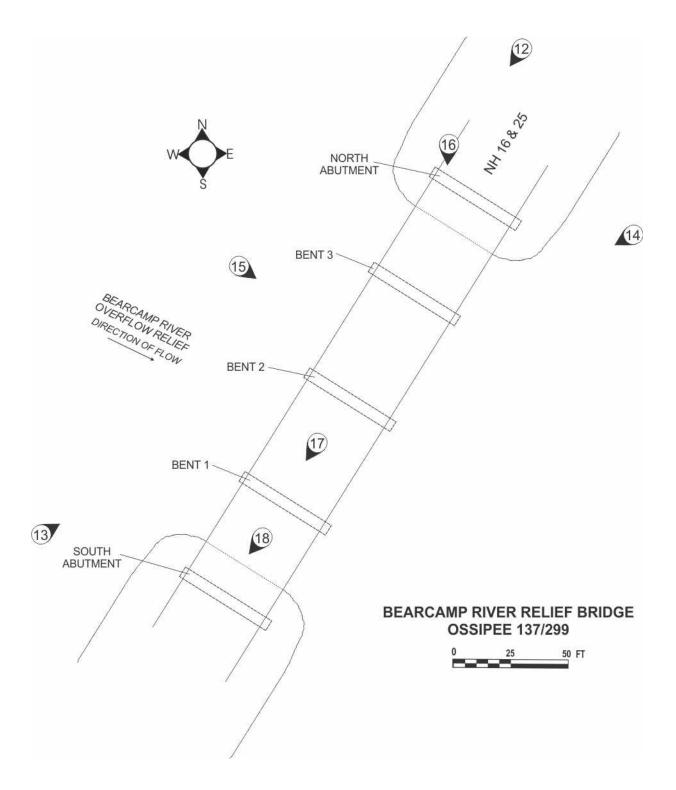
INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

OSSIPEE BRIDGES 137/297 & 137/299 NH ROUTE 16 OVER BEARCAMP RIVER Ossipee, Carroll County, New Hampshire. New Hampshire State No. 744 Photographer: Rob Tucher May 2017

- NH-744-1 Bearcamp River Bridge, south approach and view of deck showing slightly arched profile of superstructure most apparent in railing. Looking north.
- NH-744-2 Bearcamp River Bridge, oblique view of west (upstream) side of bridge. Looking northeast.
- NH-744-3 Bearcamp River Bridge, oblique view of east (downstream) side of bridge. Looking southwest.
- NH-744-4 Bearcamp River Bridge, oblique view of east (downstream) side of bridge in context with river channel. Looking southwest.
- NH-744-5 Bearcamp River Bridge, north approach, view of deck showing steel grate curb drains and sidewalk. Looking southwest.
- NH-744-6 Bearcamp River Bridge, bent 4, elevation, showing battered H-piles, concrete cap girder, rolled I-beam stringers with diaphragm bracing. Looking southwest.
- NH-744-7 Bearcamp River Bridge, bent 3, elevation, showing battered H-piles, concrete cap girder, rolled I-beam stringers with diaphragm bracing. Looking southwest.
- NH-744-8 Bearcamp River Bridge, north abutment elevation, showing rolled I-beam stringers with diaphragm bracing. Looking northeast.
- NH-744-9 Bearcamp River Bridge, bent 4, east side, showing battered H-piles, concrete cap girder equipped with flood-escape ladder rungs and the steel-grate sidewalk and curb assembly above. Looking northeast.
- NH-744-10 Bearcamp River Bridge, north abutment, east side, showing abutment back wall, bearing, sidewalk assembly and railing. Looking northwest.
- NH-744-11: Bearcamp River Bridge, bent 4, east side, showing detail of welded splice joint joining stringers over bent bearings, made to exact specifications to allow the stringers to function structurally as both simple and continuous beams. Looking northwest.

- NH-744-12: Bearcamp River Relief Bridge, north approach with Bearcamp River Bridge visible in distance. Looking southwest.
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- NH-744-15: Bearcamp River Relief Bridge, west (upstream) elevation showing bents 2 and 3. Looking southeast.
- NH-744-16: Bearcamp River Relief Bridge, deck view, showing railing, open grate drains and expansion joint visible at right of asphalt patch. Looking south.
- NH-744-17: Bearcamp River Relief Bridge, bent 1, and underside of deck showing stringers and diaphragms. Looking southwest.
- NH-744-18: Bearcamp River Relief Bridge, south abutment elevation, showing rolled I-beam stringers with diaphragm bracing. Looking southwest.







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NH-744-2: Bearcamp River Bridge, oblique view of west (upstream) side of bridge. Looking northeast.



NH-744-3: Bearcamp River Bridge, oblique view of east (downstream) side of bridge. Looking southwest.



NH-744-4: Bearcamp River Bridge, oblique view of east (downstream) side of bridge in context with river channel. Looking southwest.



NH-744-5: Bearcamp River Bridge, north approach, view of deck showing steel grate curb drains and sidewalk. Looking southwest.



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NH-744-14: Bearcamp River Relief Bridge, oblique view of east (downstream) side of bridge. Looking southwest.



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NH-744-18: Bearcamp River Relief Bridge, south abutment elevation, showing rolled I-beam stringers with diaphragm bracing. Looking southwest.

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OSSIPEE BRIDGES 137/297 & 137/299 NH ROUTE 16 OVER BEARCAMP RIVER Ossipee, Carroll County, New Hampshire. New Hampshire State No. 744

Bearcamp River Bridge, Drawing 1-12

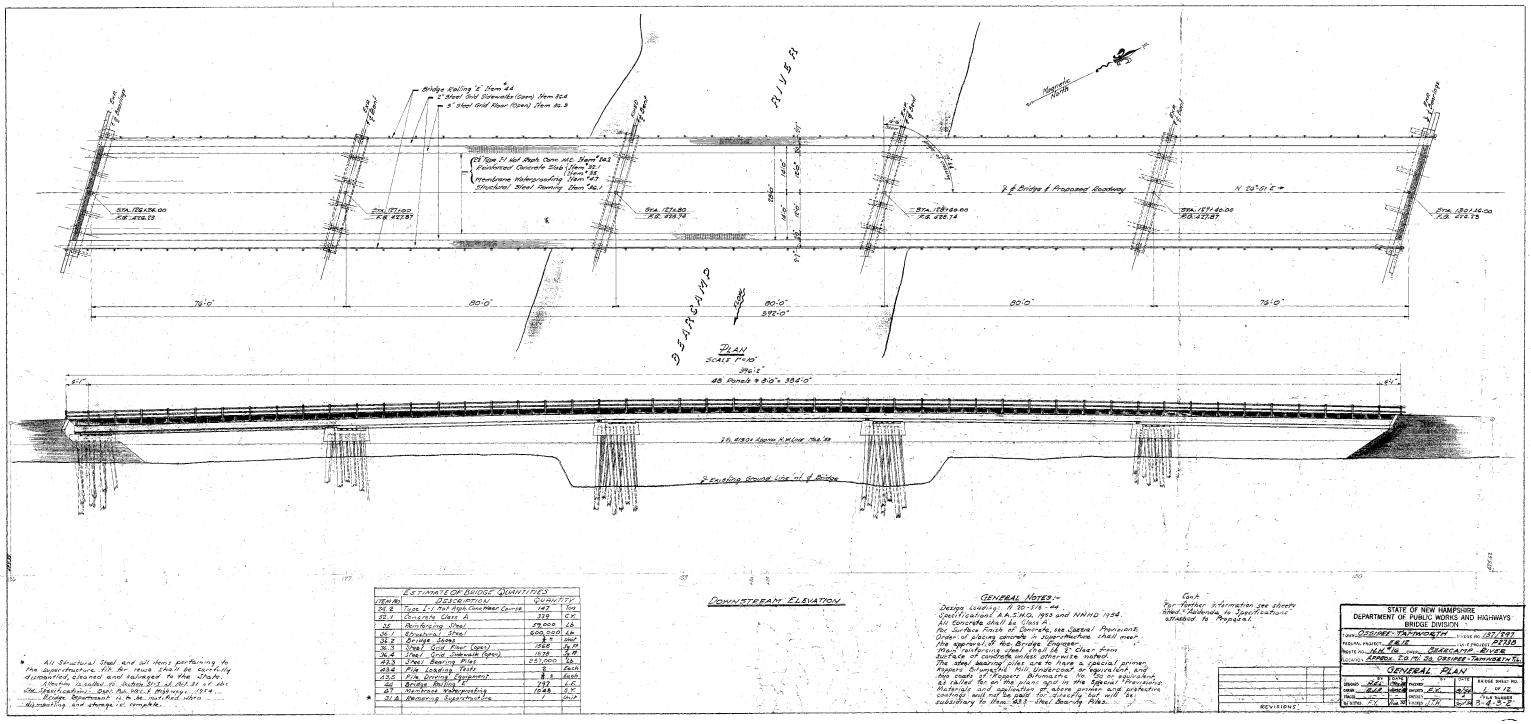
NH-744_DRAWING-01	Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/297, Federal Project No. ER- 12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Bearcamp River. General Plan, Sheet 1 of 12, June 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-2.
NH-744_ DRAWING-02	Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/297, Federal Project No. ER- 12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Bearcamp River. Borings, Sheet 2 of 12, July 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-2.
NH-744_DRAWING-03	Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/297, Federal Project No. ER- 12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Bearcamp River. Layout of Steel Bearing Piles, Sheet 3 of 12, July 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-2.
NH-744_ DRAWING-04	Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/297, Federal Project No. ER- 12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Bearcamp River. Abutment Details, Sheet 4 of 12, July 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3- 2.
NH-744_ DRAWING-05	Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/297, Federal Project No. ER- 12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Bearcamp River. Reinforcing Steel - Abutments, Sheet 5 of 12, July 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-2.
NH-744_DRAWING-06	Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/297, Federal Project No. ER- 12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Bearcamp River. Typical Bent Details, Sheet 6 of 12, July 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3- 4-3-2.

- NH-744_DRAWING-07
 Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/297, Federal Project No. ER-12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Bearcamp River. Bent Cap Reinforcing, Sheet 7 of 12, July 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-2.
- NH-744_DRAWING-08 Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/297, Federal Project No. ER-12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Bearcamp River. Bridge Shoe Details, Sheet 8 of 12, July 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-2.
- NH-744_DRAWING-09 Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/297, Federal Project No. ER-12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Bearcamp River. Framing Plan, Sheet 9 of 12, July 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-2.
- NH-744_DRAWING-10
 Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/297, Federal Project No. ER-12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Bearcamp River. Typical Transverse Section & Details, Sheet 10 of 12, July 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-2.
- NH-744_DRAWING-11 Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/297, Federal Project No. ER-12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Bearcamp River. Expansion Details, Sheet 11 of 12, July 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-2.
- NH-744_DRAWING-12
 Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/297, Federal Project No. ER-12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Bearcamp River. Slab Reinforcement, Sheet 12 of 12, July 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-2.

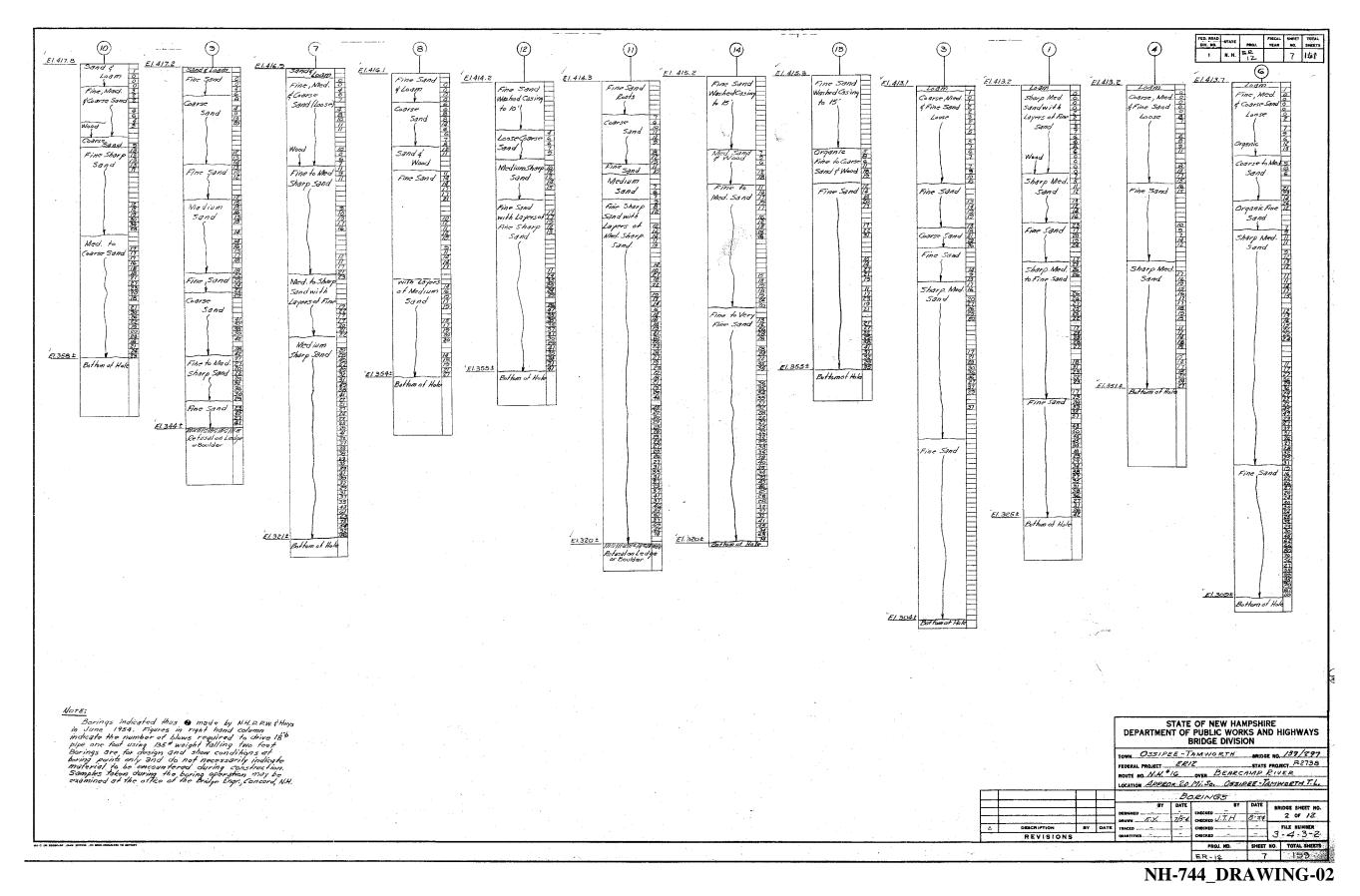
Bearcamp River Relief Bridge, Drawing 13-24

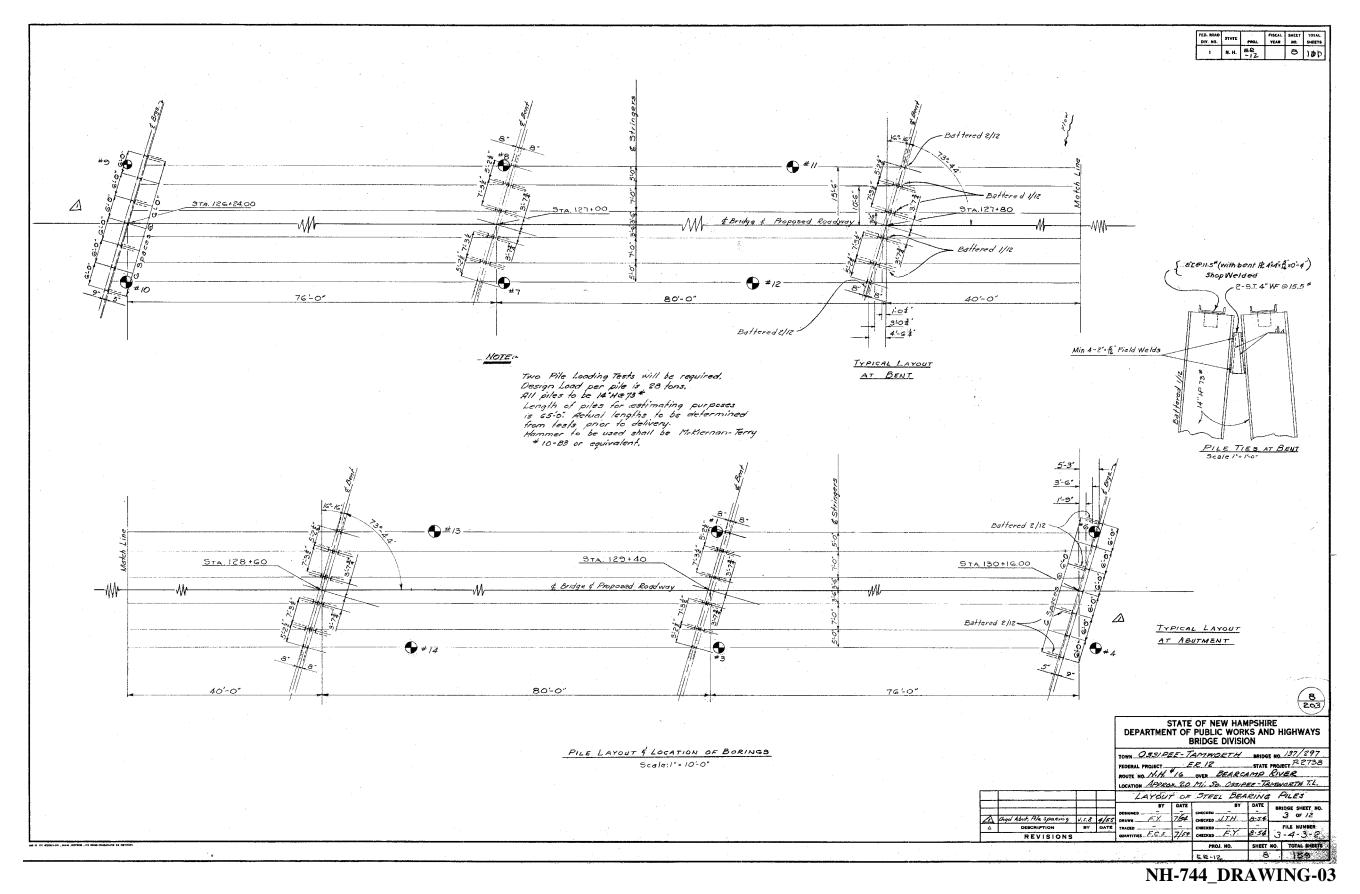
NH-744_DRAWING-13	Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/299, Federal Project No. ER- 12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Relief Structure. General Plan, Sheet 1 of 12, August 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-5.
NH-744_DRAWING-14	Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/299, Federal Project No. ER- 12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Relief Structure. Borings, Sheet 2 of 12, August 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-5.
NH-744_ DRAWING-15	Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/299, Federal Project No. ER- 12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Relief Structure. Layout of Steel Bearing Piles, Sheet 3 of 12, August 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-5.
NH-744_ DRAWING-16	Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/299, Federal Project No. ER- 12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Relief Structure. Abutment Details, Sheet 4 of 12, August 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3- 4-3-5.
NH-744_ DRAWING-17	Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/299, Federal Project No. ER- 12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Relief Structure. Abutment Reinforcing Details - Abutments, Sheet 5 of 12, August 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-5.
NH-744_ DRAWING-18	Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/299, Federal Project No. ER- 12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Relief Structure. Typical Bent Details, Sheet 6 of 12, August 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-5.
NH-744_ DRAWING-19	Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/299, Federal Project No. ER- 12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Relief Structure. Bent Cap Reinforcement, Sheet 7 of 12, August 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-5.

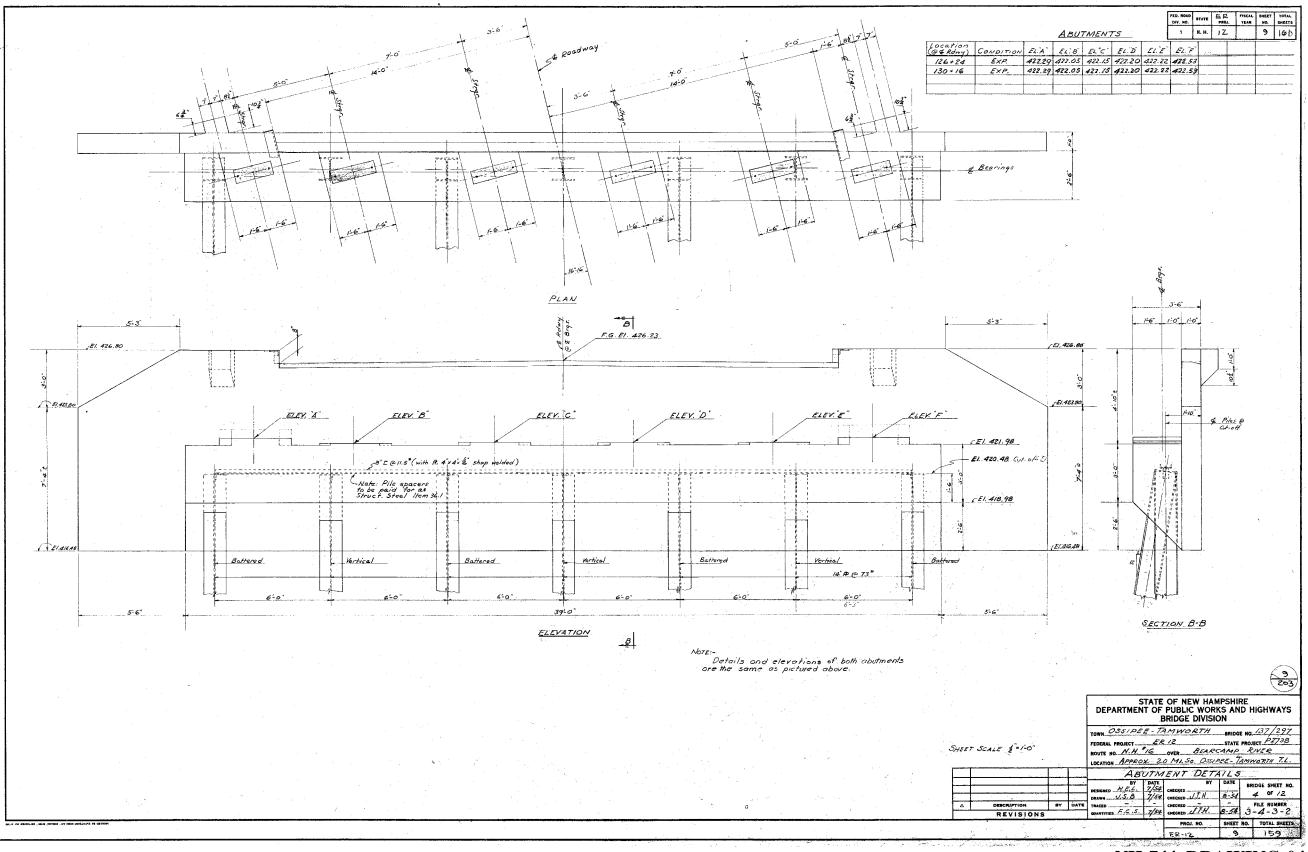
- NH-744_DRAWING-20
 Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/299, Federal Project No. ER-12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Relief Structure. Bridge Shoe Details, Sheet 8 of 12, August 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-5.
- NH-744_DRAWING-21 Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/299, Federal Project No. ER-12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Relief Structure. Framing Plan, Sheet 9 of 12, August 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-5.
- NH-744_DRAWING-22
 Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/299, Federal Project No. ER-12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Relief Structure. Typical Transverse Section & Details, Sheet 10 of 12, August 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-5.
- NH-744_DRAWING-23
 Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/299, Federal Project No. ER-12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Relief Structure. Expansion Details, Sheet 11 of 12, August 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-5.
- NH-744_DRAWING-24 Ossipee-Tamworth Bridge No. 137/299, Federal Project No. ER-12, State Project No. P-2738, N.H. Route 16 over Relief Structure. Slab Reinforcement, Sheet 12 of 12, August 1954. Original drawing on file at NH Department of Transportation, Concord. Plan File 3-4-3-5.



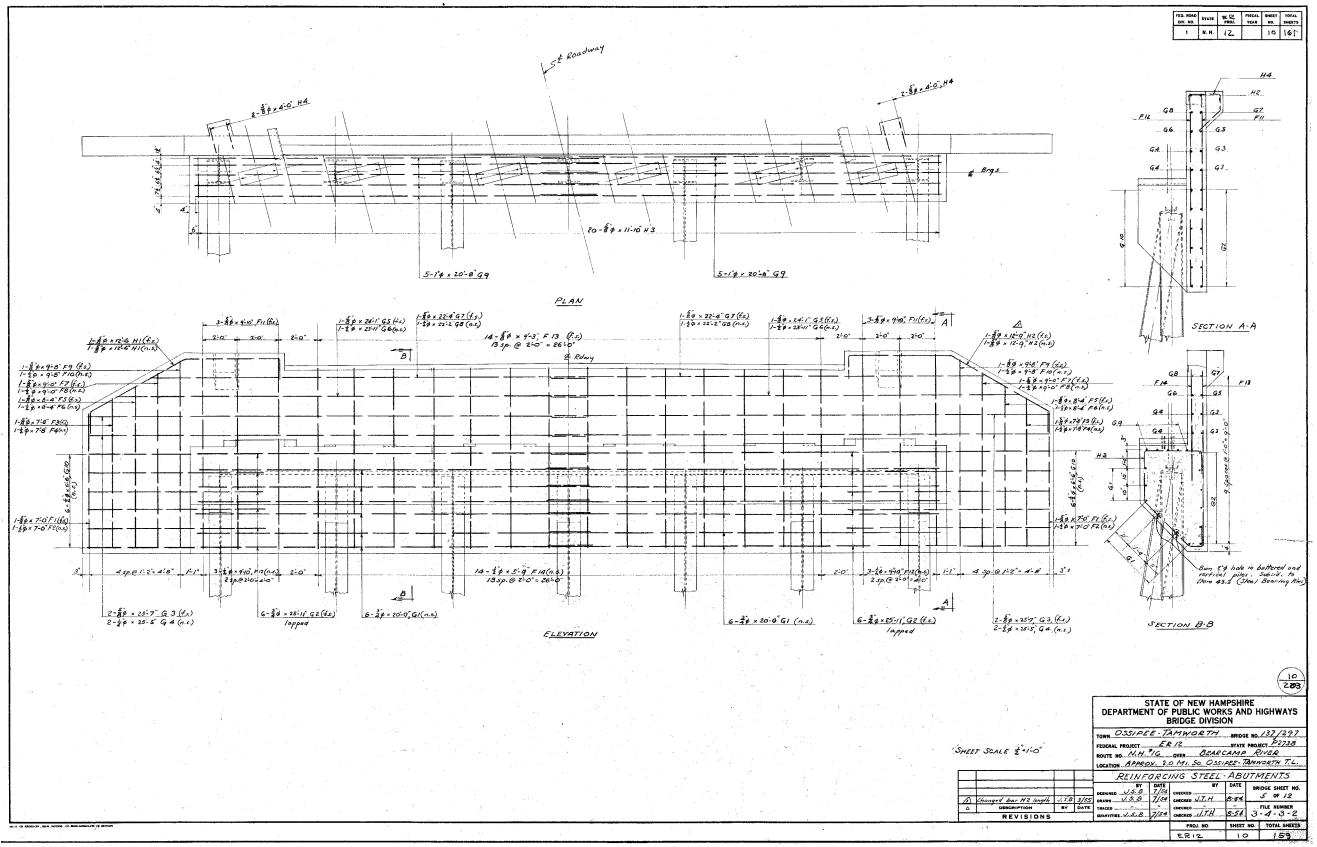
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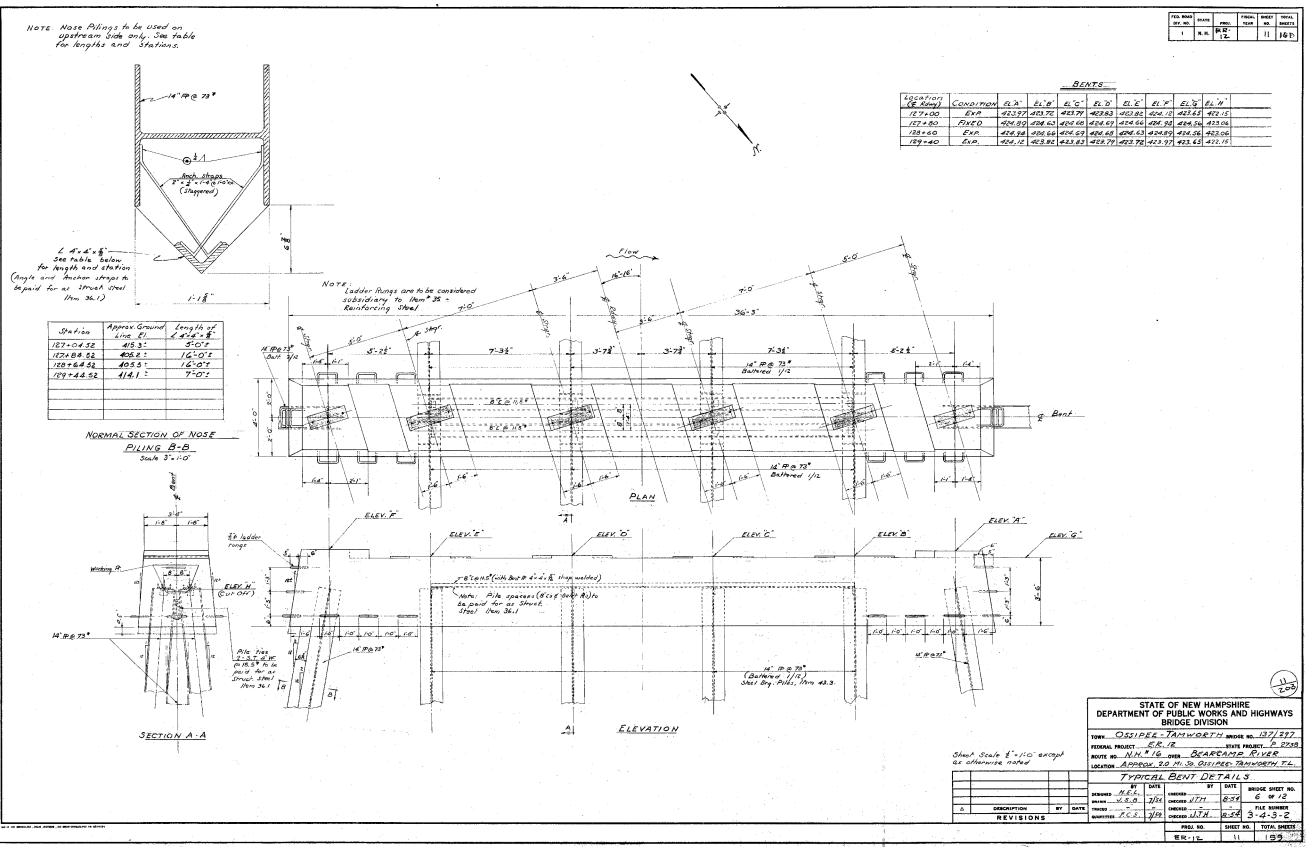


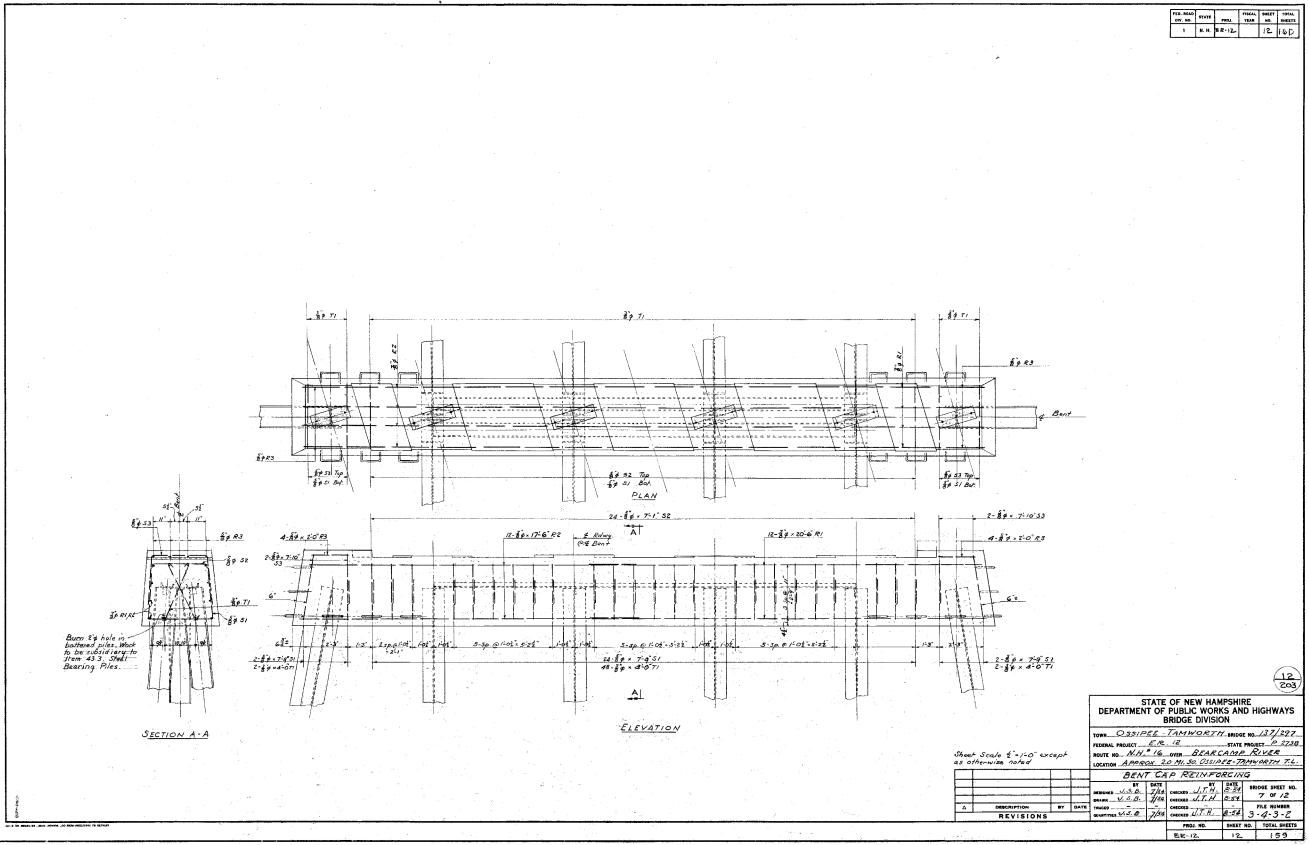


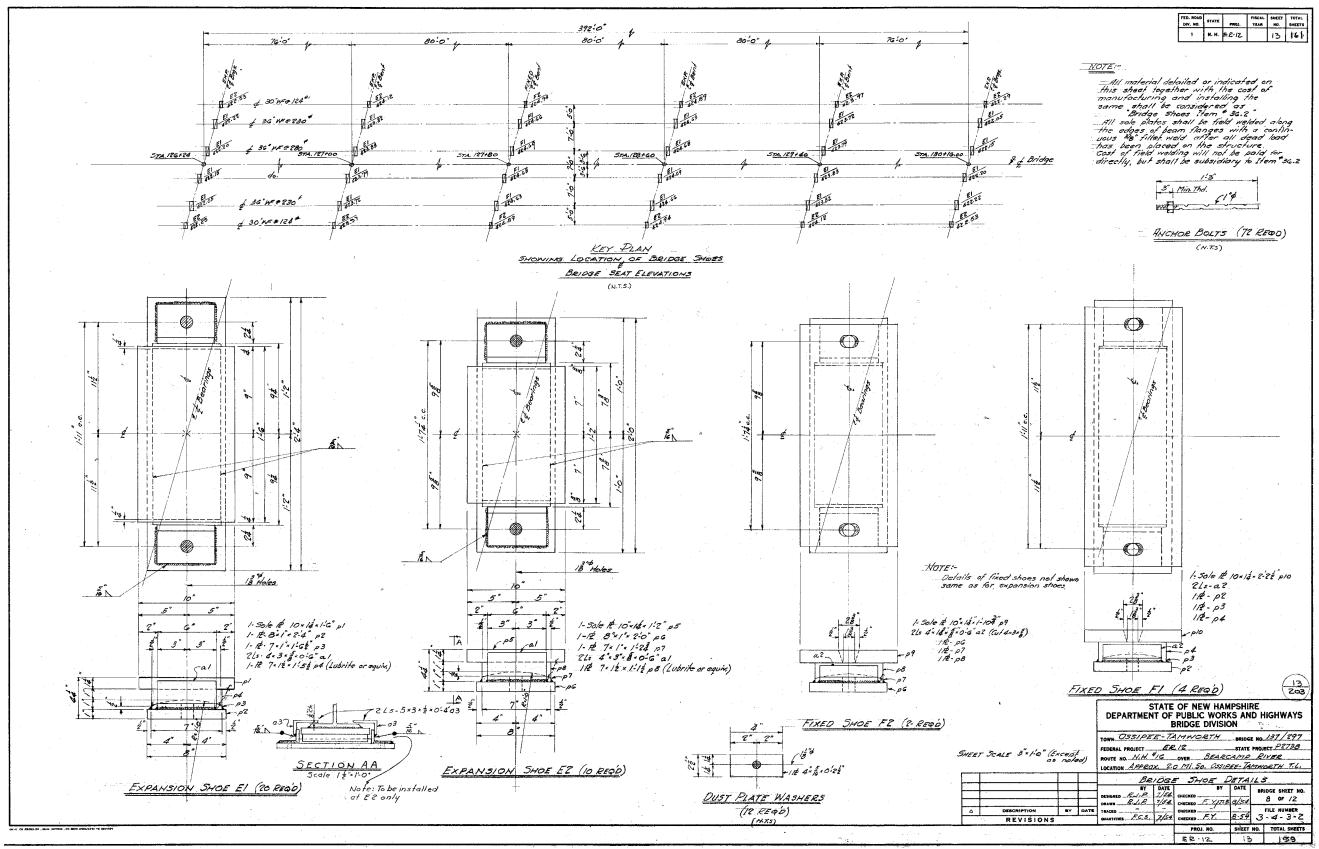
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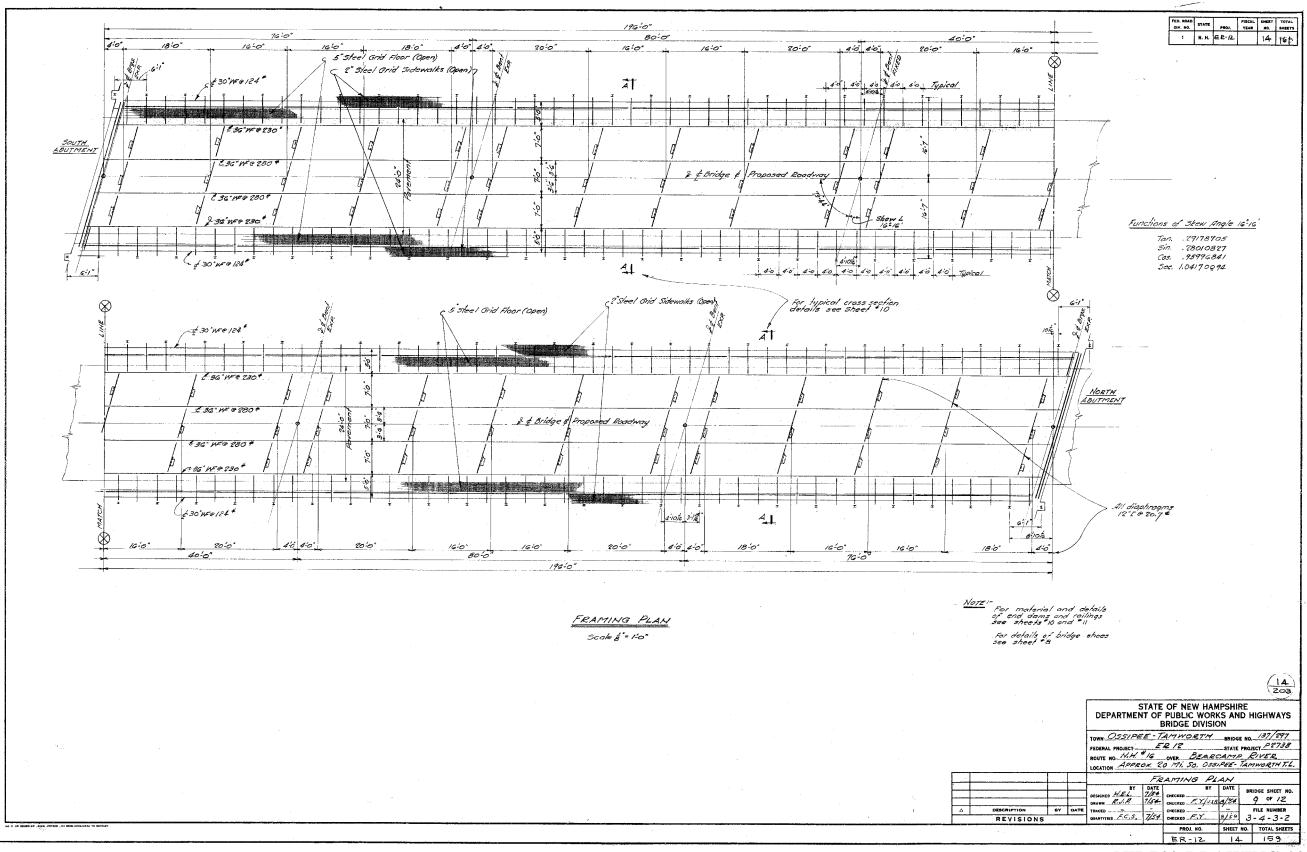


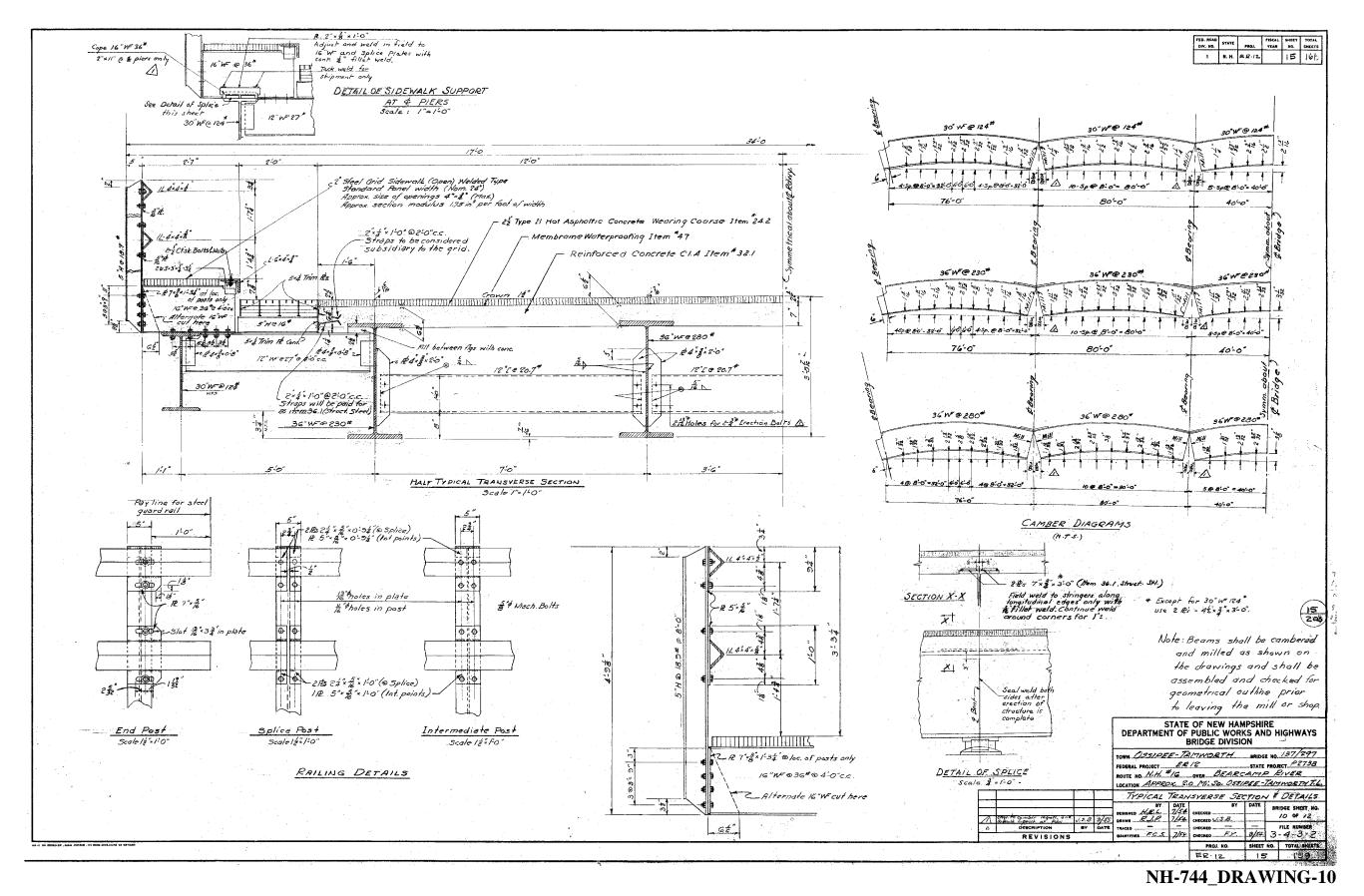
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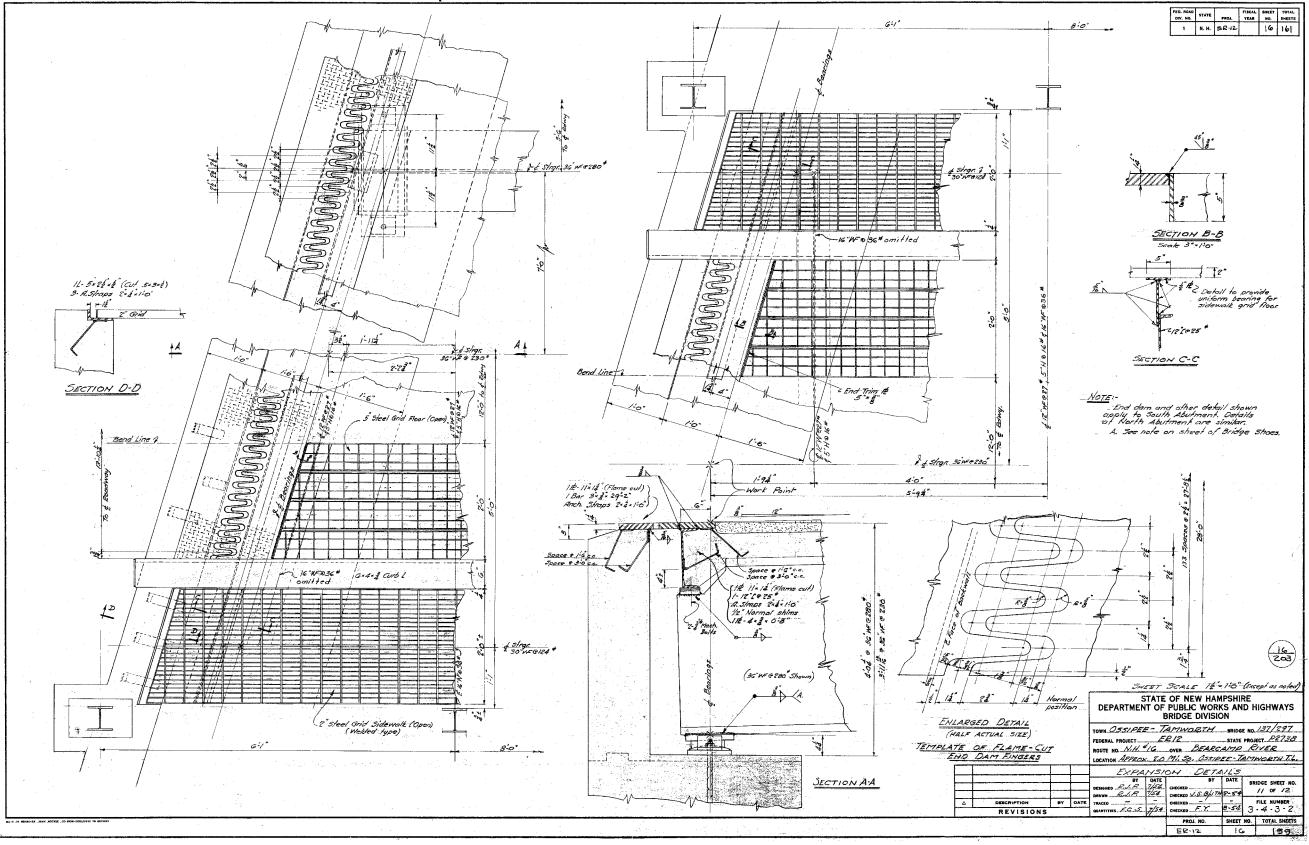


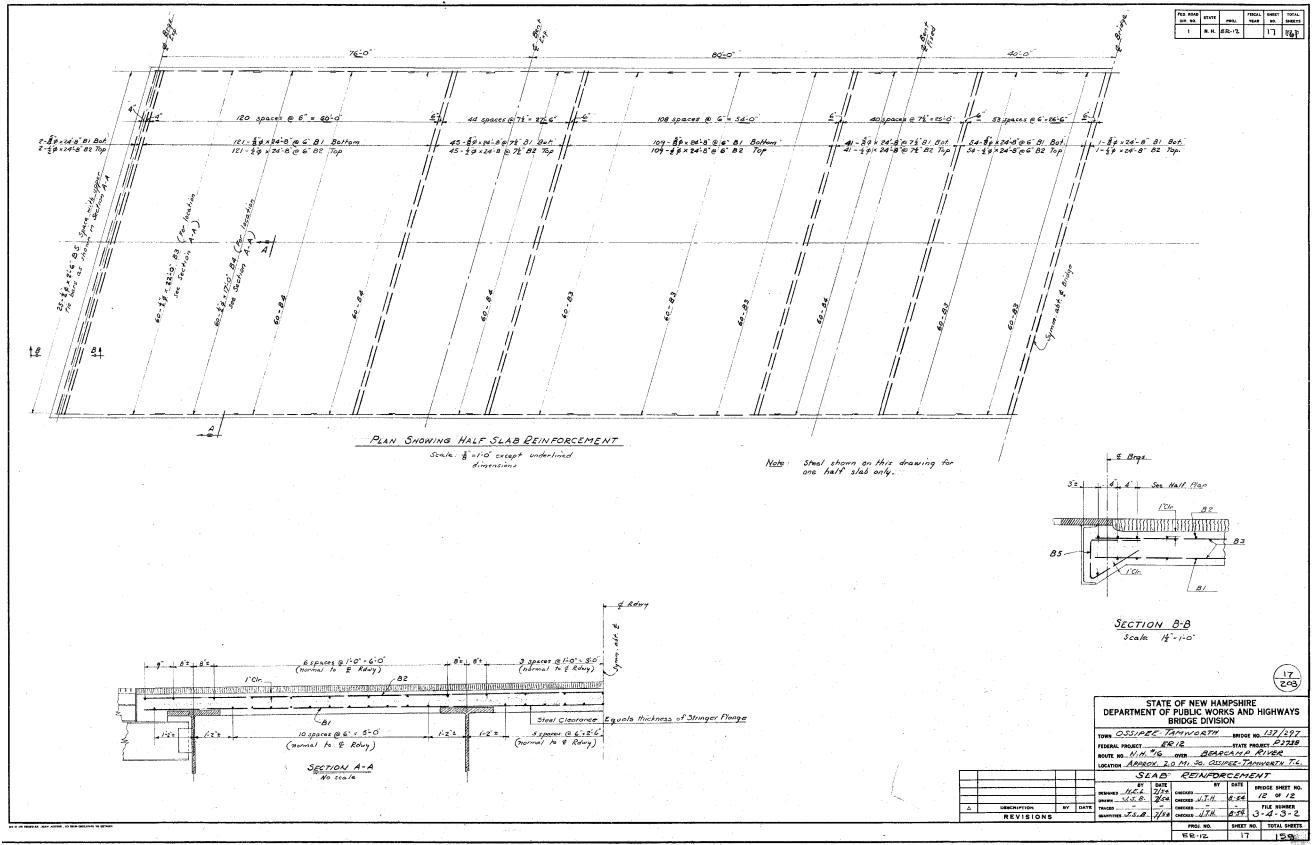


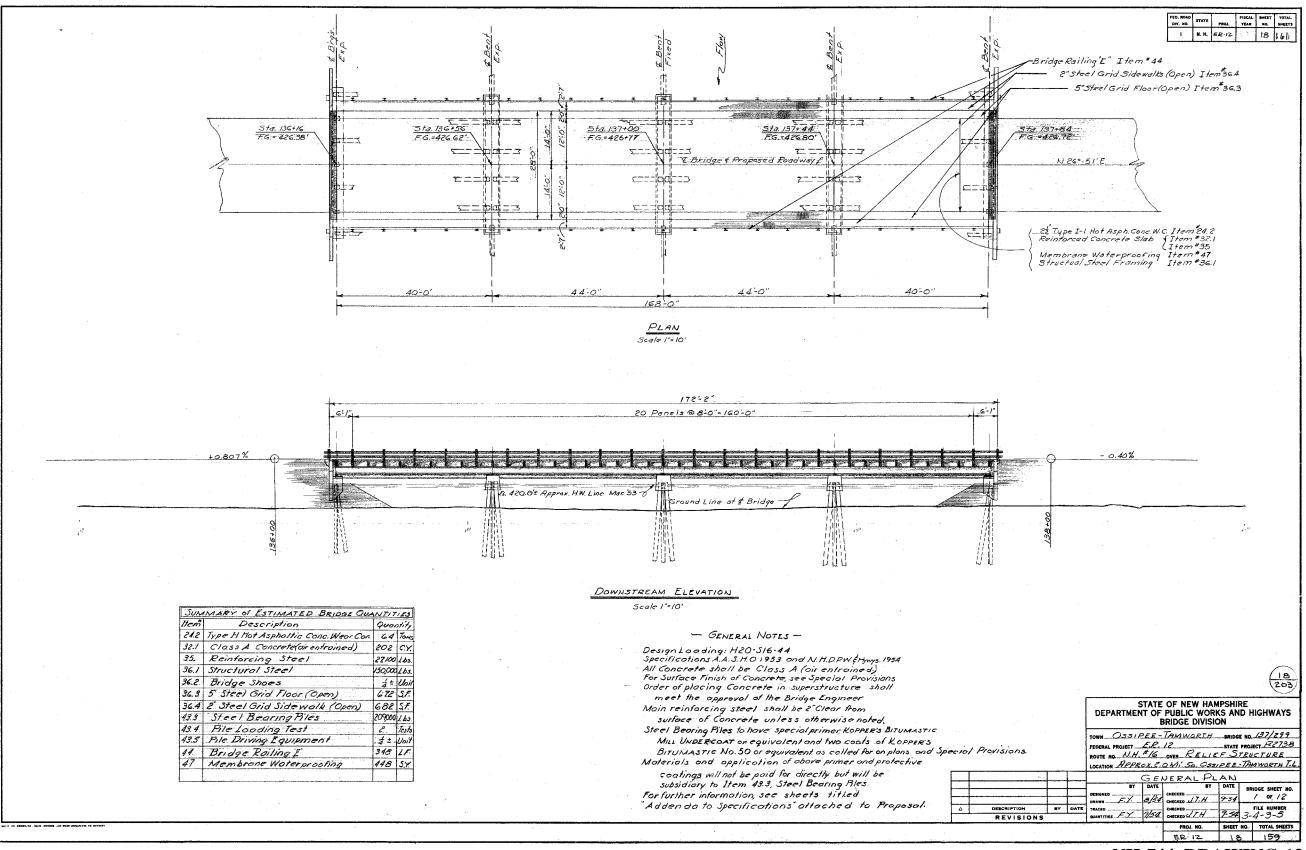


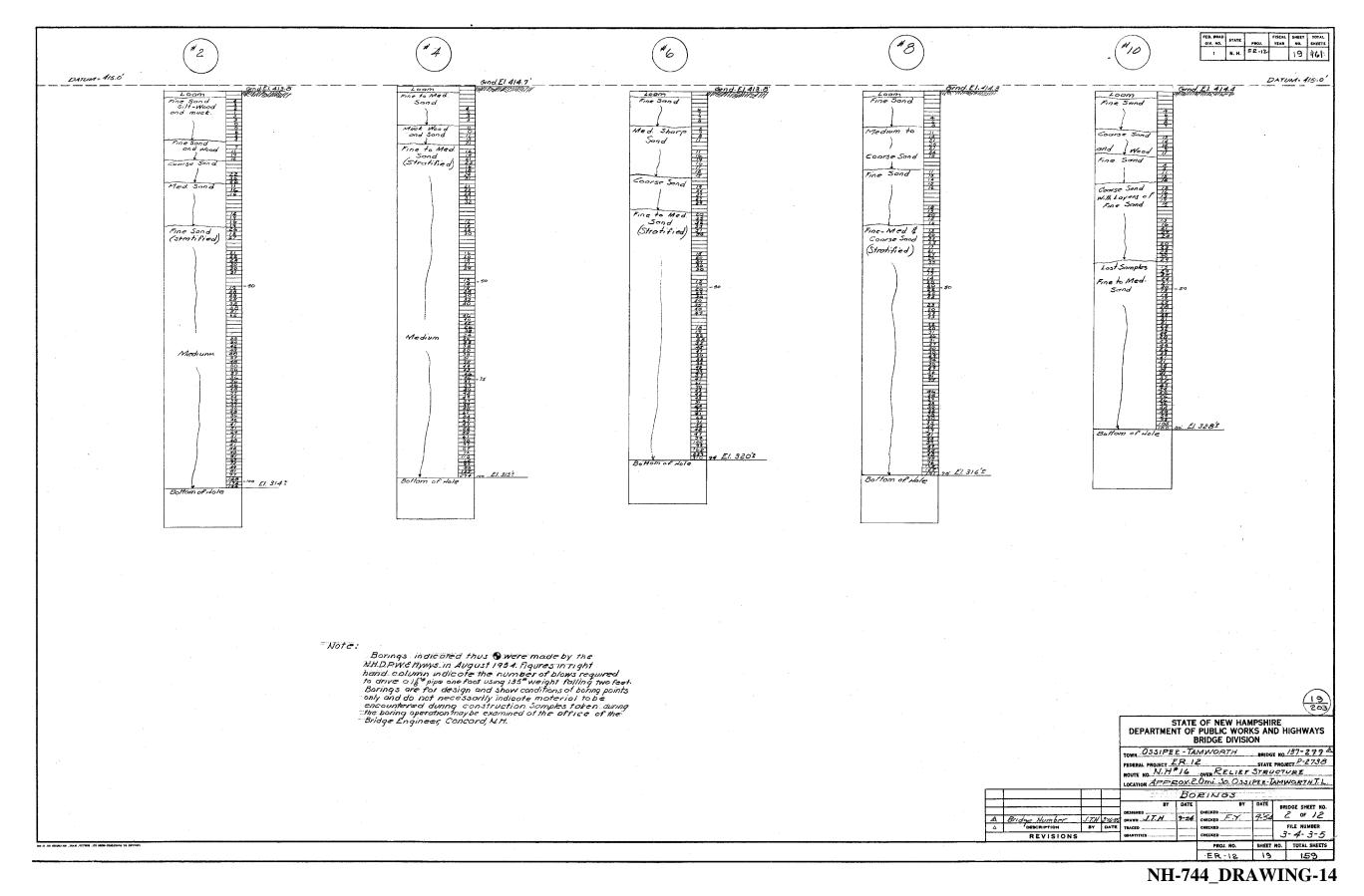


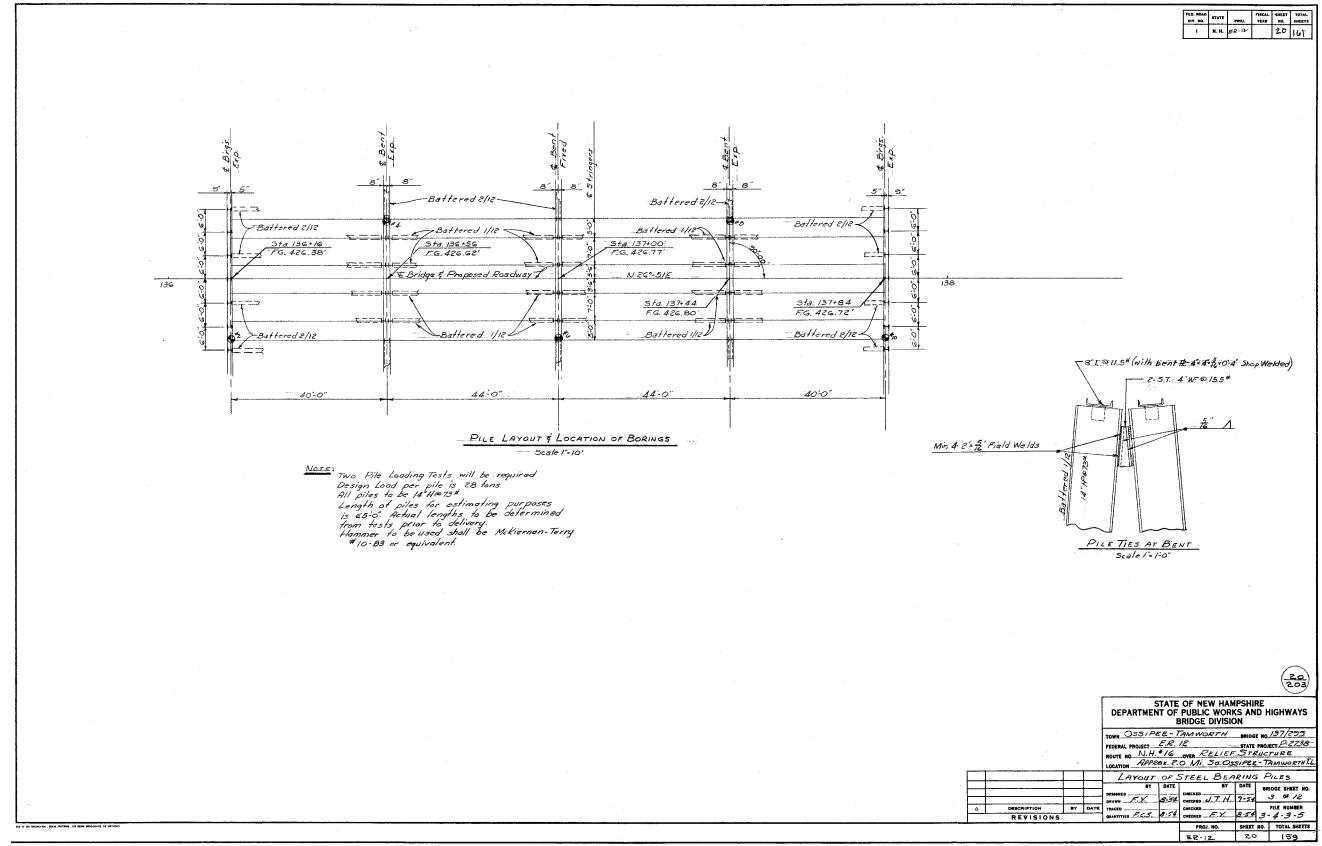




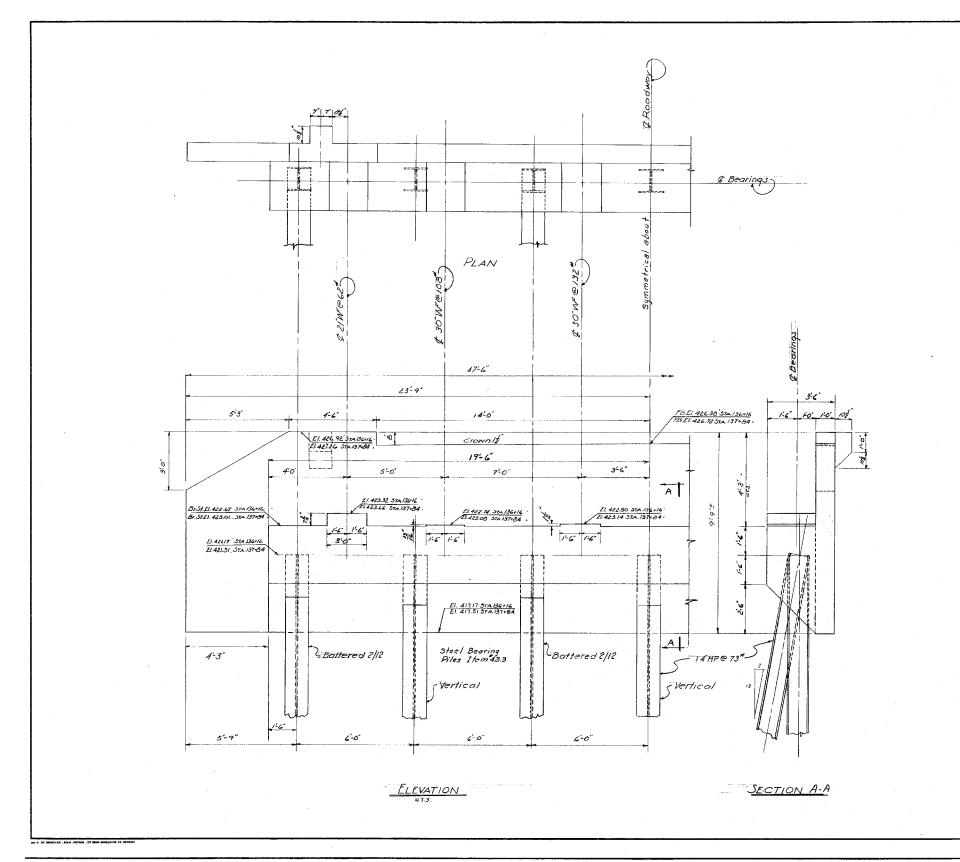




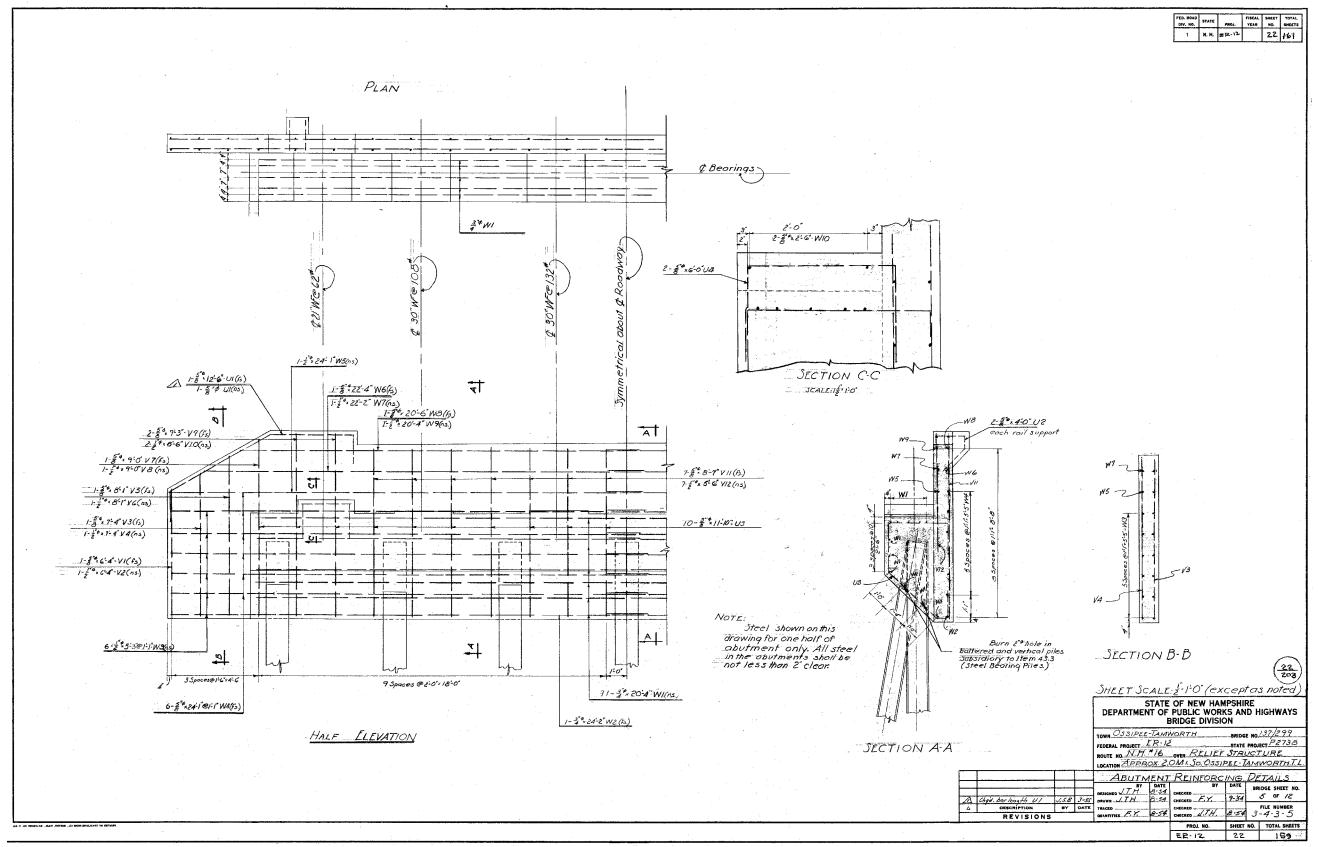


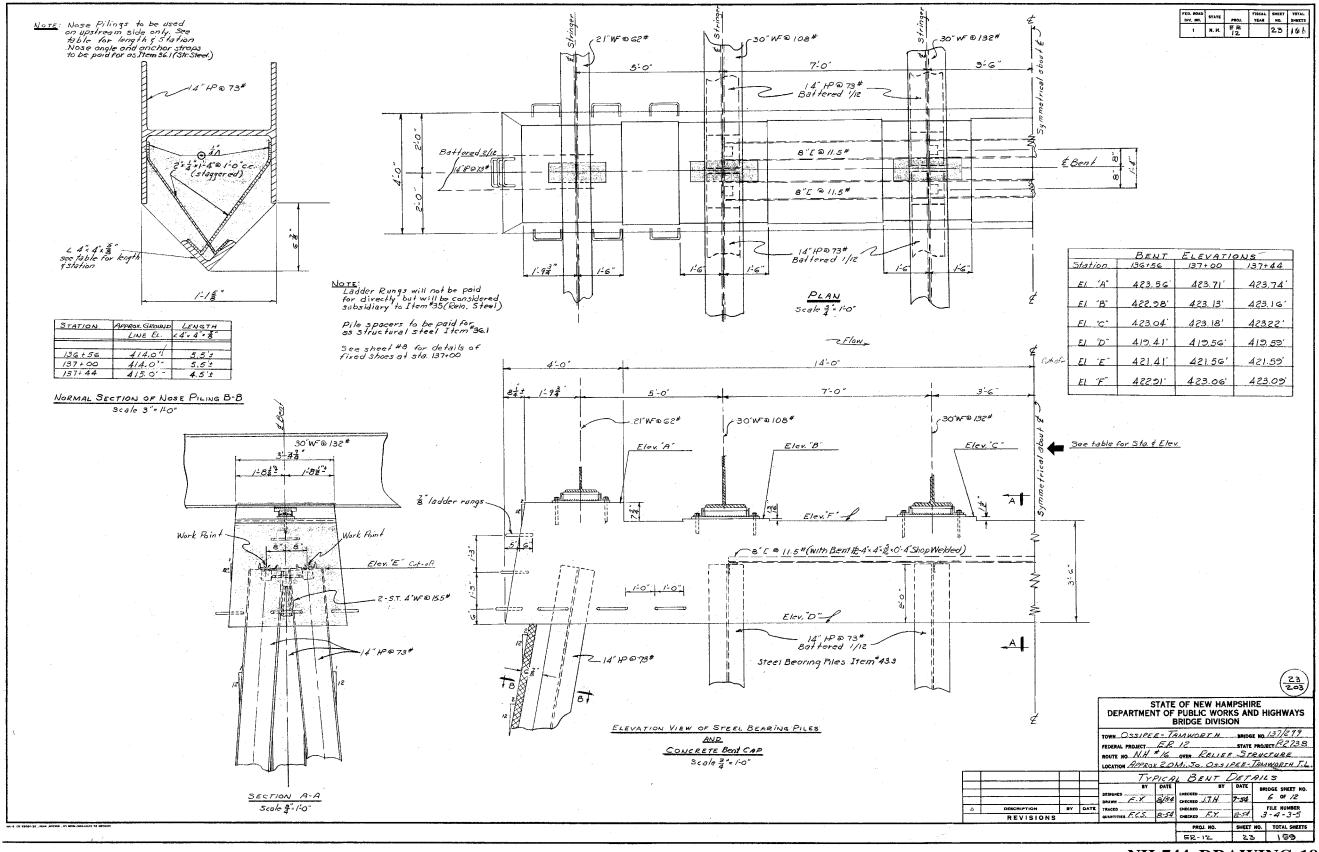


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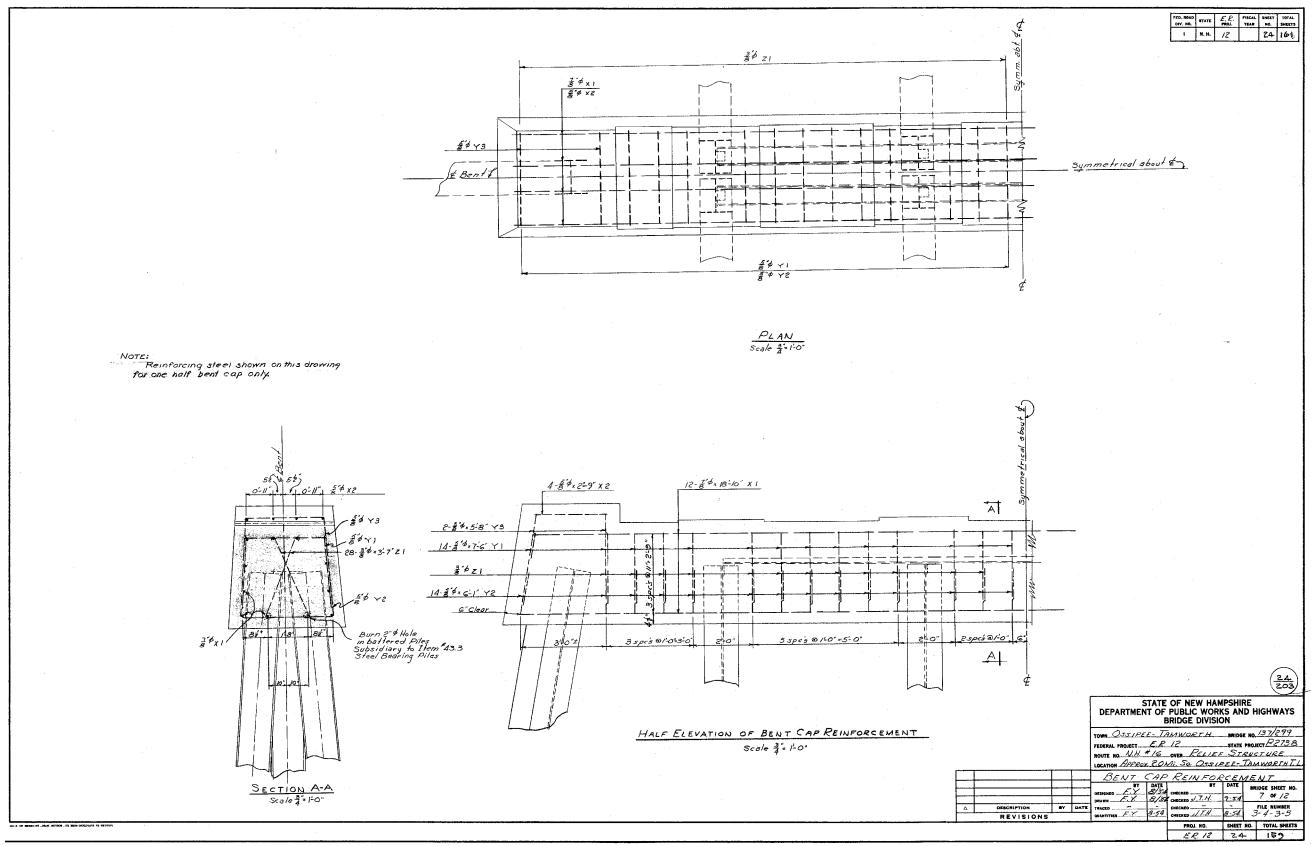


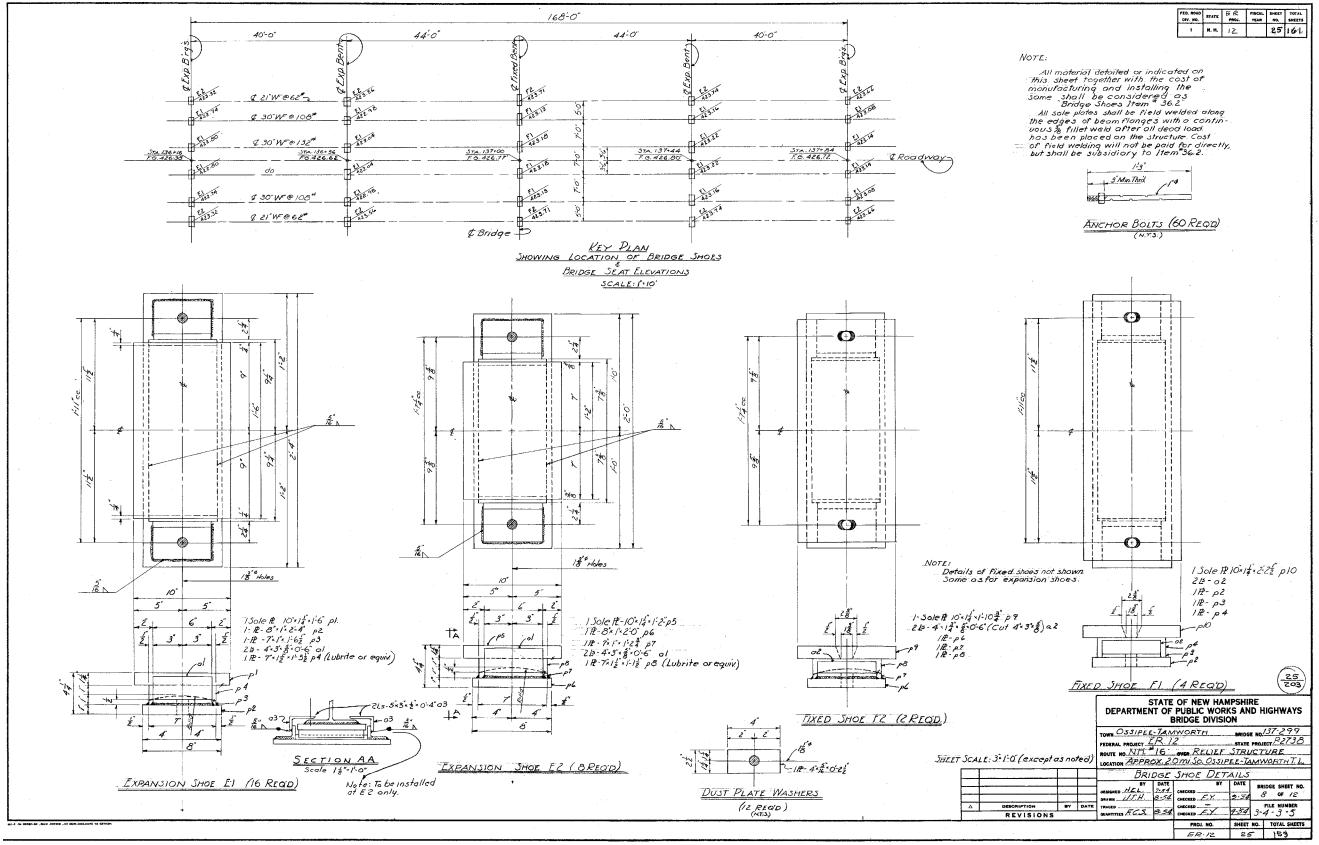
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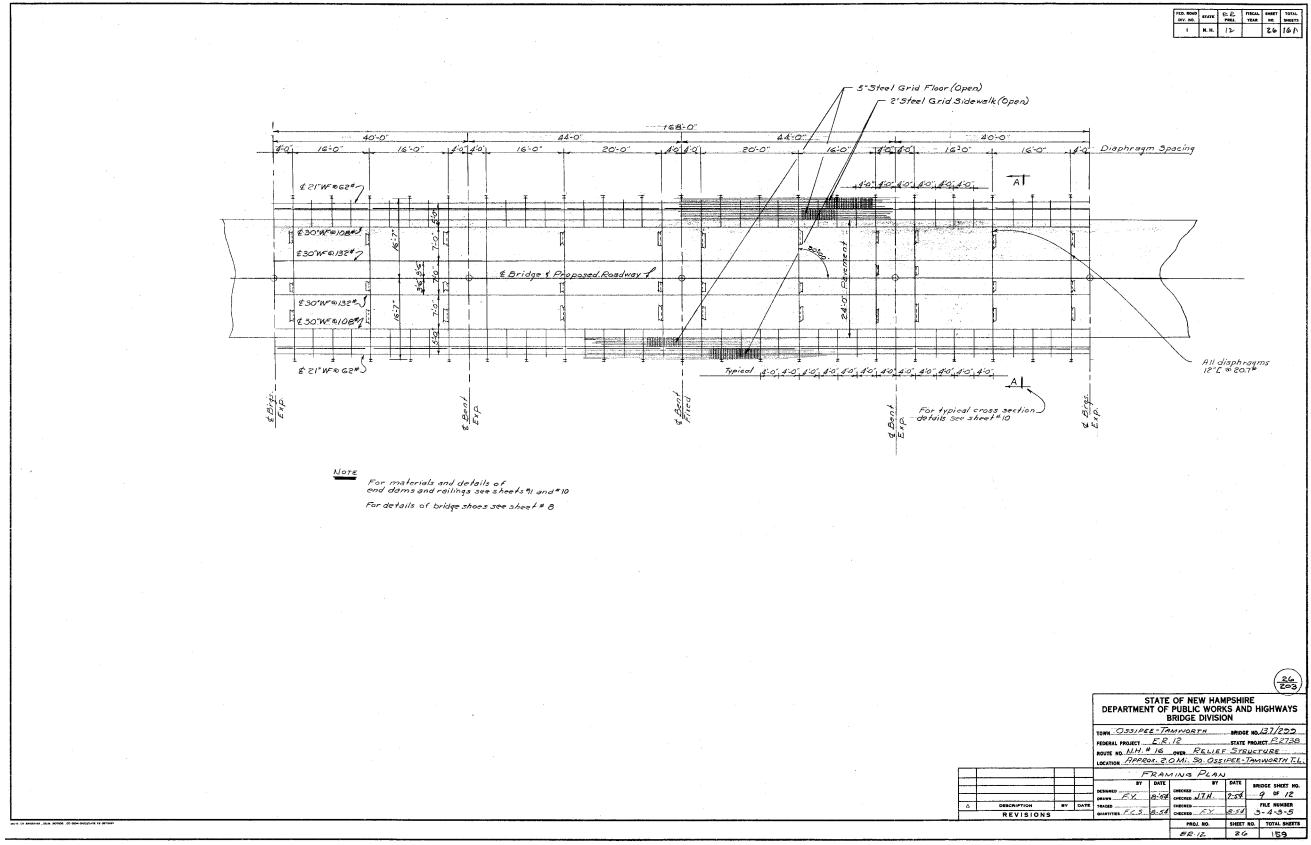


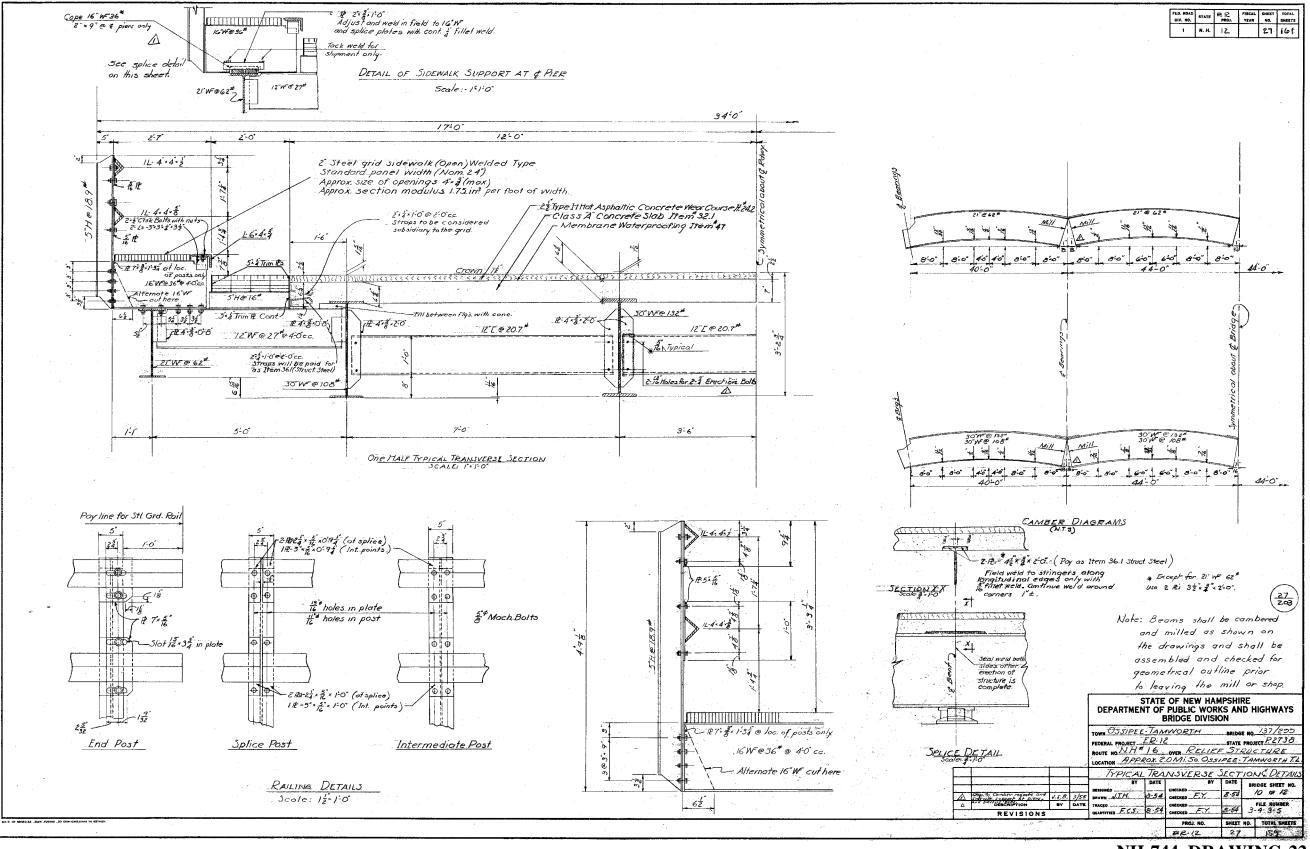


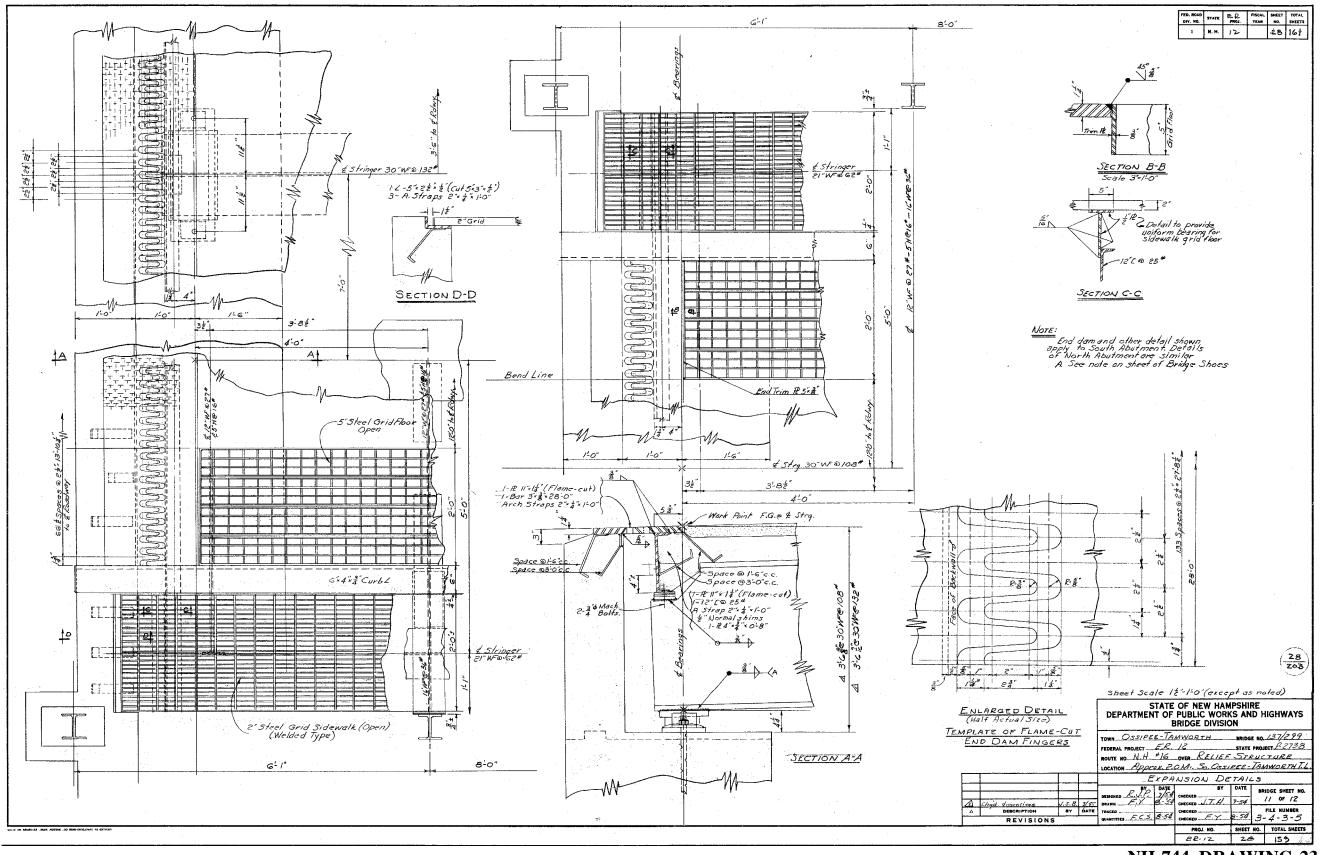
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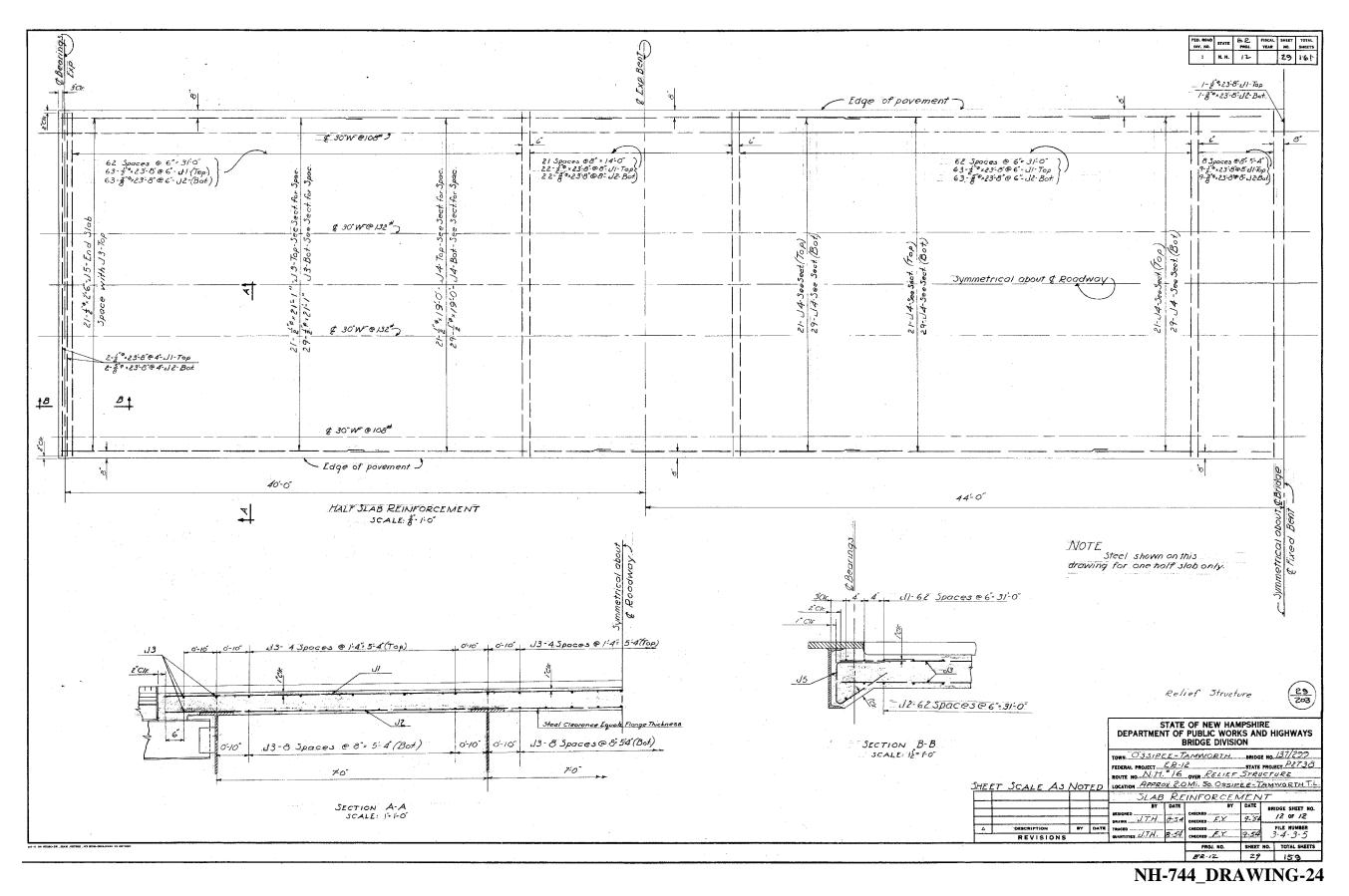












New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources

INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM

Name, Location, Ownership			
1. Historic name Ossipee Bridge 137/297			
2. District or area n/a			
3. Street & number NH 16 & NH 25 over Bearcamp River			
4. City or town Ossipee			
5. County Carroll			
6. Current owner State of NH			
Function or Use			
7. Current use(s) State highway bridge, Ossipee 137/297	TTE-TE		
8. Historic use(s) same			
Architectural Information			
9. Style 5-span continuous I-beam stringer with reinforced concrete slab deck			
10. Architect/builder NH Highway Dept./ Peter Salvucci & Sons, Inc. Waltham MA.			
11. Source NHDOT Plans and Records			
12. Construction date 1955			
13. Source NHDOT Plans and Records			
14. Alterations, with dates			
15. Moved? no 🛛 yes 🗌 date:			
Exterior Features			
16. Foundation concrete abutments; steel H-pile bents			
17. Cladding n/a	ALL LAND STR		
18. Roof material n/a	35. Photo <u># 1</u> 36. Date: 12/04/ 2012		
19. Chimney material n/a	37. Digital Photo File Name: OSS0030_001 Direction		
20. Type of roof n/a	38. Image stored at: Historic Documentation Co., Inc.		
21. Chimney location n/a	Portsmouth, RI 02871. tel. 401-683-3483		
22. Number of stories n/a	27. Landscape features open floodplain bordered by woods		
23. Entry location n/a	28. Acreage less than 1		
24. Windows n/a	29. Tax map/parcel #n/a		
Replacement? no 🗌 yes 🗌 date:	30. UTM reference 19.324513.4851653		
Site Features	31. USGS quad and scale Ossipee Lake, NH 1998, 7.5 min		
25. Setting State highway, wetlands, late 20 th c. residential	Form prepared by		
commercial	32. Name Richard M. Casella		
26. Outbuildings n/a	33. Organization Historic Documentation Company, Inc		
	34. Date of Survey December 2012		

36. Date: 12/04/2012 hoto <u># 1</u> Digital Photo File Name: OSS0030_001 Direction E mage stored at: Historic Documentation Co., Inc. mouth, RI 02871. tel. 401-683-3483

NHDHR INVENTORY # OSS0030

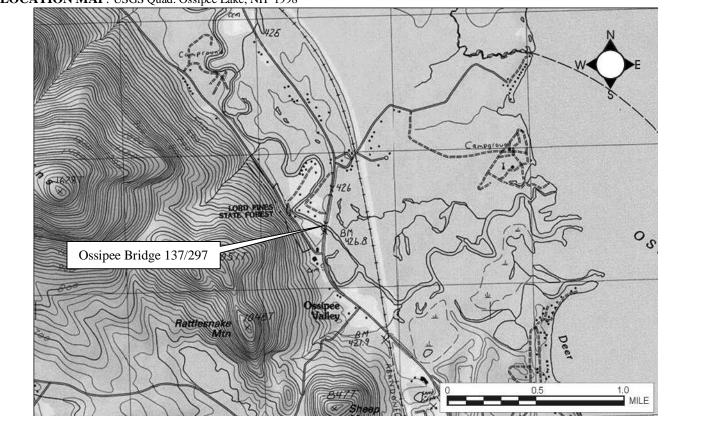
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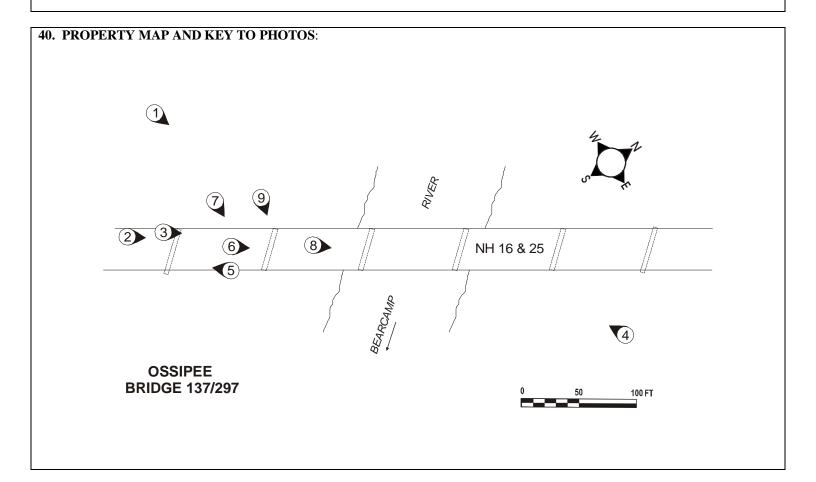
ax map/parcel # n/a TM reference 19.324513.4851653 SGS quad and scale Ossipee Lake, NH 1998, 7.5 min n prepared by Richard M. Casella lame **O**rganization Historic Documentation Company, Inc. Date of Survey December 2012

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NHDHR INVENTORY # OSS0030

39. LOCATION MAP: USGS Quad: Ossipee Lake, NH 1998





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NHDHR INVENTORY # OSS0030

41. Historical Background and Role in the Town or City's Development: ¹

Ossipee was incorporated as a town by the NH Legislature in 1785. The initial cutting of the primary roads in the area was substantially accomplished during the 1770s. What is now Route 16 in the vicinity of Ossipee Bridge 152/268 was built in 1776 by Captain John Dudley. It was know as Captain Dudley's Wagon Road, or the Tamworth Road, and ran almost eight miles from Duncan Lake through Center Ossipee to Ossipee Valley. The road was continued north to West Ossipee the following year (1777) by settlers under the direction Colonel Jonathan Moulton.²

In 1871 the Portsmouth, Great Falls & Conway Railroad was built through Ossipee, roughly paralleling the Tamworth Road and crossing over it at Ossipee Valley. The development brought by the railroad to the towns along its route, eventually translated to demand for improvement to the Tamworth Road with the growth of the automobile age. In 1903 John Storrs, the first highway engineer of New Hampshire, proposed that the state should "build three roads into the White Mountains...one up the Saco Valley, one up the Merrimack Valley and one up the Connecticut Valley."³ The system became known as "the triple highway program" and designated "The Trunk Line System" in the states earliest highway legislation enacted between 1905 and 1909 that enabled State Aid for their construction. The three roads were labeled the East Side Road, the Merrimack Valley Road and the West Side Road. By 1910, sections of the East Side Road, including parts of the Tamworth Road through Ossipee were under construction with state aid funding.⁴

In 1922 the state route marking system was adopted by the Highway Commissioners of the New England States and the East Side Road was designated New England Interstate Route 16. It began in Kittery, Maine passing into New Hampshire at Rollinsford and passing through Dover, Rochester, Union, Wakefield, Ossipee, Conway, Berlin to end in Errol.⁵ Since then, Route 16 has been rerouted and re-designated entirely a state route and combined in part with NH Route 25. In 1938, the original legislation that created the East Side Road was amended, changing the name to the White Mountain Highway.

Planning for the design of Ossipee Bridge 137/297 began in May and June 1954 with surveys and borings taken by New Hampshire Highway Department forces. The design of the superstructure and steel pile bents was done by the department's [Chief] Bridge Engineer Harold E. Langley and Assistant Bridge Engineer Robert J. Prowse between June and August 1954. John S. Brinkler designed the reinforced concrete pile bent caps and abutments. A total of twelve sheets of plans were prepared (NHDOT File No. 3-4-3-2). The project was assigned Federal Aid Project number ER12 and State Project number P-2738.

Ossipee 137/297 and its companion bridge of the same but smaller design, Ossipee 137/299,⁶ were built as part of a new section of highway approximately 2000 feet long that was constructed to straighten White Mountain Highway, eliminate a sharp turn in the road, and replace an existing bridge over Bearcamp River (see Figure 2). The highway and bridges were in turn part a larger project improvement project 5.57 miles long that included paving, a 25' span concrete frame bridge (box culvert) and the moving of five buildings. The contract was won with the low bid of \$912,317.40 by Peter Salvucci & Sons, Inc., of Waltham, Mass.⁷ Out of that total, Ossipee Bridge 137/297 cost \$162,100.45; the smaller Ossipee 137/299 cost \$73,146.40.⁸ No further information on the construction was obtained other than the overall project was completed in October 1956.⁹

42. Applicable NHDHR Historic Contexts: 84. Automobile highways and culture, 1900-present

¹ Note: Ossipee Bridge 137/297 was built in conjunction with Ossipee 137/299 (see Inventory Form OSS0031) and shares the same background and construction history.

² Cook, 1985, p. 134.

³ Laraba, 1928, p. 7.

⁴ Third Biennial Report of the Governor and Council and State Engineer Relative to Highway Improvement. Concord: 1910. pp. 3, 4, 9.

⁵ See "New Hampshire's Road Marking System," New Hampshire Highways, September 1923, p. 9.

⁶ Ossipee 137/299 is located about 1000 feet north of the subject bridge and carries the highway over the Bearcamp River Relief Structure, a flat flood plain channel constructed to accept Bearcamp River overflow during high water events. The Relief Structure bridge is inventoried on separate Inventory Form OSS0031.

⁷ New Hampshire Highways, March-April 1955, p. 8.

⁸ Bridge Inventory Cards for respective bridges, on file at NHDOT.

⁹ New Hampshire Highways, December 1956, p. 13.

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43. Architectural Description and Comparative Evaluation:

Ossipee Bridge 137/297 is a two-lane five-span continuous steel I-beam stringer bridge with a reinforced concrete slab deck (see Figures 3-5). It carries combined NH Routes 16 and 25 over the Bearcamp River in Ossipee NH at a skew angle of roughly 16 degrees. Overall it is 393 feet in length and 32' in width. The bridge is carried on steel H-piles with concrete pile-cap abutments and four concrete pile cap bents. The span lengths and layout are: 76'-80'-80'-80'-80'-76'. The superstructure consists of six lines of wide- flange stringers of various sizes according to the loads they carry: outside stringers 1 and 6 under the sidewalks are 30WF124 (30" deep, 124 pounds per linear foot); stringers 2 and 5 are 36WF230; inside stringers 3 and 4 are 36WF280. The stringers were fabricated in the span lengths listed above and made continuous by field-welding steel splice-plates to the top of the flanges at the end butt-joints over the bents. The stringers were specifically designed to function as simple beams under dead load and continuous beams under live loads (see Figure 6). This sophisticated and possibly uncommon design is further discussed below. The stringers are laterally braced with diaphragms consisting of 12" channels field-bolted to angles that were shop-welded to the stringer webs. The stringers rest on fixed bearing shoes on bents 2 and 3, and on sliding low-friction alloy bearings at all other bearing points, noted on the plans as "Lubrite or equivalent" – Lubrite being one of the brands of so-called "self-lubricating" bridge bearings on the market at the time.

The plans show the reinforced concrete deck to be 6-1/2" thick with a 2-1/2" asphaltic concrete wearing course. Along each side of the two 12'-wide travel lanes are 24" wide open steel grid shoulders, followed by 30" wide open steel grid sidewalks raised 8" above the road. The original steel-angle curbs and steel railings consisting of two lines of angles bolted to H-section posts, remain. At each end of the bridge, attached to and extending across the entire width of the ends of the deck slab and the end dams (abutment backwall), are finger-type steel-plate expansion joints designed specifically for the bridge (see Figure 7).

The abutments are both identical and consist of a straight reinforced concrete bridge seat and backwall cast around seven 14" steel H-pilings spaced on 6' centers. Piles 1, 3, 5, & 7 are battered; 2, 4, & 6 are vertical. Plans show the piles were cut to an even height after driving, interconnected with steel channel spacers and imbedded about 2' into the concrete bridge seat. The abutment piles and about half the height of the bridge seats are buried with earth fill forming the raised approach grades.

The four pile bents are all identical and consist of twin batter piles directly under each of the four 36" deck stringers, and single batter end piles under the two 30" sidewalk stringers. Piles are all 14" x 73 p.l.f. steel H-piles. The end piles are battered 2/12" and provide bent stability lateral to the bridge; steel plate nosing or "ice breakers" are welded to the face of the upstream end piles. The inner twin piles are battered 1/12" opposing, to form a very steep A-frame, aligned with the longitudinal axis of the bridge for stability in that direction. The pile caps are solid reinforced concrete measuring 3-6" high x 3'-4" deep x 36'-3" long with 2/12 and 1/12 battered faces to match the pilings. Flood escape ladder rungs of bent steel rod are imbedded in the ends of the caps.

Comparative Evaluation: 10

Ossipee Bridge 137/297 possesses several design features of interest based on initial research:

- The combined simple/continuous beam design that may have been used rarely by NHHD;
- The *H-pile bents of double batter pile design* and the *combined open-grid shoulder/steel curb/open-grid sidewalk assembly*, which although common to mid-20th century steel deck bridge design may have seen limited use in NH and of which an unknown number of intact examples remain.

The *combined simple/continuous beam design* is a specialized design that utilized off the shelf rolled wide flange girders that were then given a specific camber and the ends milled to a precise angle corresponding to the camber axis. Once each stringer was set in place end to end, steel splice plates were welded to the top of the flanges to join each to the next, forming a continuous top flange member but with a gap between the ends of the lower flanges (see Figure 6). When the dead load was applied (in the form of the reinforced concrete deck, sidewalks and railings) the beams deflected the precisely calculated amount to close the gap, which was then field-welded shut. With just the dead load applied, no loads are carried through the welded joints to the adjacent spans so the spans act as simple beams. When a live load is applied to one of the spans the beams deflect and some of the live load is transmitted to the neighboring spans through the welded joint by the structural principle of continuity. The design was apparently Langley's idea – he is credited as "designer" on the plans. Prowse is

¹⁰ This section is the same as that contained on Form OSS0031 with the exception of the discussion of the companion bridge.

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credited with drawing the plans, but considering these were the Number 1 and Number 2 designers in the department, they were undoubtedly advancing the design together, with the Assistant Engineer delegated the important task of putting the idea on paper in a manner that could be both fabricated and constructed in a practical cost-effective manner.

Preliminary research indicates that several other continuous steel I-beam bridges with concrete decks (IB-C) of similar type were built at this time:

Ossipee 137-299, NH 16 & 25 over Bearcamp River Relief Structure – companion structure of identical design except number of spans (4) and lengths of spans (40'-44'-40'). See Inventory Form OSS0031 as previously noted above.

Conway 063/047, River Road over Saco River Overflow, built 1955, 127' length overall consisting of 3-spans, 38'-45'-38'. Bridge card notes the stringers act as simple beams under dead load and continuous beams under live load. It is carried on H-pile bents with single vertical piles, not the double battered A-frame type piles of the subject bridge. The bridge was rehabbed in 2005 but the nature of repairs and current integrity of original design and materials was not determined.

Portsmouth 241/053, NH 1B over Piscataqua Estuary to New Castle, (companion bridge to New Castle 031/142) built 1955, 540' length overall, consisting of 10 spans, grouped 3-continuous, 4 continuous, 3 continuous. Bridge card does not note if spans are simple under dead load. Bridge card photo, 1988, shows H-pile bents, some with double-battered A-frame type piles, steel grid shoulders, sidewalk and railing assembly like the subject bridge. The bridge substructure was repaired in 1988; the current integrity of original design and materials was not determined.

New Castle 031/142, NH 1B over Piscataqua Estuary to Portsmouth, (companion bridge to Portsmouth 241/053) built 1955, 480' length overall, consisting of 9 spans, grouped 3-continuous, 3 continuous, 3 continuous. Bridge card does not note if spans are simple under dead load. Bridge card photo, 1988, shows H-pile bents, some of which have double-battered A-frame type piles, steel grid shoulders, sidewalk and railing assembly like the subject bridge. The bridge substructure was repaired in 1988; current integrity of original design and materials was not determined.

Effingham 110/190, NH 153 over Ossipee River, built 1955, 243' length overall consisting of 3 continuous spans carried on concrete hammerhead-type piers. The design of the shoulders, sidewalk and railing on the Effingham bridge was not determined. The bridge was rehabbed in 2001; current integrity of original design and materials also was not determined. An article on the structure in *New Hampshire Highways* magazine, notes the bridge was designed by Robert J. Prowse, and that a feature of the design was the stringers that acted as simple beams under dead load and as a 3-span continuous beam under live load:

"This type of design involves precision analysis for individual span cambers so that in the final structure the cambers of all three spans present a clean-cut, continuous, vertical curve. A valuable feature of this type of structure, because of its ease of construction, is its economy, as shown by savings indicated in (1) relatively brief steel erection time, (2) elimination of end dams for expansion at the piers, (3) elimination of extra bridge shoes, and (4) steel, due to continuity of live load." ¹¹

44. National or State Register Criteria Statement of Significance:

Ossipee Bridge 137/297 is not associated with events important to the broad patterns of our history. The highway improvement project as a whole and the new section of highway containing the two bridges undoubtedly increased driving safety and allowed greater speed for tourists passing through Ossipee on their way to and from the White Mountains, but there is no evidence to suggest that these improvements resulted in any direct and significant effects on the development of the town or the immediate area. The bridge is therefore not eligible for the National Register under Criteria A.

Ossipee Bridge 137/297 is an example of a continuous I-beam stringer deck highway bridge of an uncommon design that combined simple and continuous beam design. The total number of bridges of this type designed by the NHHD and built can not be readily determined since the specific features of the type are not identified in the DOT bridge database. The unique continuous design is not evident in photographs and requires examination of the original plans to be certain. Several other combined simple and continuous beam design bridges were identified with the help of Dave Powellson of NHDOT, but none

¹¹ New Hampshire Highways, February-March, 1956, pp. 6-7.

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possess equivalent features and retain complete integrity of materials and design. The bridge was designed by Harold E. Langley, Bridge Engineer, and Robert J. Prowse, Assistant Bridge Engineer, the most noted engineers in the history of the New Hampshire Highway Department. The design may have been the first of its type designed by the NHHD; the other examples identified thus far, followed it. The merits of the design were described by Prowse in an article on a later bridge, suggesting the initial collaboration with Langley led the way to the subsequent designs, primarily designed by Prowse. It is known that Langley and Prowse collaborated on numerous bridge designs. Further research would be required to determine the exact role the Bearcamp River bridges played in the development and use of the combined simple/continuous beam bridge design.

The bridge retains features representative of mid-20th c. bridges of the type, specifically the H-pile bents of double batter-pile design, the combined open-grid shoulder/steel curb/open-grid sidewalk assembly, and the original steel angle railings. These features were common to mid-20th century steel deck bridge design but may have seen limited use in NH and an unknown number of intact examples remain.

Ossipee Bridge 137/297 possesses distinctive engineering characteristics, is a significant work of two engineers important to New Hampshire bridge engineering history, and may have played a important role in the development of a specialized bridge type in New Hampshire. It is therefore potentially eligible for the National Register under Criteria C.

45. Period of Significance: 1955

46. Statement of Integrity:

The property retains integrity of location, setting, association, feeling, design, materials and workmanship.

47. Boundary Discussion: The boundary of the property is defined by the physical limits of the bridge and its abutments and attached retaining walls.

48. Bibliography and/or References:

Cook, Edward M. Ossipee, New Hampshire 1785-1985: A History. Ossipee: Peter E. Randall Published, 1985.

Hurd, D. H. Town and County Atlas of the State of New Hampshire. (Philadelphia: D. H. Hurd & Co. 1892).

Laraba, Rae S. "Backbone of New Hampshire's Trunk Line System Originally Planned by John W. Storrs." *New Hampshire Highways*, November 1928, pp. 7-8.

New Hampshire. Sixth Biennial Report of the State Department of Highways. Concord: 1917, pp. 3, 4, 121-123.

NHDOT Bridge Card and Inspection Files. Available at NH Department of Transportation, Bridge Design, Concord.

New Hampshire Highways. [Official Publication of the New Hampshire Good Roads Association.]. Located in NH State Library.

Surveyor's	Evaluation:					
NR listed:	individual within district	NR	eligible: individual within district	X	NR Criteria:	A B
Integrity:	yes no	_X	not eligible more info needed			D E

Photography Statement: I, the undersigned, confirm that the photos in this inventory form have not been digitally manipulated and that they conform to the standards set forth in the NHDHR Digital Photo Policy. These photos were printed with <u>HP Photosmart 7850 Printer, HP Vivera</u> 100 Gray Photo Ink, HP Premium-Plus Photopaper. The digital files are housed at Historic Documentation Company, Inc., Portsmouth, RI.

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INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM

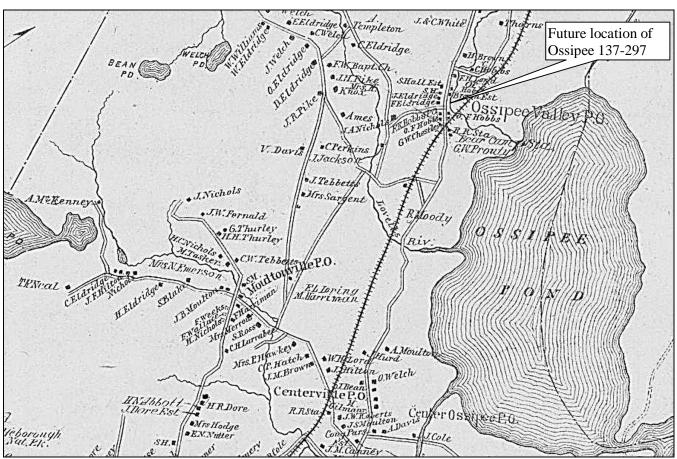


FIGURE 1: Hurd 1892 Atlas, Map of Town of Ossipee.

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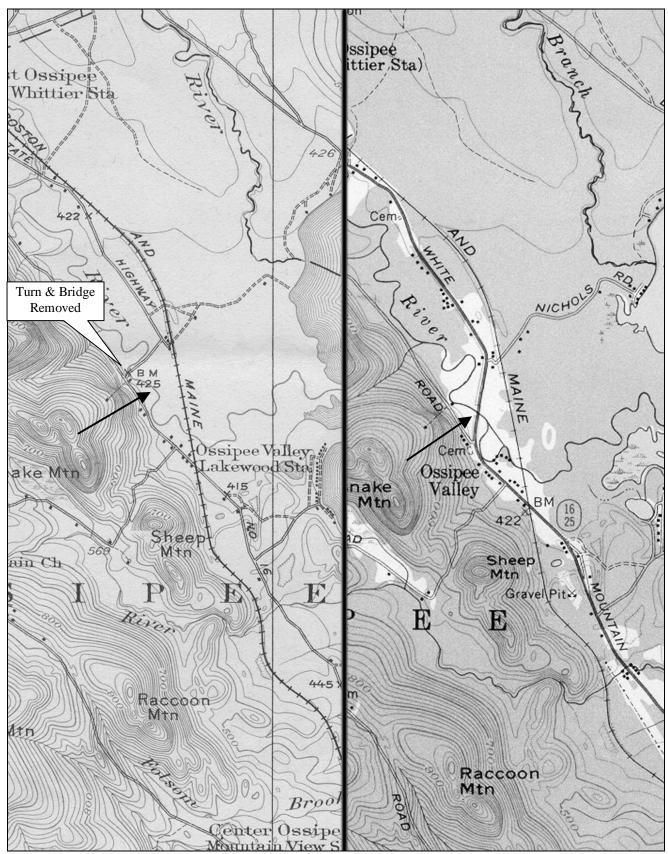


FIGURE 2: Left, 1930 Topo map; Arrow points to future bridge location. Right, 1958 Topo map, Arrow points to bridge location on section of new road built with bridge in 1955 to remove narrow bridge, sharp turn and straighten Rt. 16 White Mountain Highway.

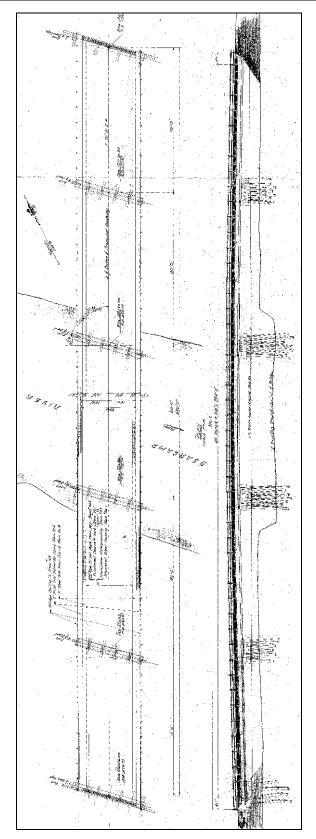


FIGURE 3: Plan of bridge from original drawings (NHDOT File No. 3-4-3-2).

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INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM

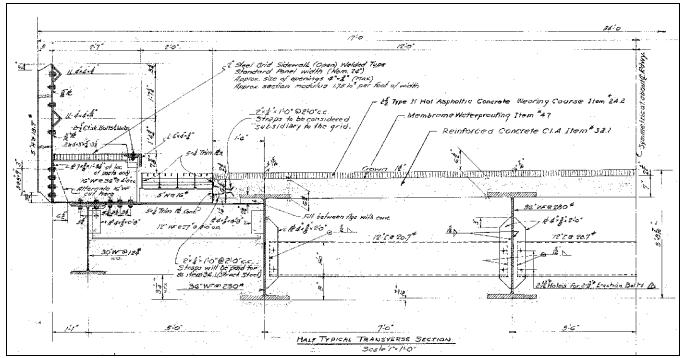


FIGURE 4: Half transverse section of deck and superstructure from original drawings (NHDOT File No. 3-4-3-2).

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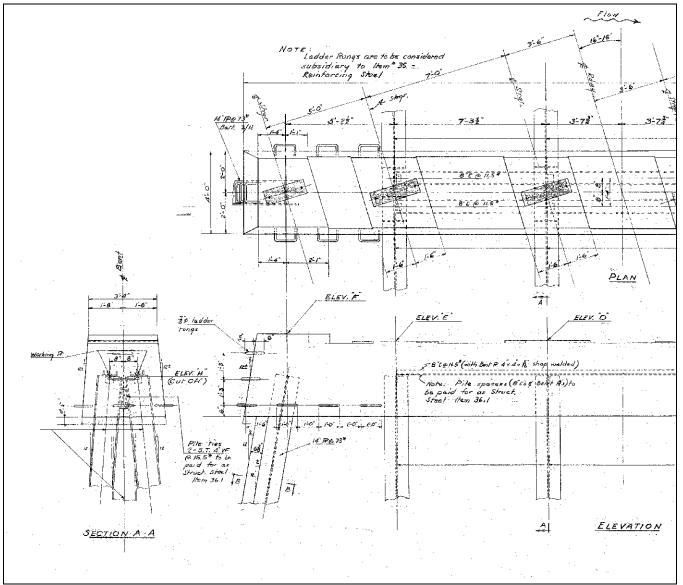


FIGURE 5: Plan, elevations and section of H-pile bent from original drawings (NHDOT File No. 3-4-3-2).

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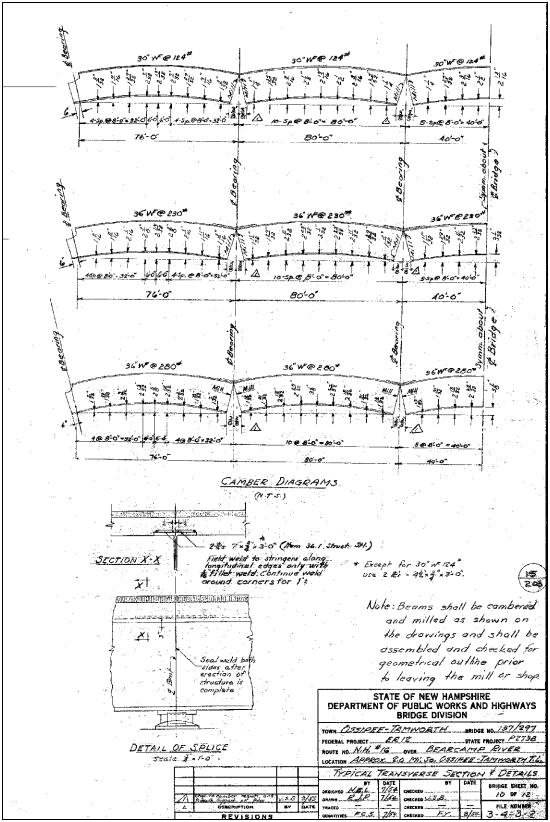


FIGURE 6: Stringer camber and splice details, part of the design that makes the stringers function structurally as both simple and continuous beams (From Sheet 10 of original drawings, NHDOT File No. 3-4-3-2).

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INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM

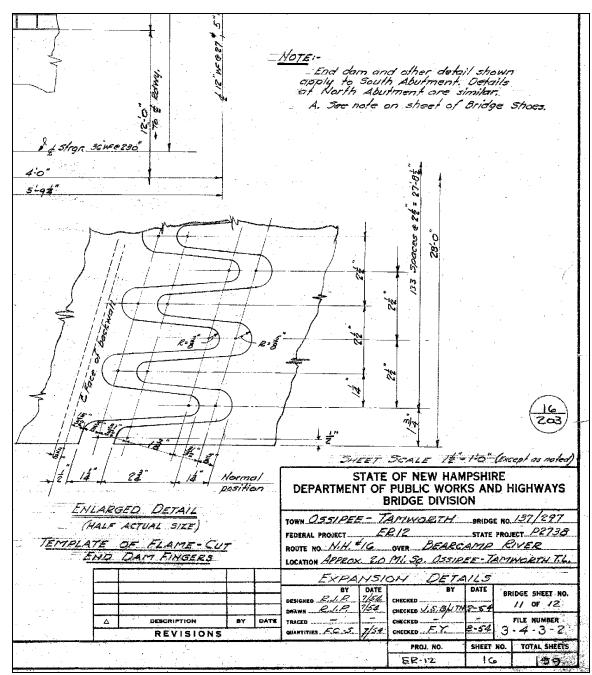
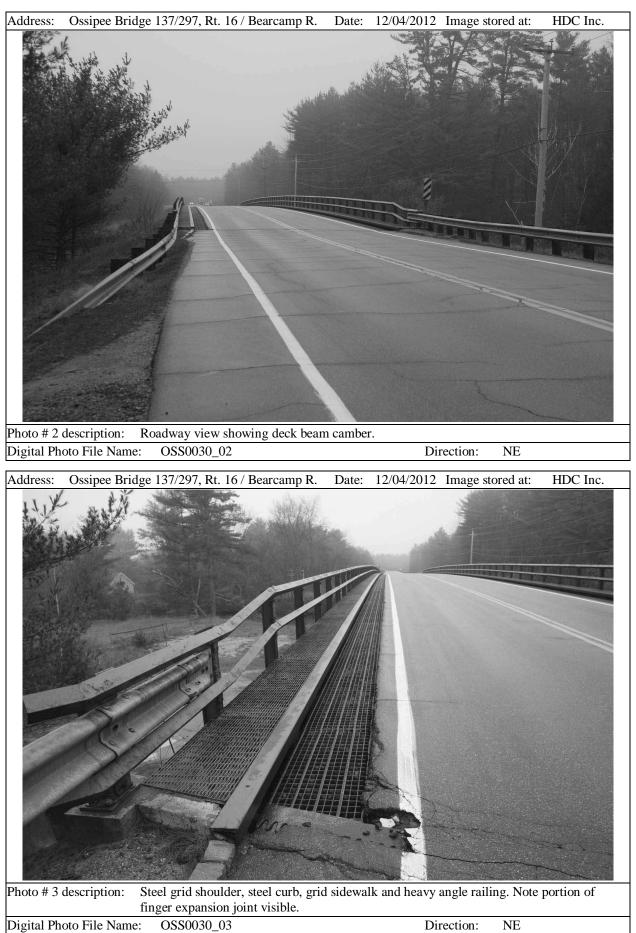


FIGURE 7: Deck expansion joint details showing custom finger-joints designed for skew of bridge by R. J. Prowse. (From Sheet 11 of original drawings, NHDOT File No. 3-4-3-2).

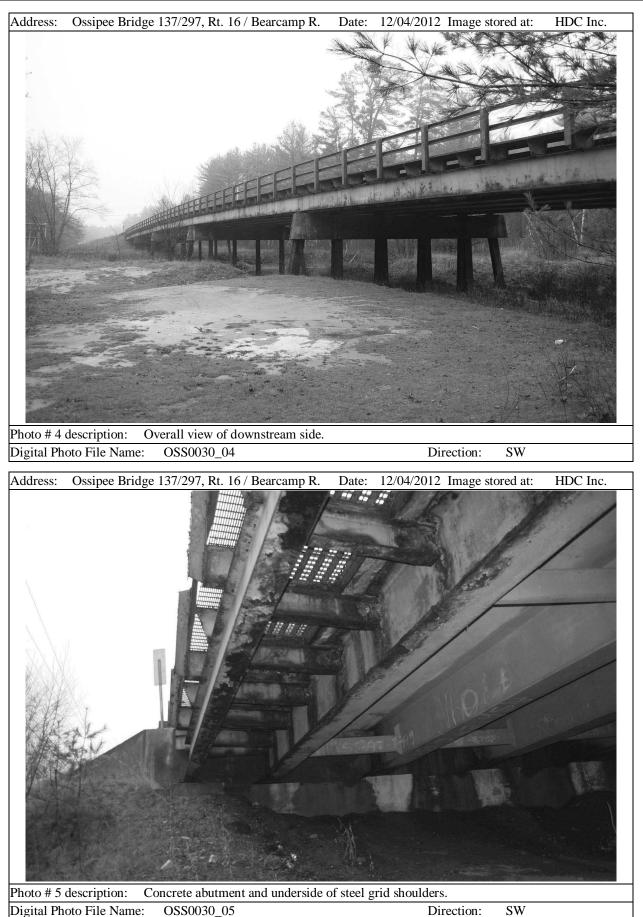
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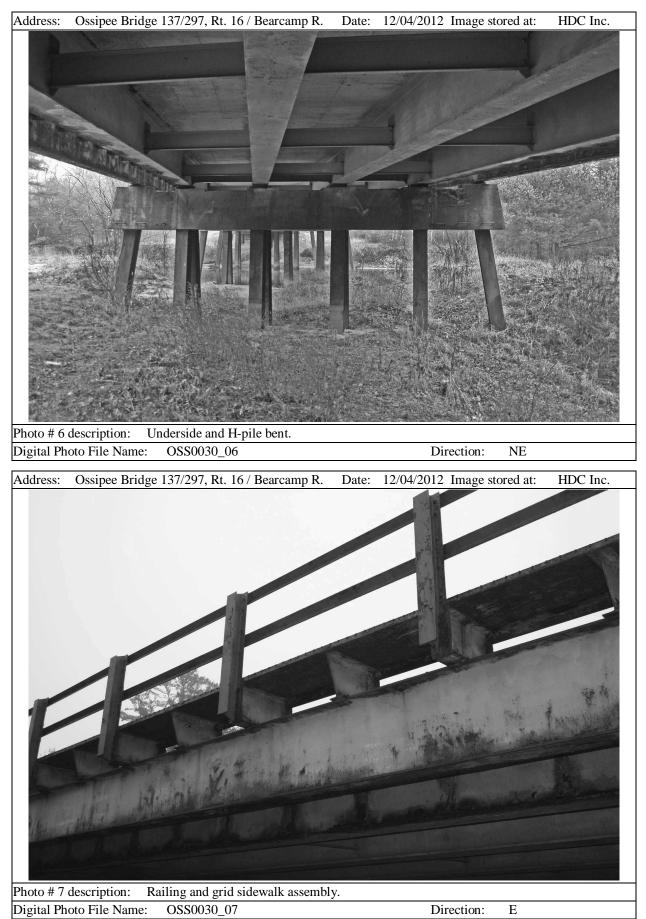
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INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM



NHDHR INVENTORY # OSS0030

HDC Inc.

HDC Inc.

Page 17 of 17 Address: Ossipee Bridge 137/297, Rt. 16 / Bearcamp R. Date: 12/04/2012 Image stored at: Photo # 8 description: Bearcamp River, bent and underside. Digital Photo File Name: OSS0030_08 NE Direction: Address: Ossipee Bridge 137/297, Rt. 16 / Bearcamp R. 12/04/2012 Image stored at: Date:

Photo # 9 description: H-pile bent showing double battered A-frame type piles. Digital Photo File Name: OSS0030_09 Direction: Е

Name, Location, Ownership

Name, Location,	Ownership	Store Sta
1. Historic name	Ossipee Bridge 137/299	
2. District or area	n/a	
3. Street & numbe	r NH 16, NH 25 over Relief for Bearcamp River	
4. City or town	Ossipee	
5. County	Carroll	
6. Current owner	State of NH	AN AN AN
Function or Use		
7. Current use(s)	State highway bridge, Ossipee 137/299	
8. Historic use(s)	same	
Architectural Inf	formation	
9. Style 4-spar slab de	n continuous I-beam stringer w/rein-concrete eck	
10. Architect/build	der NH Highway Dept./	
11. Source NHD	OT Plans and Records	
12. Construction d	late 1955	
13. Source NHD	OT Plans and Records	
14. Alterations, wi	th dates	
15. Moved? no	⊠ yes □ date <u>:</u>	
Exterior Features	S	
16. Foundation	concrete abutments; steel H-pile bents	
17. Cladding	n/a	
18. Roof material	n/a	35. Photo
19. Chimney mate	rial <u>n/a</u>	37. Digital
20. Type of roof	n/a	38. Image
21. Chimney locat	ion <u>n/a</u>	Portsmout
22. Number of stor	ries <u>n/a</u>	27. Landso
23. Entry location	n/a	28. Acreag

n/a

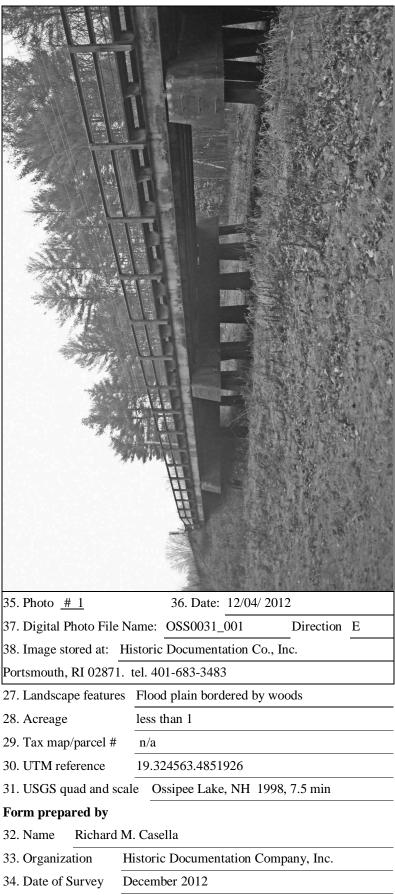
Replacement? no 🗌 yes 🗌 date:

Site Features

24. Windows

25. Setting	State highway, wetlands, late 20 th c. residential
commercial	
26. Outbuilding	zs n/a

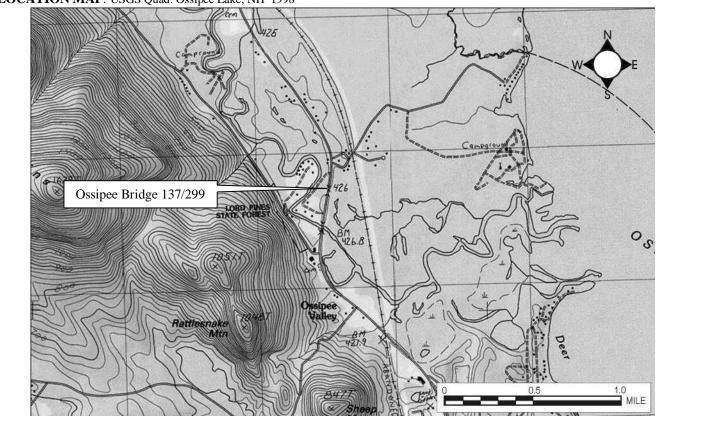
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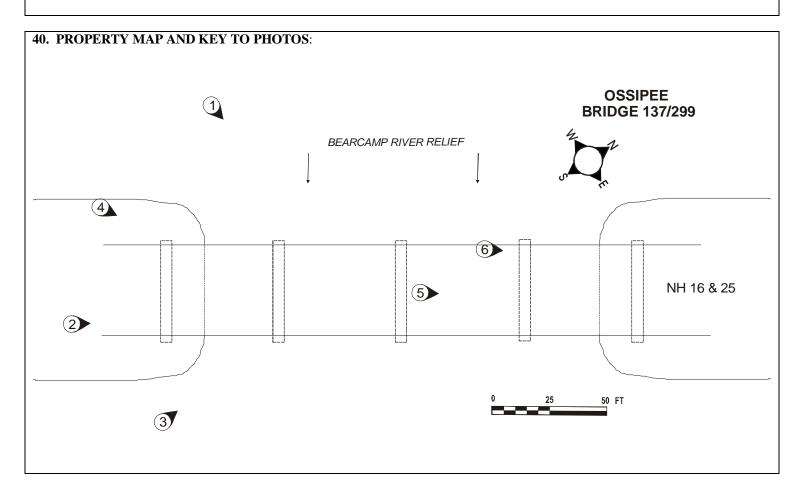


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39. LOCATION MAP: USGS Quad: Ossipee Lake, NH 1998





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41. Historical Background and Role in the Town or City's Development: ¹

Ossipee was incorporated as a town by the NH Legislature in 1785. The initial cutting of the primary roads in the area was substantially accomplished during the 1770s. What is now Route 16 in the vicinity of Ossipee Bridge 152/268 was built in 1776 by Captain John Dudley. It was know as Captain Dudley's Wagon Road, or the Tamworth Road, and ran almost eight miles from Duncan Lake through Center Ossipee to Ossipee Valley. The road was continued north to West Ossipee the following year (1777) by settlers under the direction Colonel Jonathan Moulton.²

In 1871 the Portsmouth, Great Falls & Conway Railroad was built through Ossipee, roughly paralleling the Tamworth Road and crossing over it at Ossipee Valley. The development brought by the railroad to the towns along its route, eventually translated to demand for improvement to the Tamworth Road with the growth of the automobile age. In 1903 John Storrs, the first highway engineer of New Hampshire, proposed that the state should "build three roads into the White Mountains...one up the Saco Valley, one up the Merrimack Valley and one up the Connecticut Valley."³ The system became known as "the triple highway program" and designated "The Trunk Line System" in the states earliest highway legislation enacted between 1905 and 1909 that enabled State Aid for their construction. The three roads were labeled the East Side Road, the Merrimack Valley Road and the West Side Road. By 1910, sections of the East Side Road, including parts of the Tamworth Road through Ossipee were under construction with state aid funding.⁴

In 1922 the state route marking system was adopted by the Highway Commissioners of the New England States and the East Side Road was designated New England Interstate Route 16. It began in Kittery, Maine passing into New Hampshire at Rollinsford and passing through Dover, Rochester, Union, Wakefield, Ossipee, Conway, Berlin to end in Errol.⁵ Since then, Route 16 has been rerouted and re-designated entirely a state route and combined in part with NH Route 25. In 1938, the original legislation that created the East Side Road was amended, changing the name to the White Mountain Highway.

Planning for the design of Ossipee Bridge 137/299 began in August 1954 with surveys and borings taken by New Hampshire Highway Department forces. The design of the superstructure and steel pile bents was evidently done by the department's [Chief] Bridge Engineer Harold E. Langley and Assistant Bridge Engineer Robert J. Prowse; the two designed the larger companion structure Ossipee 137/297 which is identical except for size. Langley and Prowse are noted on some plan sheets, but on other sheets "Designed by" is blank. It is common that not all sheet in a project will be initialed by those who worked on them. Several sheets were drawn by "F.Y." which is believed to be Faust S. Ystueta who worked in NHHD bridge design in the 1950s. Other sheets were drawn by "J.T.H." – those initials are unknown. A total of twelve sheets of plans were prepared (NHDOT File No. 3-4-3-5). The project was assigned Federal Aid Project number ER12 and State Project number P-2738, the same project under which companion bridge Ossipee 137/297 was built.

Ossipee 137/299 and its companion bridge of the same but larger design, Ossipee 137/297,⁶ were built as part of a new section of highway approximately 2000 feet long that was constructed to straighten White Mountain Highway, eliminate a sharp turn in the road, and replace an existing bridge over Bearcamp River (see Figure 2). The highway and bridges were in turn part a larger project improvement project 5.57 miles long that included paving, a 25' span concrete frame bridge (box culvert) and the moving of five buildings. The contract was won with the low bid of \$912,317.40 by Peter Salvucci & Sons, Inc., of Waltham, Mass.⁷ Out of that total, Ossipee 137/299 cost \$73,146.40 (the larger Ossipee Bridge 137/297 cost \$162,100.45).⁸ No further information on the construction was obtained other than the overall project was completed in October 1956.⁹

¹ Note: Ossipee Bridge 137/299 was built in conjunction with Ossipee 137/297 (see Inventory Form OSS0030) and shares the same background and construction history.

² Cook, 1985, p. 134.

³ Laraba, 1928, p. 7.

 ⁴ Third Biennial Report of the Governor and Council and State Engineer Relative to Highway Improvement. Concord: 1910. pp. 3, 4, 9.
 ⁵ See "New Hampshire's Road Marking System," *New Hampshire Highways*, September 1923, p. 9.

⁶ Ossipee 137/297 is located about 1000 feet south of the subject bridge and carries the highway over the Bearcamp River; see Inventory Form OSS0030.

⁷ New Hampshire Highways, March-April 1955, p. 8.

⁸ Bridge Inventory Cards for respective bridges, on file at NHDOT.

⁹ New Hampshire Highways, December 1956, p. 13.

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NHDHR INVENTORY # OSS0031

42. Applicable NHDHR Historic Contexts: 84. Automobile highways and culture, 1900-present

43. Architectural Description and Comparative Evaluation:

Ossipee Bridge 137/299 is a two-lane four-span continuous steel I-beam stringer bridge with a reinforced concrete slab deck (see Figures 3-5). It carries combined NH Routes 16 and 25 over the Bearcamp River Relief Structure in Ossipee NH. The "relief structure" is the opening in the raised earth-fill roadway embankment that crosses the Bearcamp River flood plain channel constructed to accept Bearcamp River overflow during high water events. Overall the bridge is 172 feet in length and 32' in width. The spans are carried on steel H-piles with concrete pile-cap abutments and three concrete pile cap bents. The span lengths and layout are: 40'-44'-40'. The superstructure consists of six lines of wide-flange stringers of various sizes according to the loads they carry: outside stringers 1 and 6 under the sidewalks are 21WF62 (21" deep, 62 pounds per linear foot); stringers 2 and 5 are 30WF108; inside stringers 3 and 4 are 30WF132. The stringers were fabricated in the span lengths listed above and made continuous by field-welding steel splice-plates to the top of the flanges at the end butt-joints over the bents. The stringers were specifically designed to function as simple beams under dead load and continuous beams under live loads (see Figure 6). This sophisticated and possibly uncommon design is further discussed below. The stringers are laterally braced with diaphragms consisting of 12" channels field-bolted to angles that were shop-welded to the stringer webs. The stringers rest on fixed bearing shoes on bent 2, and on sliding low-friction alloy bearings at all other bearing points, noted on the plans as "Lubrite or equivalent" – Lubrite being one of the brands of so-called "self-lubricating" bridge bearings on the market at the time.

The plans show the reinforced concrete deck to be 6-1/2" thick with a 2-1/2" asphaltic concrete wearing course. Along each side of the two 12'-wide travel lanes are 24" wide open steel grid shoulders, followed by 30" wide open steel grid sidewalks raised 8" above the road. The original steel-angle curbs and steel railings consisting of two lines of angles bolted to H-section posts, remain. At each end of the bridge, attached to and extending across the entire width of the ends of the deck slab and the end dams (abutment backwall), are finger-type steel-plate expansion joints designed specifically for the bridge (see Figure 7).

The abutments are both identical and consist of a straight reinforced concrete bridge seat and backwall cast around seven 14" steel H-pilings spaced on 6' centers. Piles 1, 3, 5, & 7 are battered; 2, 4, & 6 are vertical. Plans show the piles were cut to an even height after driving, interconnected with steel channel spacers and imbedded about 2' into the concrete bridge seat. The abutment piles and about half the height of the bridge seats are buried with earth fill forming the raised approach grades.

The four pile bents are all identical and consist of twin batter piles directly under each of the four 36" deck stringers, and single batter end piles under the two 30" sidewalk stringers. Piles are all 14" x 73 p.l.f. steel H-piles. The end piles are battered 2/12" and provide bent stability lateral to the bridge; steel plate nosing or "ice breakers" are welded to the face of the upstream end piles. The inner twin piles are battered 1/12" opposing, to form a very steep A-frame, aligned with the longitudinal axis of the bridge for stability in that direction. The pile caps are solid reinforced concrete measuring 3-6" high x 3'-4" deep x 36'-3" long with 2/12 and 1/12 battered faces to match the pilings. Flood escape ladder rungs of bent steel rod are imbedded in the ends of the caps.

Comparative Evaluation: ¹⁰

Ossipee Bridge 137/299 possesses several design features of interest based on initial research:

- The combined simple/continuous beam design that may have been used rarely by NHHD;
- The *H-pile bents of double batter pile design* and the *combined open-grid shoulder/steel curb/open-grid sidewalk assembly*, which although common to mid-20th century steel deck bridge design may have seen limited use in NH and of which an unknown number of intact examples remain.

The *combined simple/continuous beam design* is a specialized design that utilized off the shelf rolled wide flange girders that were then given a specific camber and the ends milled to a precise angle corresponding to the camber axis. Once each stringer was set in place end to end, steel splice plates were welded to the top of the flanges to join each to the next, forming a continuous top flange member but with a gap between the ends of the lower flanges (see Figure 6). When the dead load was applied (in the form of the reinforced concrete deck, sidewalks and railings) the beams deflected the precisely calculated

¹⁰ This section is the same as that contained on Form OSS0030 with the exception of the discussion of the companion bridge.

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amount to close the gap, which was then field-welded shut. With just the dead load applied, no loads are carried through the welded joints to the adjacent spans so the spans act as simple beams. When a live load is applied to one of the spans the beams deflect and some of the live load is transmitted to the neighboring spans through the welded joint by the structural principle of continuity. The design was apparently Langley's idea – he is credited as "designer" on the plans. Prowse is credited with drawing the plans, but considering these were the Number 1 and Number 2 designers in the department, they were undoubtedly advancing the design together, with the Assistant Engineer delegated the important task of putting the idea on paper in a manner that could be both fabricated and constructed in a practical cost-effective manner.

Preliminary research indicates that several other continuous steel I-beam bridges with concrete decks (IB-C) of similar type were built at this time:

Ossipee 137-297, NH 16 & 25 over Bearcamp River – companion structure of identical design except number of spans (5) and lengths of spans (76'-80'-80'-80'-76'). See Inventory Form OSS0030 as previously noted above.

Conway 063/047, River Road over Saco River Overflow, built 1955, 127' length overall consisting of 3-spans, 38'-45'-38'. Bridge card notes the stringers act as simple beams under dead load and continuous beams under live load. It is carried on H-pile bents with single vertical piles, not the double battered A-frame type piles of the subject bridge. The bridge was rehabbed in 2005 but the nature of repairs and current integrity of original design and materials was not determined.

Portsmouth 241/053, NH 1B over Piscataqua Estuary to New Castle, (companion bridge to New Castle 031/142) built 1955, 540' length overall, consisting of 10 spans, grouped 3-continuous, 4 continuous, 3 continuous. Bridge card does not note if spans are simple under dead load. Bridge card photo, 1988, shows H-pile bents, some with double-battered A-frame type piles, steel grid shoulders, sidewalk and railing assembly like the subject bridge. The bridge substructure was repaired in 1988; the current integrity of original design and materials was not determined.

New Castle 031/142, NH 1B over Piscataqua Estuary to Portsmouth, (companion bridge to Portsmouth 241/053) built 1955, 480' length overall, consisting of 9 spans, grouped 3-continuous, 3 continuous, 3 continuous. Bridge card does not note if spans are simple under dead load. Bridge card photo, 1988, shows H-pile bents, some of which have double-battered A-frame type piles, steel grid shoulders, sidewalk and railing assembly like the subject bridge. The bridge substructure was repaired in 1988; current integrity of original design and materials was not determined.

Effingham 110/190, NH 153 over Ossipee River, built 1955, 243' length overall consisting of 3 continuous spans carried on concrete hammerhead-type piers. The design of the shoulders, sidewalk and railing on the Effingham bridge was not determined. The bridge was rehabbed in 2001; current integrity of original design and materials also was not determined. An article on the structure in *New Hampshire Highways* magazine, notes the bridge was designed by Robert J. Prowse, and that a feature of the design was the stringers that acted as simple beams under dead load and as a 3-span continuous beam under live load:

"This type of design involves precision analysis for individual span cambers so that in the final structure the cambers of all three spans present a clean-cut, continuous, vertical curve. A valuable feature of this type of structure, because of its ease of construction, is its economy, as shown by savings indicated in (1) relatively brief steel erection time, (2) elimination of end dams for expansion at the piers, (3) elimination of extra bridge shoes, and (4) steel, due to continuity of live load." ¹¹

44. National or State Register Criteria Statement of Significance:

Ossipee Bridge 137/299 is not associated with events important to the broad patterns of our history. The highway improvement project as a whole and the new section of highway containing the two bridges undoubtedly increased driving safety and allowed greater speed for tourists passing through Ossipee on their way to and from the White Mountains, but there is no evidence to suggest that these improvements resulted in any direct and significant effects on the development of the town or the immediate area. The bridge is therefore not eligible for the National Register under Criteria A.

¹¹ New Hampshire Highways, February-March, 1956, pp. 6-7.

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Ossipee Bridge 137/299 is an example of a continuous I-beam stringer deck highway bridge of an uncommon design that combined simple and continuous beam design. The total number of bridges of this type designed by the NHHD and built can not be readily determined since the specific features of the type are not identified in the DOT bridge database. The unique continuous design is not evident in photographs and requires examination of the original plans to be certain. Several other combined simple and continuous beam design bridges were identified with the help of Dave Powellson of NHDOT, but none possess equivalent features and retain complete integrity of materials and design. The bridge was evidently designed by Harold E. Langley, Bridge Engineer, and Robert J. Prowse, Assistant Bridge Engineer, the most noted engineers in the history of the New Hampshire Highway Department. The design (done in conjunction with the larger companion bridge spanning the Bearcamp River) may have been the first of its type designed by the NHHD; the other examples identified thus far, followed it. The merits of the design were described by Prowse in an article on a later bridge, suggesting the initial collaboration with Langley led the way to the subsequent designs, primarily designed by Prowse. It is known that Langley and Prowse collaborated on numerous bridge designs. Further research would be needed to determine the exact role the Bearcamp River bridges played in the development and use of the combined simple/continuous beam bridge design.

The bridge retains features representative of mid-20th c. bridges of the type, specifically the H-pile bents of double batter-pile design, the combined open-grid shoulder/steel curb/open-grid sidewalk assembly, and the original steel angle railings. These features were common to mid-20th century steel deck bridge design but may have seen limited use in NH and an unknown number of intact examples remain.

Ossipee Bridge 137/299 possesses distinctive engineering characteristics, is a significant work of two engineers important to New Hampshire bridge engineering history, and may have played a important role in the development of a specialized bridge type in New Hampshire. It is therefore potentially eligible for the National Register under Criteria C.

45. Period of Significance: 1955

46. Statement of Integrity:

The property retains integrity of location, setting, association, feeling, design, materials and workmanship.

47. Boundary Discussion: The boundary of the property is defined by the physical limits of the bridge and its abutments and attached retaining walls.

48. Bibliography and/or References:

Cook, Edward M. Ossipee, New Hampshire 1785-1985: A History. Ossipee: Peter E. Randall Published, 1985.

Hurd, D. H. Town and County Atlas of the State of New Hampshire. (Philadelphia: D. H. Hurd & Co. 1892).

Laraba, Rae S. "Backbone of New Hampshire's Trunk Line System Originally Planned by John W. Storrs." *New Hampshire Highways*, November 1928, pp. 7-8.

New Hampshire. Sixth Biennial Report of the State Department of Highways. Concord: 1917, pp. 3, 4, 121-123.

NHDOT Bridge Card and Inspection Files. Available at NH Department of Transportation, Bridge Design, Concord.

New Hampshire Highways. [Official Publication of the New Hampshire Good Roads Association.]. Located in NH State Library.

"New Hampshire's Road Marking System," New Hampshire Highways, September 1923, p. 9.

Surveyor's	Evaluation:		
NR listed:	individual	NR eligible: NR Criteria:	Α
	within district	individualX	В
		within district	CX
Integrity:	yesX	not eligible	D
	no	more info needed	Е

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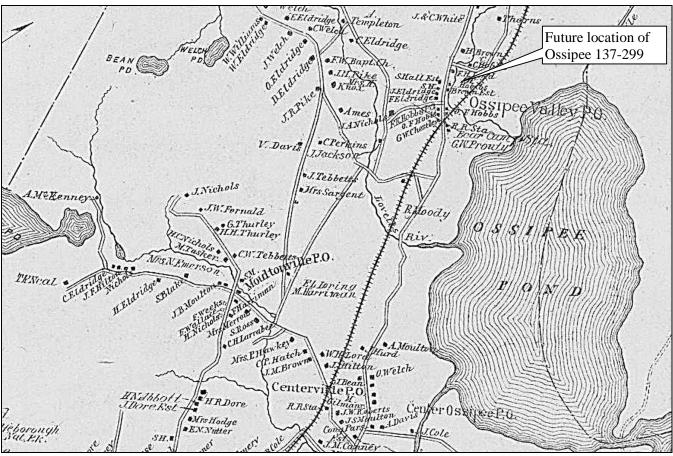


FIGURE 1: Hurd 1892 Atlas, Map of Town of Ossipee.

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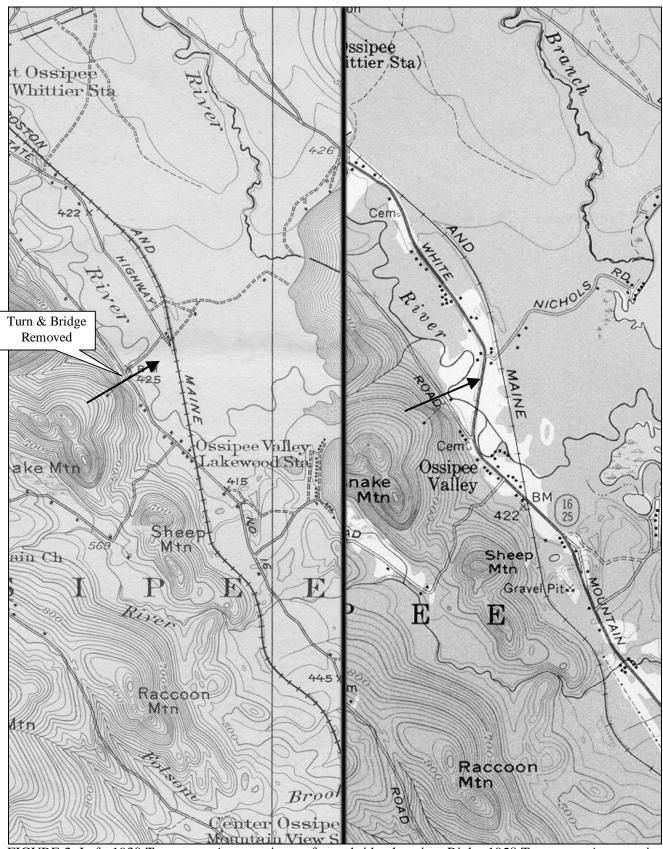


FIGURE 2: Left, 1930 Topo map; Arrow points to future bridge location. Right, 1958 Topo map, Arrow points to bridge location on section of new road built with bridge in 1955 to remove narrow bridge, sharp turn and straighten Rt. 16 highway.

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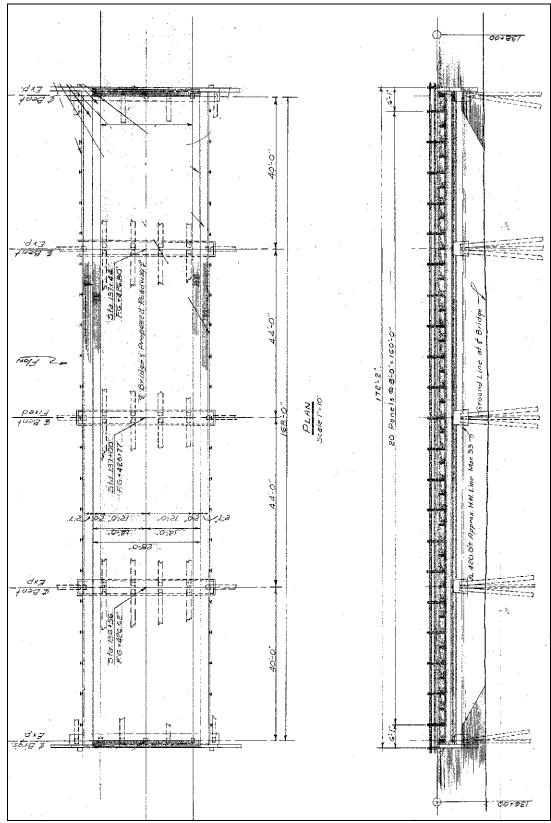


FIGURE 3: Plan and elevation of bridge from original drawings (NHDOT File No. 3-4-3-5). -

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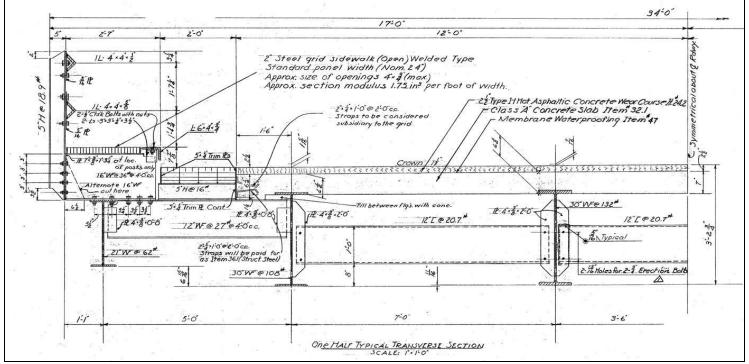


FIGURE 4: Half transverse section of deck and superstructure from original drawings (NHDOT File No. 3-4-3-5).

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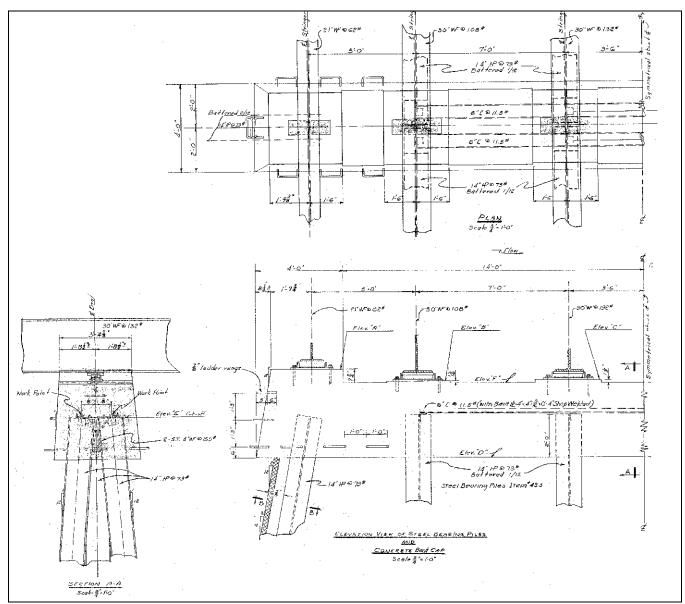


FIGURE 5: Plan, elevations and section of H-pile bent from original drawings (NHDOT File No. 3-4-3-5).

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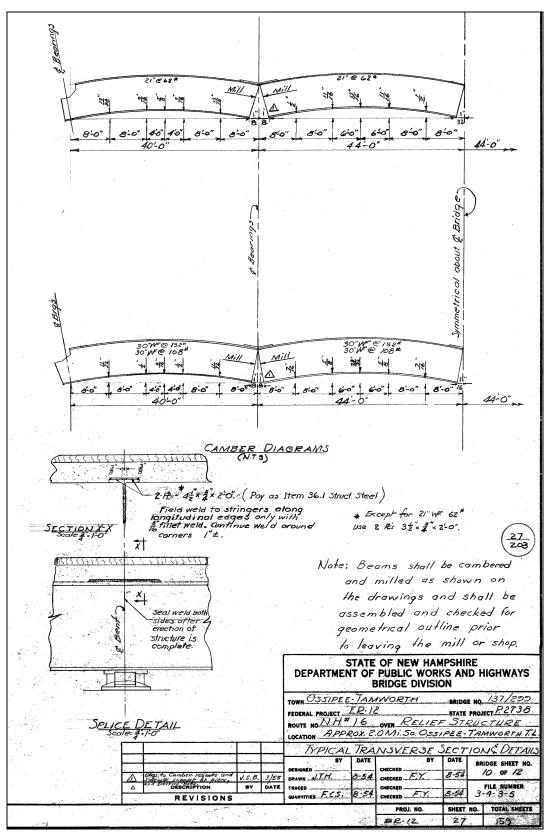


FIGURE 6: Stringer camber and splice details, part of the design that makes the stringers function structurally as both simple and continuous beams (From Sheet 10 of original drawings, NHDOT File No. 3-4-3-5).

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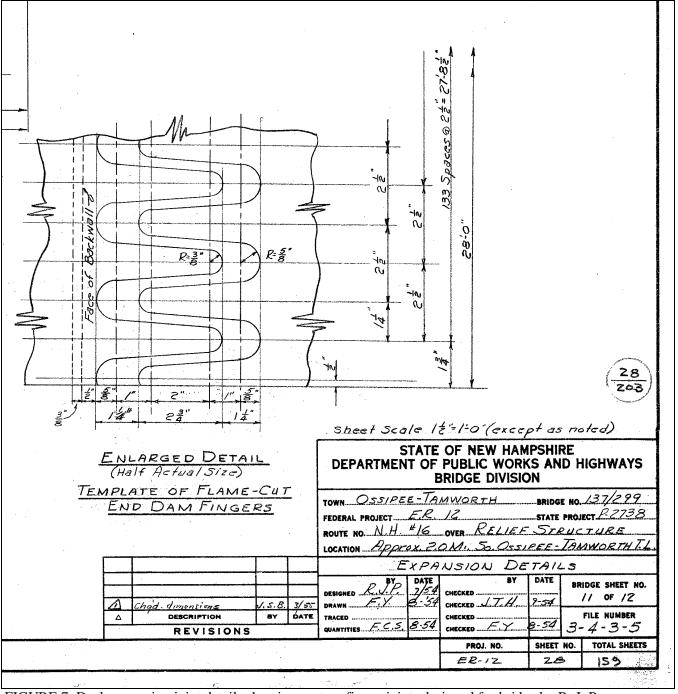
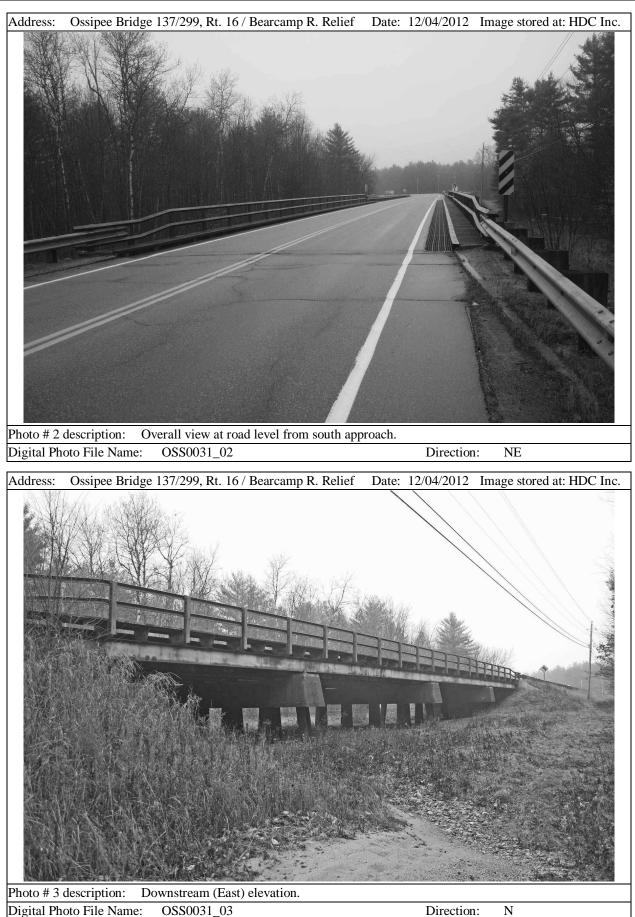


FIGURE 7: Deck expansion joint details showing custom finger-joints designed for bridge by R. J. Prowse. (From Sheet 11 of original drawings, NHDOT File No. 3-4-3-5).

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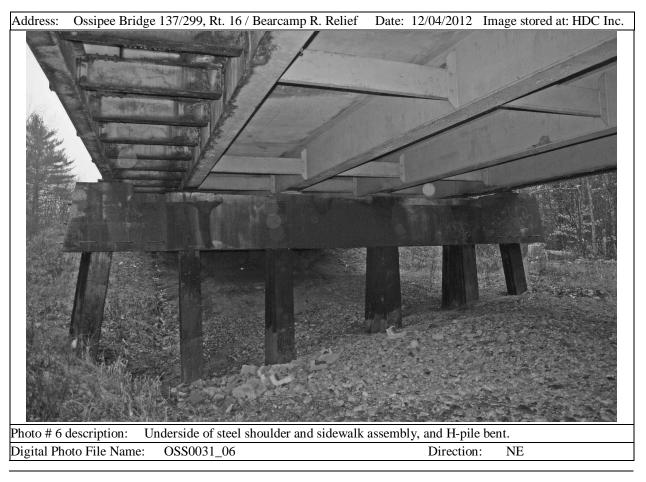


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Ruber M. Cuntle