

## CONNECTICUT RIVER BRIDGE

025 – NORTHUMBERLAND-GUILDHALL

NH Bridge ID: Northumberland 141/059

**CARRYING:** Guildhall Road

**PRESENT NAME:** Guildhall Road Bridge

**DATE BUILT:** 1984

**LAT/LONG:** 44.564178,-71.558998

### CROSSING CHRONOLOGY

- c.1806 First toll bridge
- 1854 Second toll bridge, a 2-span  
Paddleford Truss
- 1919 Third bridge, 2-span steel truss
- 1984 Fourth bridge, 3-span steel stringer

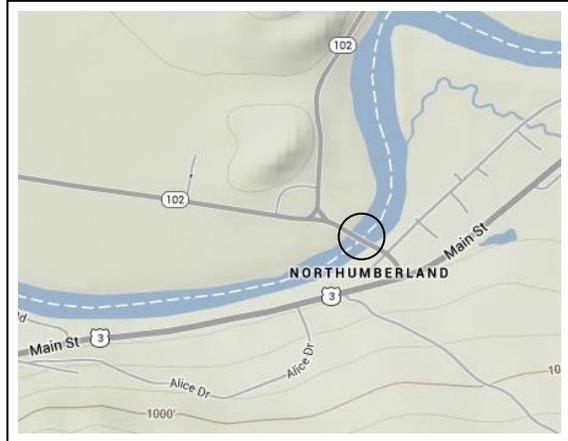


FIGURE 1: Guildhall Road Bridge, present bridge built 1984. Upstream side from Vermont (Historic Documentation Co. Inc. 2013).

## CROSSING HISTORY

**First bridge:** The New Hampshire legislature chartered the Northumberland Bridge Company in 1802. The exact date of the first toll bridge construction is not currently known, but the toll house was erected in 1806. A tornado destroyed the first bridge in about 1854.

**Second bridge:** The next bridge, constructed around 1854, was a two-span covered bridge of Paddleford truss design, 295 feet long, supported by stone abutments and pier. An arch was added to reinforce the bridge at some date, according to covered bridge historian Glenn Knoblock. The bridge was still a toll crossing operated by the bridge company as of 1906, but the State Bridge Commissioners stated that the company was willing to sell the bridge and rights for \$4,000, making it likely that the bridge was freed within the following few years. In 1918 the bridge was taken out of service due to deteriorated condition.

**Third bridge:** In 1919, the New Hampshire Highway Department had a new bridge built, a two-span steel Pratt truss bridge that was 284 feet long and carried by abutments and pier that were partly stone, partly concrete. The Berlin Construction Company acted as contractor. The bridge was extensively repaired in 1945.

**Fourth bridge:** The NHDOT had a replacement bridge constructed in 1984, a three-span variable-depth steel stringer structure. The bridge is supported by cantilevered abutments and solid-shaft piers of concrete. The contractor was Winterset.



FIGURE 2: Former Paddleford Truss covered bridge, built c.1854, shown wrecked, c. 1918 (Storrs).



FIGURE 3: Guildhall Road Bridge, built 1919. Vermont approach in 1922 (Storrs 1922).

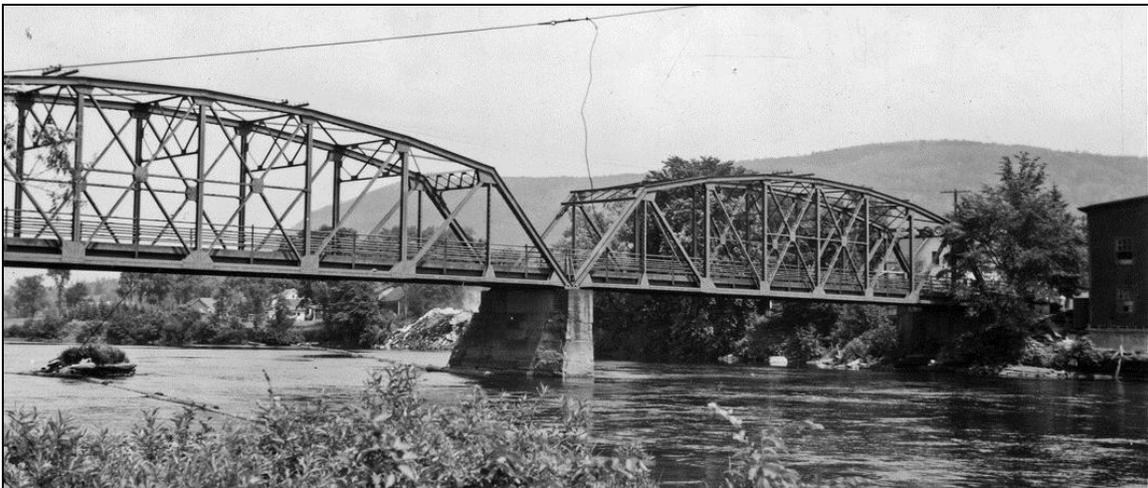


FIGURE 4: Guildhall Road Bridge, built 1919. Downstream side from Vermont shore in 1947 (NHDOT 1947).

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