

Determination of Eligibility (DOE)

Inventory #: RAN0013

DOE Review Date: 9/11/2024

Date Received: 9/1/2024

Final DOE Approved: Yes

Property Name: Pathmaker's Memorial Bridge

Area:

Address: Link Brook over Cold Brook

Town: Randolph

County: Coos

Reviewed For: SR

DOE Program(s):

State Register

Determination of Eligibility:

State Register eligible, individually			Integrity: Partial	Level: Local	
Criteria:	A: Yes	B:	C: Yes	D:	E:

Areas of Significance(s):

Architecture

Entertainment / Recreation

Period of Significance: 1923 to 1974

Boundary:

The State Register boundary is the footprint of the bridge and the wingwalls.

Statement of Significance:

The Pathmaker's bridge is eligible for listing in the NH State Register for its historical associations with recreation and conservation and for its rustic design. As Randolph became known as a focal point for trail building, it attracted a significant number of engineers and scientists eager to explore, test theories, and contribute to expanding a network of paths up the northern slopes of the Presidential range and trails on smaller mountains north of Randolph village. This bridge was dedicated to the early trail blazers who helped to bring about awareness of and conserve the forests that were succumbing to destructive logging practices in the late nineteenth century. Its design is reminiscent of the Adirondack and craftsman forms that sought to bring back hand-crafted construction as a response to machine made industrialization in the United States at the time. It is being nominated to the NH State Register under the Randolph State Register Multiple Property Area Form.

Comments:

Follow Up:

Notify appropriate parties

INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM:

NHDHR INVENTORY #RAN0013

NOMINATED UNDER THE RANDOLPH STATE REGISTER MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

Name, Location, Ownership

Historic name Pathmaker's Memorial Bridge

Street and number Link Trail over Cold Brook

City or town Randolph

County Coos

Current owner Town of Randolph

Function or Use

Current use(s) Transportation:

 Pedestrian related

Historic use(s) Transportation

 Pedestrian related

Architectural Information

Style _____

Architect/builder Louis Cutter/Eldredge H. Blood

Source stone monument east of bridge

Construction date 1923-24

Source ELDREDGE H. BLOOD

Alterations, with dates bridge rehab, 2023

Moved? no yes date: _____

Exterior Features

Foundation Granite

Cladding _____

Roof material _____

Chimney material _____

Chimney location _____

Number of stories _____

Entry location _____

Windows _____

Replacement? no yes date: _____

Site Features

Setting Forest/wilderness

Outbuildings _____



Photo #1 Direction: E

Date 2024

Tax Map _____

Acreage less than one acre

State Plane Feet (NAD83) _____

Form prepared by

Name Nadine Miller

Organization NHDHR

Date of Survey 9/2/2024

****Nominated under the Randolph State Register Multiple Property Area Form****Historical Background of Property:**

Built in 1923-24, the Pathmaker's Memorial Bridge crosses over Cold Brook along the Link Trail in Randolph, NH. Randolph dedicated Cold Brook Falls with its surrounding balsam firs as a memorial to the early pathfinders, including J.R. Edmands, E.B. Cook, and to other pioneer pathmakers including Gordon, Lowe, King, Peek, Sargent, and Nowell. These early pathmakers are responsible for cutting many of the trails in the Northern Presidential Range. The Randolph Mountain Club helped construct the bridge which was designed by Louis Cutter and Eldredge H. Blood. The bridge was built at an approximate cost of \$1,000. The 7.6-mile trail itself was cut in 1893 by J.R. Edmands, the Link connects Appalachia with all of the trails that ascend Mount Adams and Mount Jefferson from the north and west.

Louis Cutter was an engineer trained at MIT and as an employee of Boston he had designed and oversaw the building of the Pepper Pot bridge over the Charles River, and later designed bridge projects in the North Country including a bridge over the Israel River in Jefferson for \$50 and in 1924 the Randolph Memorial Bridge over Cold Brook. Eldredge H. Blood was one of the founders of the Randolph Mountain Club.

Applicable NHDHR Historic Contexts (see list in the **Randolph State Register Multiple Property Area Form**):

608.Outdoor recreation in New Hampshire
1506.The land conservation movement in New Hampshire.

Additional Architectural Details/Description:

The bridge is constructed of log with stone abutments. Wooden rails were recently replaced-in-kind. The bridge spans 26 feet long and is 39 inches wide. It sits 12 feet above the brook. The stone ends narrow so that only pedestrians can cross the bridge. The logs under the bridge are Hemlock; the main log being almost 2 feet in diameter with a slight arch. The side logs are 8 inches in diameter. On the east side of the bridge is a stone memorial etched with the names of the early pathmakers for whom the bridge was dedicated. For a detailed description of the original construction techniques, see attached article.

State Register Statement of Significance:

The Pathmaker's Bridge is eligible for listing in the NH State Register for its historical associations with recreation and conservation and for its rustic design. This bridge was dedicated to the early trail blazers who helped to bring about awareness of and conserve the forests that were succumbing to destructive logging practices in the late nineteenth century.

Bibliography and/or References:

THE PATHMAKERS' MEMORIAL BRIDGE RANDOLPH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Author(s): ELDREDGE H. BLOOD

Source: Landscape Architecture Magazine, JULY 1926, Vol. 16, No. 4 (JULY 1926), pp. 241-245

Published by: American Society of Landscape Architects

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/44660535>

PEAKS AND PATHS

Author: HUDSON, JUDITH MADDOCK

Published by: The Randolph Mountain Club, New Hampshire; 2010.



Photo #2 Description (with direction): Looking east across bridge. Photo by M. Sappington.

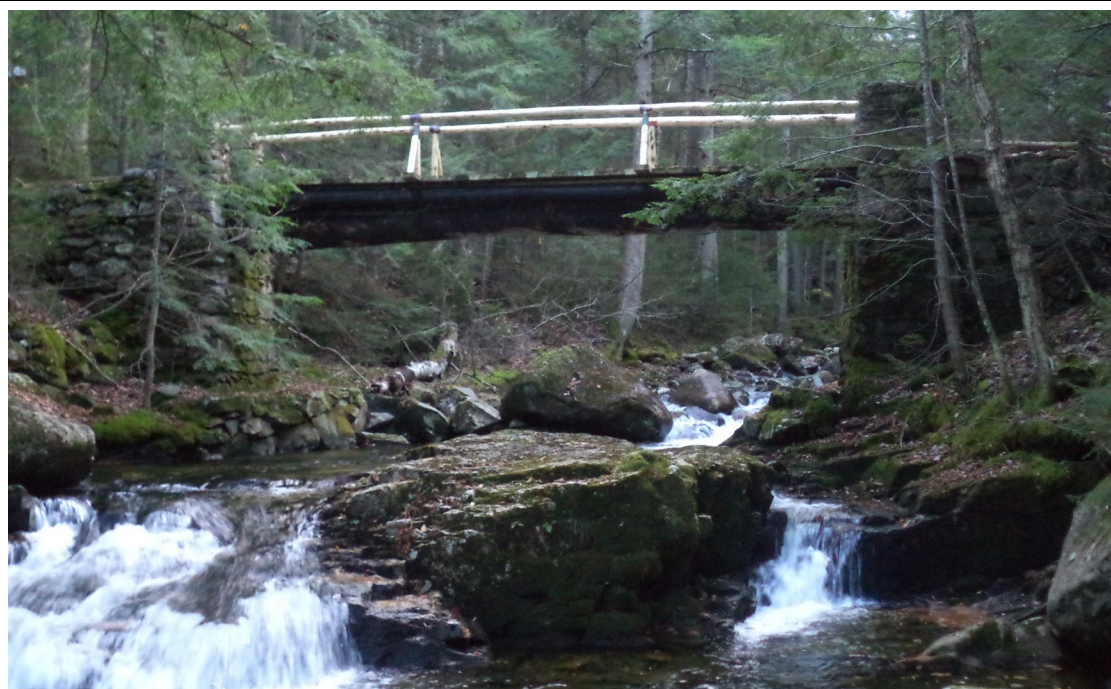


Photo #3 Description (with direction): Looking north along Cross Brook. Photo by M. Sappington.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MAGAZINE

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JSTOR

THE PATHMAKERS' MEMORIAL BRIDGE RANDOLPH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

By ELDREDGE H. BLOOD

“**E**VERY man's work shall be made manifest” is the motto carved at the bottom of the thick slab of water-worn stone, placed beside the entrance to the Pathmakers' Memorial Bridge over Cold Brook at Randolph, New Hampshire.

The superscription reads, “Memorial to J. R. Edmands and E. B. Cook and to those other pioneer path-makers, Gordon-Lowe-King-Peek-Sargent-Nowell”.

The bridge was built at an approximate cost of one thousand dollars with the funds raised by the Randolph Mountain Club. A committee of the Club contributed the scheme and design and also the supervision. Other interested persons gave much valuable advice and assistance. The enterprise was started by combining funds raised for separate tributes to the two men first named on the tablet. As the plan developed, its scope was expanded to take in all those mentioned.

The bridge crosses Cold Brook on “The Link”, an Edmands path that runs from the Ravine House to Cascade Camp, joining or crossing most of the paths up the north side of the Presidential Range. The location is one of great natural woodland beauty. Up the stream, Cold Brook Fall attracts the eye from the foreground. Beyond and far up the dashing and boulder-strewn brook are the cool recesses of King's Ravine, the cliffs of Durand and Nowell's ridge, and the salient peak of Mt. Adams. Below the bridge, the stony brook bed gradually flattens until it joins the Moose River in “A most commonplace ending of a highly romantic career”. A more charming and peaceful retreat for a summer rest and reverie than that about the bridge would be far to find. Here the song of the stream “sounds the sum of all harmonies,” to quote a gentle soul who loved it well.

To maintain the sylvan beauty of the scene, it was decided to build a log bridge of unique design with heavy natural-faced stone

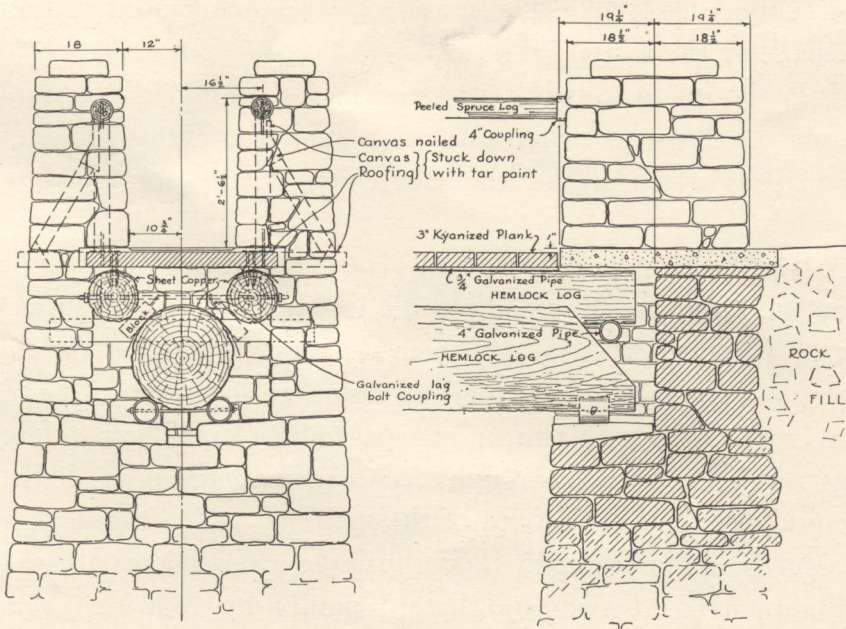
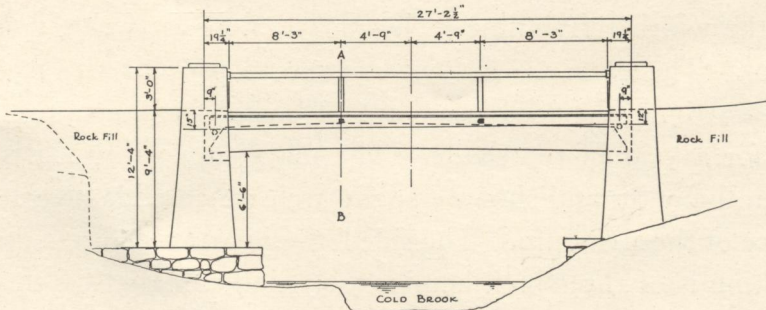


**Pathmakers' Memorial Bridge, Randolph, N. H.
Facing East on the "Link Path"**



Nearer View of the Bridge

MEMORIAL BRIDGE AT RANDOLPH, N.H.



F.M.

abutment piers and pylons. To secure a symmetrical effect a platform of solid masonry was laid to bring the base of the east pier to the level of the foundation on the west. The span of the bridge is twenty-six feet and the width thirty-nine inches. The floor is twelve feet above the stream. The entrance is kept narrow to prevent the passage of horses or cattle. The logs used are of sound hemlock, peeled and seasoned for a year in the shade. The main supporting log is nearly two feet in diameter and shows a slight arch which adds greatly to the appearance of the structure. The side logs are eight inches in diameter. The planking is of three-inch hemlock, specially treated by the Kyanizing process. All other woodwork is treated with creosote.

Work was started in the fall of 1923, and the piers brought up to the supporting level. The main log was then placed in position and secured for the winter.

Early in 1924, work was resumed and carried on under many handicaps, but the bridge was completed in time for the dedication in August as a feature of the Centenary celebration of the Town of Randolph.

The principal architectural features are the artistic abutment piers and the measures employed for protecting and supporting the logs. A large recess in each pier receives the supporting log and the two planking logs. Each end of the main log rests on two four-inch iron crosses filled with cement and spaced by a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch bolt. The planking logs rest on four-inch wrought iron cement-filled pipes built into the piers above the beveled end of the main log. The side logs are placed beside the main log with their top level a few inches above it. They are supported at two equi-distant points by four-inch cement-filled couplings set endwise between them and the main log, and secured to both by bolts passing through the couplings. A reinforced cement floor covers the recess and forms a roof to protect the ends of the logs. The main log has a continuous copper roof for its whole length. The side logs are protected by a water shed of three layers of heavy roofing felt tarred together. A $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch galvanized pipe separates the planking and

the side logs. The planking is secured by eight-inch spikes driven in holes bored on each side of the pipe. All metal work, including nails, spikes and screws, is of either galvanized iron, copper or lead. The plan is designed to protect all woodwork from water as far as possible and to maintain a free circulation of air around the ends and surfaces of the logs.

All the joints of the railings and braces are set in tar and covered with copper. All parts of the stone work likely to meet flood conditions are laid in two-to-one cement. It is estimated that over two hundred tons of rock were used in the piers and the approaches, the latter being laid dry, wholly of stone and resting on the solid ledge.

The main features of this bridge are designed to last for at least a hundred years. Any reader who happens to inspect the structure at the end of that time, will confer a great favor by reporting its condition to the committee.