

DATA SHEET PH 0694487

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 8 1979

DATE ENTERED MAR 7 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Station Road Bridge

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

*E of Brecksville at*  
~~Station Road over the Cuyahoga River~~  
*(also in Summit County)*

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

~~between Brecksville and Sagamore Hills~~

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

22 & 23

STATE

Ohio

CODE

039

COUNTY

Cuyahoga (035) and Summit (153)

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Cuyahoga County Commissioners / Summit County Commissioners

STREET & NUMBER

1219 Ontario

217 South High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cleveland

Akron

STATE

Ohio

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cuyahoga County Administration Building / Summit County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

1219 Ontario

209 South High Street

CITY, TOWN

Cleveland

STATE

Ohio

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Ohio Historic Inventory

DATE

3/76

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Center

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE  
Ohio

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                     DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                             RUINS  
 FAIR                             UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Station Road Bridge spans the Cuyahoga River between Cuyahoga and Summit Counties. The bridge is a metal through truss of the double-intersection Pratt (Whipple) type. The essential features of the type are inclined end posts and diagonal (tension) members that extend across two panels. The bridge features an ornamental plate at the top chord at each approach which reads:

"Massillon Bridge Company  
 82  
 Builders, Massillon, Ohio"

The bridge is 128.6 feet long and 18.7 feet wide.<sup>1</sup> It consists of a single span of nine panels equalling 124 feet. The bridge carries a roadway 14.95 feet wide. There are no sidewalks. The bridge is supported on rock-faced stone abutments. It is painted grey. There is a ten-ton load limit posted.

The Station Road Bridge is located in a semi-rural river valley approximately five hundred feet upstream from the Brecksville-Northfield High Level Bridge, a concrete arch span completed in 1931. The Ohio and Erie Canal is nearby.

<sup>1</sup>Dimensions for the bridge are taken from "Cuyahoga County Bridges--20' span & greater--within the limits of the proposed Cuyahoga Valley National Park," prepared by Eugene A. Halupnik, P.E., Bridge Engineer, Office of the Cuyahoga County Engineer, Cleveland, Ohio, 17 March 1976.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES            1882                            BUILDER/ARCHITECT    Massillon Bridge Company

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Station Road Bridge is significant as the oldest remaining metal truss bridge in the Cuyahoga Valley. The bridge spans the Cuyahoga River, linking Brecksville (Cuyahoga County) with Sagamore Hills (Summit County). The bridge is a double-intersection Pratt type and bears the date "1882." It was built by the Massillon Bridge Company of Massillon, Ohio.

### History

At a joint session of the Commissioners of Summit and Cuyahoga Counties held on March 31, 1881, bids were received and opened for "the construction of the superstructure of an iron bridge over the Cuyahoga River on the County line near Brecksville Station." Six bridge companies submitted bids for the job. The bids were referred to Alex E. Brown, a civil engineer, for examination. An April 5, 1881, another joint session of County Commissioners was convened. Alex Brown made his report on the bids and the Commissioners unanimously awarded the contract to the Massillon Bridge Company of Massillon, Ohio.<sup>1</sup>

A notation in the Commissioners' Journal Record for August 13, 1881, shows that on that date N. J. Colson was paid \$153.51 for "material furnished for Brecksville Bridge" by the Massillon Bridge Company. On September 3, 1881, Colson was paid \$3488.00. Presumably the bridge was completed by this date, although the bridge itself bears the date "1882." There is no subsequent reference to the bridge in the county records. Records show that Cuyahoga County and Summit County each paid half the cost of the bridge.<sup>2</sup>

The period from 1855 to 1875 saw the rise of specialized bridge companies which sought to adapt the pioneering work of the railroads to the fabrication of highway bridges. The Massillon Bridge

<sup>1</sup>(Cuyahoga County) Commissioners' Journal Record, Vol. 5 (1881-1883), Cuyahoga County Archives, Cleveland, Ohio, pp. 9, 10.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., pp. 32, 33.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cleveland, Ohio. Cuyahoga County Archives. (Cuyahoga County) Commissioners' Journal Record, Vol. 5 (1881-1883).

Heald, Edward Thornton. The Stark County Story. 4 vols. Canton, O.: The Stark County Historical Society, 1949.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY     

QUADRANGLE NAME Northfield

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 450810 4574160

B                 
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property consists of the the Station Road Bridge and its abutments.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carol Poh Miller, Historic Preservation Consultant

ORGANIZATION

under contract with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Ohio Historical Society

DATE

26 April 1978

STREET & NUMBER

1260 Granger Avenue

TELEPHONE

216/226-8236

CITY OR TOWN

Cleveland

STATE

Ohio

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

DATE

4/26/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-2-79

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-5-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Station Road Bridge, Cuyahoga and Summit Counties, Ohio

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Company was one of them. It was founded in 1869 by a group of Massillon men, among them Joseph Davenport. Davenport was an important figure in Massillon's industrial history, although by 1875 he had withdrawn from the bridge company.<sup>3</sup> A company listing in the Massillon City Directory of 1884-86 reads: "Massillon Bridge Co., H. A. Williams, E. W. Eckert, Massillon, O.; J. C. Darst, A. J. Sprague, Toledo, O.; manufacturers of all kinds of wrought iron, combination and wood bridges. Office and works, on the Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago R. R., east of depot."<sup>4</sup> The company incorporated in 1909 as The Bridge and Structural Co. and continued in business until the Depression caused its liquidation in 1933. It then became a plant of the Fort Pitt Bridge Works of Pittsburgh, but the plant was sold in 1943, "since which time there has been no bridge building in Massillon."<sup>5</sup>

The Station Road Bridge is an iron pin-connected truss of the double-intersection Pratt type. The basic Pratt truss was patented in 1844 by Thomas and Caleb Pratt. It is distinguished by vertical members acting in compression and diagonals acting in tension. In 1847, the famous bridge engineer Squire Whipple patented a truss which utilized the basic form of the Pratt, but lengthened the diagonals to extend across two panels, thus allowing longer spans. The bridge type is now referred to as a double-intersection Pratt, though it also has been called the Whipple, the Whipple-Murphy, or the Linville. This truss type was commonly constructed from 1847 into the twentieth century. Usually such truss bridges were manufactured and sent, in pieces, to the site, where they were erected by local laborers under the supervision of a representative of the bridge company. The Station Road Bridge is the only metal truss bridge of its type in the Cuyahoga Valley.

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<sup>3</sup>Edward Thornton Heald, The Stark County Story, 4 vols. (Canton, O.: The Stark County Historical Society, 1949), 1:632-633.

<sup>4</sup>Massillon City Directory, 1884-'85-'86 (Akron, O.: N. H. Burch & Co., Publishers, 1884), p. 109.

<sup>5</sup>Heald, Stark County Story, 1:633-634.

MASSIMON BRIDGE COMPANY  
1882  
BUILDERS, MASSIMON, U.S.A.



Station Road Bridge, over the  
Cuyahoga River between Brecksville  
and Sagamore Hills, Ohio

MAR 7 1979

Photo by Carol Poh Miller, February  
1978

*Cuyahoga + Summit*

Negative property of Ohio Historic  
Preservation Office, Ohio  
Historical Society

Detail of top chord

JAN 8 1979

Station Road Bridge photo #2 of 2





BRIDGE  
LOAD LIMIT  
**10 TONS**  
RALPH VAN BRIMMER  
COUNTY ENGINEER



Station Road Bridge, over the  
Cuyahoga River between Brecksville  
and Sagamore Hills, Ohio

MAR 7 1979

Photo by Carol Poh Miller, February  
1978 *Cuyahoga + Summit Counties*

Negative property of Ohio Historic  
Preservation Office, Ohio  
Historical Society JAN 8 1979

View looking northeast

Station Road Bridge photo #1 of 2