



Historic Bridge Foundation Facebook Archives

Focus Bridge: Frank J. Wood Bridge

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The Frank J. Wood Bridge carries US-201 over the Androscoggin River between Brunswick and Topsham in the state of Maine. Completed in 1932, the bridge is a three span rivet-connected polygonal Warren through truss. The Boston Bridge Works constructed the bridge. Boston Bridge Works is a noteworthy bridge company in the northeastern United States, where the company built many bridges including some of the oldest rivet-connected bridges in the country, dating to the 1880s.

The design of the Frank J. Wood Bridge is similar to other bridges designed by the state during the 1930s. Maine has very few historic truss bridges of any age, and does not have any highway bridges dating before 1900, nor does it have any pin-connected highway truss bridges surviving. Now, even bridges like the Frank J. Wood Bridge are dropping in population due to replacement projects. As such, the Frank J. Wood Bridge is today an increasingly rare surviving example of a highway truss bridge of any type in Maine.

The bridge is in a unique setting that includes many historic buildings in settings that have been found eligible for listing as a National Register of Historic Places Historic District. Immediately next to the bridge are historic mills including the Fort Andross Mill Complex in Brunswick and the Bowdoin Mill Complex in Topsham. The Androscoggin River in this area is also beautiful, with rocky outcrops including some that the bridge passes over, and even uses as a foundation for a pier.

This bridge is currently in a Section 106 Review process, and its future is uncertain.















