

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SWN.909
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Miles Bridge
<b>Common Name:</b>	Bungtown Bridge
<b>Address:</b>	Old Providence Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Swansea
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	North Swansea;
<b>Local No:</b>	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1938
<b>Use(s):</b>	Other Transportation;
<b>Significance:</b>	Engineering; Transportation;
<b>Area(s):</b>	SWN.A
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register District (02/16/1990); Nat'l Register MRA (02/16/1990);
<b>Building Materials:</b>	
<b>Demolished</b>	No



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY & EVALUATION

(See HA-11)

Date: September 19, 1980

Municipality Swansea S.H.                      N.S.H. X

Street Name & Route #: Miles Bridge A.K.A. Bungtown Bridge

Over Palmer River

Street Name & Route #: Old Providence Rd.

Bridge No. S-35-1 Bridge Key # BTP 640 001 001 Dist. 6

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINATION OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

I. Builders Contribution

Quantity

Unknown X                      Several                      Many                       
 (1-10) (10 or more)

Name of Builder:                     

Designer:                     

Plaque: Yes                      No. X

II. AGE: Pre 1850                      1850-1900                      1900-1930                     

\*reconstructed in 1938

III. TECHNICAL

Bridge Type Multi-span, reinforced concrete slab and longitudinal beam deck

Bridge Width 31' supported on concrete pile bents

Total Length of Bridge 119'

Number of Spans: 4 Span Lengths 30'-30'-30'-29'

Patented: Yes                      No                      Unknown X

Load Carrying Capacity: Adequate                      X                      Inadequate                     

Configuration: Unique                      Unusual                      Common X

Types of Materials: Concrete

List Special Features and Modifications:

Bridge originally built in 1600's, last reconstruction took place in 1938

V. ENVIRONMENTAL

Aesthetics: Unusual \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Common X

Site Integrity: Retained X Violated \_\_\_\_\_

History of Bridge and Area: This is one of the earliest bridges erected in this section of Bristol County (1600's). In 1749 an act was passed allowing the town to raise funds by lottery for the rebuilding of the bridge. This is known as the "Miles Bridge Lottery" and is recorded as a historical event in the book "History of Swansea". The bridge is located in an area where the Barney Family

V. ECONOMICS

(Continued on attached sheet)

Owner: Municipal X County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Federal \_\_\_\_\_

R.R. \_\_\_\_\_

What is your recommendation?

Maintenance \_\_\_\_\_ Replacement \_\_\_\_\_ Rehabilitation         

Are materials available for Rehabilitation: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Is structure scheduled for replacement? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

VI. PHOTOS - INDICATE SHOTS TAKEN

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Setting   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. Elevation           |
| 2. Builders Plaque                               | 7. Joint & Connections                                     |
| 3. 3/4 View                                      | 8. Machinery   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Thru View | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9. Decorative Features |
| 5. Under View                                    |  |

II. COMMENTS & CONCLUSIONS

- In your judgement, does this bridge have historic value? Yes \_\_\_ No
- Please explain your answer to #1

The area where the bridge is located is historical, however, the bridge has been reconstructed several times, 1932 being the most recent. It is of a common design with no unusual characteristics.

Preparer: WILLIAM F. WHITTY  
 Title: JR. CIV. ENGR.  
 Date of Survey: Sept. 19, 1980

## HISTORY OF BRIDGE AND AREA: (cont.)

became major ship-builders, they built over 149 vessels. Mr. Moses Barney built more vessels than any other man in the country had built at that time.

This town is memorable as the place where the first English blood was shed in "Kings Philip's War". On Sunday, June 20, 1675 war commenced. A company of 110 volunteers marched from Boston to Swansea and joined the forces there. Mr. Miles' house, located 500 ft. south of the bridge, being garrisoned, was made their haedquarters. About a dozen of the troop went immediately over the bridge, where they were fired upon out of the bushes, and one was killed and one was wounded. The English forces pursued the enemy and the Indians took to the swamp after having lost a half-dozen of their number.

The troops commenced their pursuit of the Indians. Next morning they passed over Miles Bridge and proceeded down the river till they came to the narrow of the neck. There they found the heads of eight Englishmen that the Indians had murdered, stuck on poles; these they buried.

During the Revolutionary War the British enroute to Rhode Island, marched over this bridge.

SWN. 909



24000 17'30" 310000m.E. 560000 FEET R.I. INTERIOR- GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 1937

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts  
 Mainland and Rhode Island rectangular  
 coordinate systems  
 1000-

1 MILE  
 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET



N ELEV. LOOKING DOWNSTREAM

(NO DATE)



S. ELEVATION LOOKING UPSTREAM



APPROACH (LOOKING WEST)

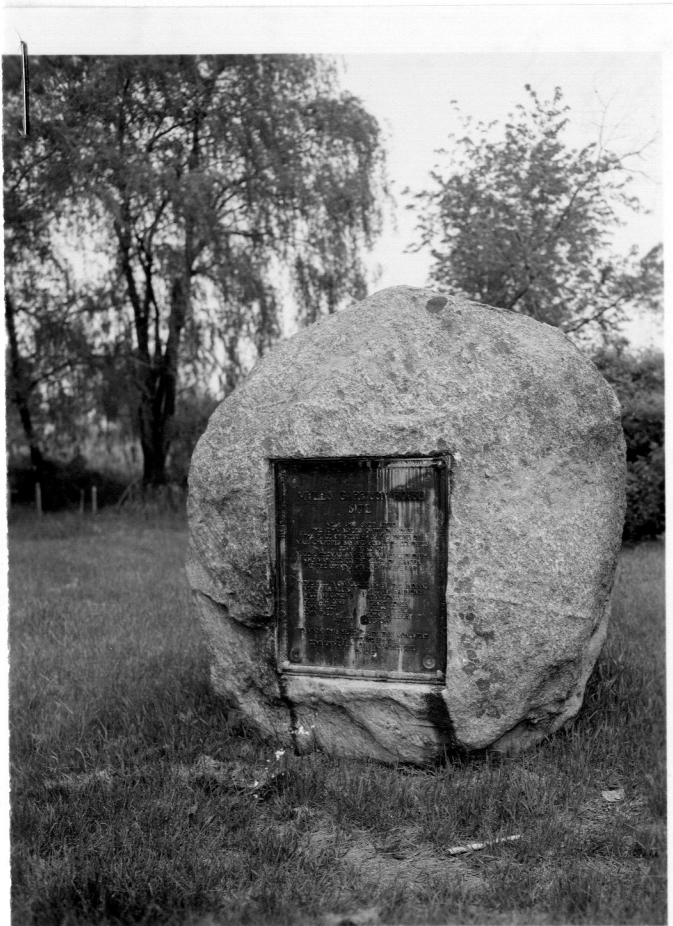


THRU LOOKING EAST



THRU - LOOKING WEST

(NO DATE)



SITE OF MYLES GARRISON HOUSE WHERE  
TROOPS ASSEMBLED - KING PHILIPS WAR  
1675



END POST

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY (MHC OPINION)

TO: VAL

RETURN TO REVIEWER BY \_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)

FROM: plu

DATE: 10/16/80

TOWN: SWANSEA

PROPERTY: DPW Bridge # S-35-1 Miles Bridge over Palmer River  
(NAME AND ADDRESS)

1. Does this property meet the criteria for NR eligibility?

YES

NO

A CONTRIBUTING ELEMENT OF  
BARNEYVILLE H.D.  
SEE NAT'L REGISTER FILES

A. Criteria

- a. events
- b. lives
- c. characteristics
- d. information

B. Local \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ National \_\_\_\_\_

2. Statement of Significance: OR Why not eligible?

1938 reinforced concrete slab bridge, presumably replaced  
after the hurricane of that year.

There are many examples of this type of bridge built in  
this year.

DOE LETTER WRITTEN

FILED IN ER FILE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(DATE)