

VLR - 9/17/74 NRHP- 11/19/74

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA
COUNTY: AUGUSTA
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
VALLEY RAILROAD STONE BRIDGE

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: South of Staunton immediately west of Interstate 81, over Folly Mills Creek, 27 mi. SE of intersection of Route 654 and Route 11.

CITY OR TOWN: (Brookwood vicinity) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Augusta CODE: 015

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>Unused</u>			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY Douglas B. Fugate, Commissioner

OWNER'S NAME:  
Virginia Department of Highways

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1401 E Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Virginia Department of Highways

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1401 E. Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Engineering Record - State of Virginia Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: VIRGINIA

COUNTY: AUGUSTA

ENTRY NUMBER

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent    Good    Fair    Deteriorated    Ruins    Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered    Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved    Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Valley Railroad Stone Bridge crosses Folly Mills Creek just west of Interstate Highway 81 approximately five miles south of Staunton. The bridge is a four-span structure with an over-all length of 130 feet and a width of 15 feet. It utilizes semi-circular arches set on gently splayed piers. Slightly projecting imposts are located between the tops of the piers and the spring of the arches. Granite is used throughout as the construction material, and the facing is a rough-surface ashlar. The only change to have occurred to the bridge is the removal of the railroad ties and rails.

Because of the close proximity to Interstate 81, the bridge has become a familiar landmark to travelers throughout the Valley of Virginia. The Department of Highways maintains it as part of the highway's landscaping.

CCL

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1884

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | losophy  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | Architecture                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | itarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Completed by 1884, the Valley Railroad Stone Bridge stands as an outstanding example of stone masonry construction and ranks among the most scenic bridges in the Commonwealth. The bridge was built as part of the project extending the Valley Railroad line from Staunton to Salem via Lexington. By 1884 the company had laid 62 miles of the proposed line, thus completing the railroad as far as Lexington. The Commonwealth's railroad commissioner reported in 1884 that the company had spent \$23,000 on bridges between 1882 and 1884, and although not specifically itemized, it is presumed that a portion of this sum paid for the stone bridge.

The Valley Railroad continued to operate under that name as late as 1900, but all its motive power and rolling stock was owned by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad which was also its major stockholder. The line was ultimately absorbed into the B & O system, and for many years it was known locally as the Valley Branch of the B & O. The B & O discontinued the branch in 1942 and sold off its right-of-way soon afterwards. The section between Staunton and Harrisonburg was acquired by the Chesapeake and Western, a local freight line, but the right-of-way south of Staunton was sold off in parcels, and the track, including that across the stone bridge, was taken up. The Virginia Department of Highways purchased the bridge in 1965 through its acquisition of right-of-way for Interstate Highway 81. Although the bridge no longer serves any specific function, the Department of Highways maintains it as a scenic landmark.

CCL

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Historic American Engineering Record, State of Virginia Summer Survey, 1970.

Report of the Railroad Commission - Commonwealth of Virginia 1877 - 1901/2, Virginia State Archives.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY:			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 ° 05 ' 22 "	79 ° 04 ' 41 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION STAFF**

ORGANIZATION: **VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION**      DATE: **August 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**221 Governor Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond**      STATE: **Virginia**      CODE: **51**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National       State       Local

Name: Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive  
 Director, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

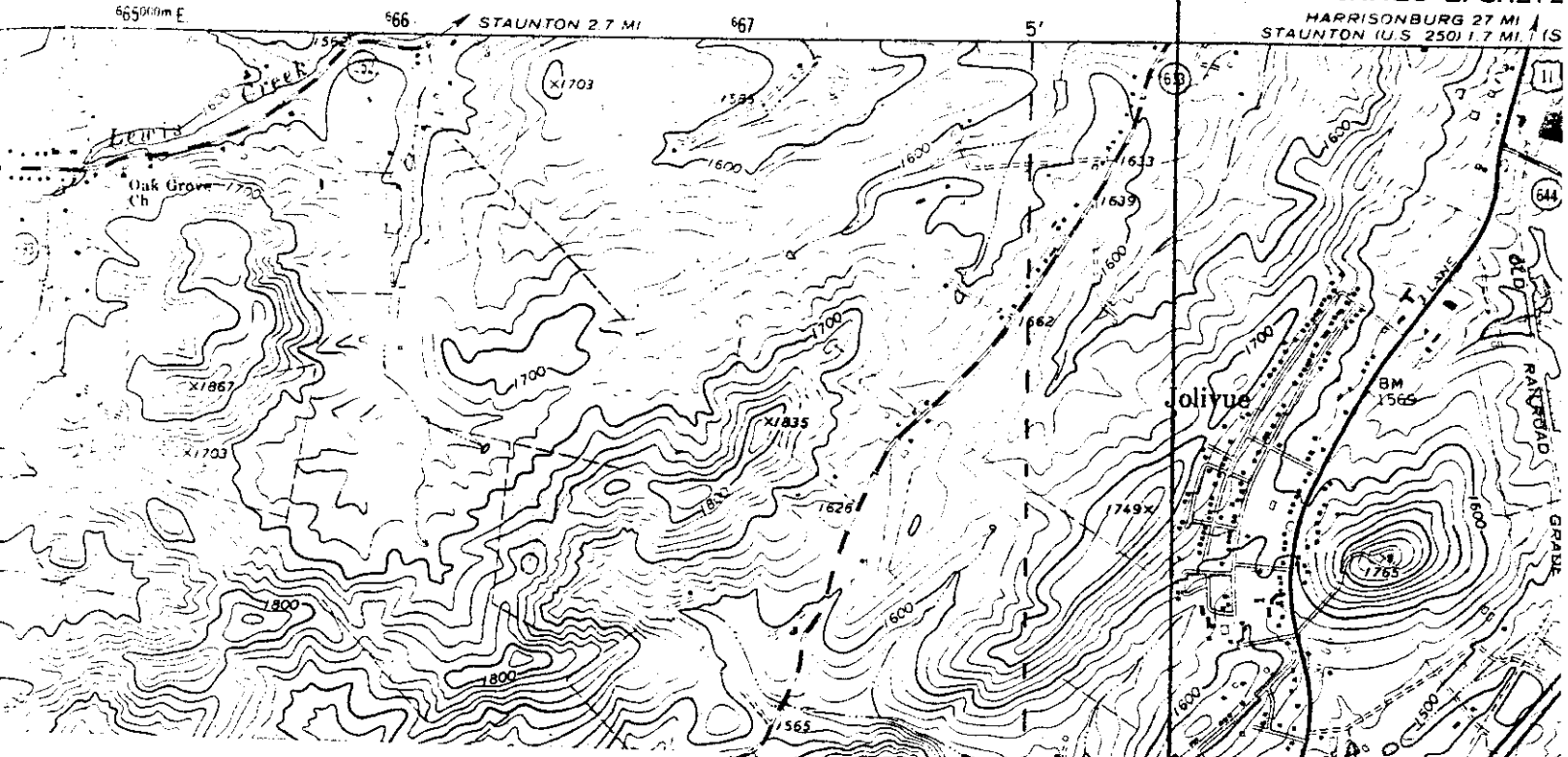
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Stuarts Draft, Va.

VALLEY RAILROAD STONE BRIDGE

Latitude                      Longitude  
38° 05' 22"                      79° 04' 41"

