

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SDW.905
Historic Name:	Mill Creek Foot Bridge
Common Name:	
Address:	Harbor St
City/Town:	Sandwich
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	137
Year Constructed:	1875
Architect(s):	Howland, Gustavus
Architectural Style(s):	Wooden Pile
Use(s):	Other Transportation
Significance:	Engineering; Transportation
Area(s):	SDW.R: Old King's Highway Regional Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (05/01/1973)
Building Materials(s):	



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY & EVALUATION

SDW.905
(S-4-5)

Date: June 9, 1983

Municipality SANDWICH S.H. _____ N.S.H. X

Street Name & Route # Foot bridge

Over Mill Creek

Street Name & Route # NA

Bridge No. S-4-5 Bridge Key # DUM-739-000-001 Dist. 7

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINATION OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

I. Builders Contribution

Quantity

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

Name of Builder: Gustavus Howland

Designer: UNK

Plaque: Yes _____ No. X

II. AGE: Pre 1850 _____ 1850-1900 _____ 1875 _____ 1900-1930 _____

III. TECHNICAL

Bridge Type Timber Pile Bent

Bridge Width 7'

Total Length of Bridge 1000'

Number of Spans: MANY Span Lengths Varying

Patented: Yes _____ No _____ Unknown X

Load Carrying Capacity: Adequate X Inadequate _____

Configuration: Unique X Unusual _____ Common _____

Types of Materials: _____

WOOD

List Special Features and Modifications:
Unique design

V. ENVIRONMENTAL

Aesthetics: Unusual _____ Good X Common _____
Site Integrity: Retained X Violated _____
History of Bridge and Area:
See Seperate Sheets

Va. LOCAL HISTORIC COMMISSION Date Written: December 30, 1982
Response: X No Response: _____

ECONOMICS

Owner: Municipal X County _____ State _____ Federal _____
R.R. _____

What is your recommendation?

Maintenance X Replacement _____ Rehabilitation _____
Are materials available for Rehabilitation: Yes X No _____
Is structure scheduled for replacement? Yes _____ No X

PHOTOS - INDICATE SHOTS TAKEN

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <u>Setting Looking Northerly</u> | 6. <u>Elevation Looking NW & NE</u> |
| 2. <u>Builders Plaque</u> | 7. <u>Joint & Connections</u> |
| 3. <u>3/4 View</u> | 8. <u>Machinery</u> |
| 4. <u>Thru View Looking North & South</u> | 9. <u>Decorative Features</u> |
| 5. <u>Under View</u> | North of bridge Looking North |
| | South of bridge Looking South |

COMMENTS & CONCLUSIONS

- In your judgement, does this bridge have historic value? Yes X No _____
- Please explain your answer to #1
This bridge is a landmark and well documented by the town.

Preparer: Richard A. Corsano
Title: Asst. Env. Eng., District 7, MDPW
Date of Survey: June 9, 1983

INCLUDE TOPO SHEET SHOWING LOCATION



AREA 111 1037

[R]

Town Sandwich

Location from Harbor St

to Town Neck Beach - over
Owner Mill Creek & Mud Flats

Date _____

Source of date Pl. &

Original owner USGS SAND SURVA

Designer LHD-51173

Available to public _____

WALKWAY
to
SANDWICH
BEACHES

3. Condition _____ Present use _____

4. Type _____ Dimensions _____

Construction material _____

5. Setting _____

6. History (continue on reverse side)

SEE AREA MAP-

7. Indicate location of structure in relation to cross sts., other structures or other permanent points of reference.

Footage of structure from street _____

Recorder _____

For _____

Photo 70.3379 Date 70.382

SEE REVERSE SIDE

VI-3

7. History, cont.



BOARDWALK & BRIDGE
Herba Street to Town Neck Beach

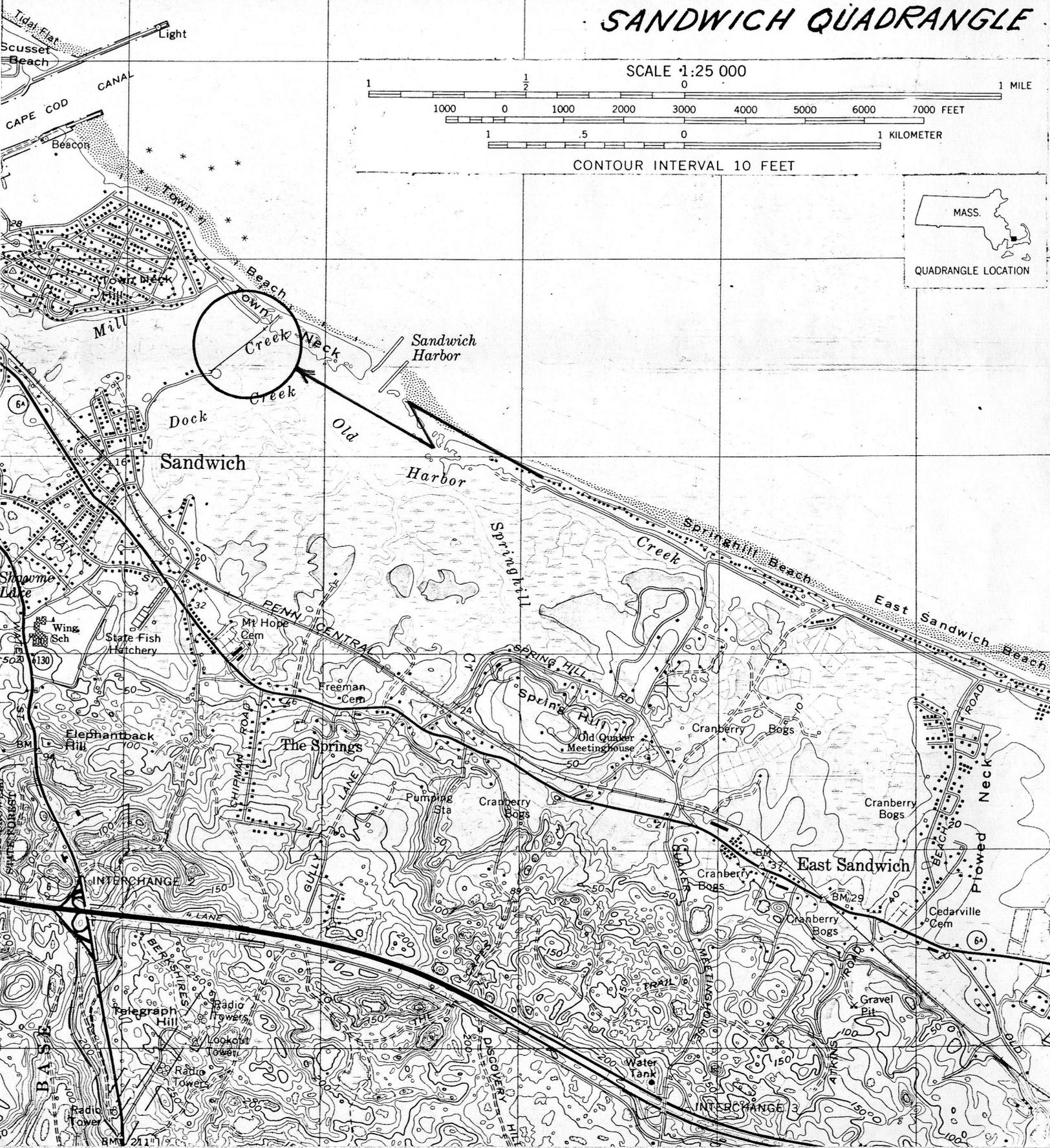
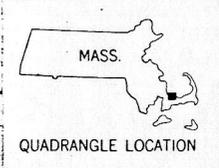
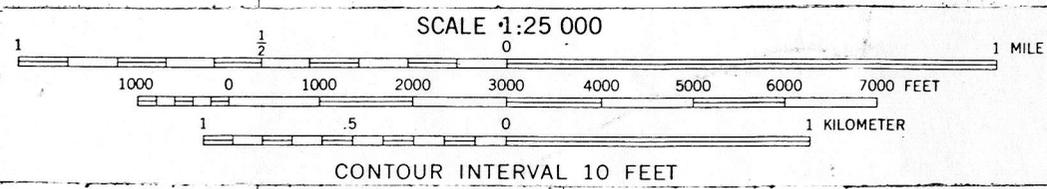
8. Bibliography

RESTRICTIONS

Deed Information: Book number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds

SDW.905
(S-4-5)

LOCUS PLAN SANDWICH BRIDGE S-4-5 FOOTBRIDGE / MILL CREEK SANDWICH QUADRANGLE





Elevation looking N.E. May 9, 1983.



Elevation looking N.W. May 9, 1983.



Setting, looking Northerly. May 9, 1983.



South of Bridge, looking South. May 9, 1983.



Thru view, looking South. May 9, 1983.



Thru view, looking North. May 9, 1983.



North of Bridge, looking North. May 9, 1983.

MDPW RECOMMENDATION - NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY

Municipality Street on No.
Bridge: Sandwich Foot Bridge / Mill Creek S-4-5

Historic evaluation

Significant because:

- 1) Unusual or unique type
or rare survivor of common type ~~_____~~
- 2) Early example of type _____
- 3) Design - Valuable contribution to bridge technology _____
- 4) Retains integrity ~~_____~~
- 5) Builder known and important Gustavus Howland ~~_____~~
- 6) Bridge historically important to area ~~_____~~

Not significant because:

- 1) Common type _____
- 2) Post-1931 _____
- 3) Design - no contribution to bridge technology _____
- 4) Integrity lost because of: a) alterations _____
b) disintegration _____
- 5) Builder unimportant or not known _____
- 6) No known significance in area _____

Potentially eligible Not eligible

Comments:

Built 1875 according to Asst. Env. Eng., Dist. 7
(no date on print out).

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY (MHC OPINION)

905

RE
US 105 - SAND
SECT A

R

TO: _____

RETURN TO REVIEWER BY _____ (DATE)

FROM: _____

UND-51.173

DATE: 4/23/84

TOWN: Sandwich

PROPERTY: S-4-5 (Foot Bridge over Mill Creek)
(NAME AND ADDRESS)

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

YES

NO

A. Criteria

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

B. Local _____ State _____ National _____

2. Statement of Significance: OR Why not eligible?

UNusal wood (timber pite) 1875 Foot
Bridge

History is Documented by town

DOE LETTER WRITTEN

FILED IN ER FILE _____

5/31/84
(DATE)

MDPW RECOMMENDATION - NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY

Municipality Street on No.
Bridge: Sandwich Foot Bridge / Mill Creek S-4-5

Historic evaluation

Significant because:

- 1) Unusual or unique type
or rare survivor of common type ~~_____~~
- 2) Early example of type _____
- 3) Design - Valuable contribution to bridge technology _____
- 4) Retains integrity ~~_____~~
- 5) Builder known and important Gustavus Rowland ~~_____~~
- 6) Bridge historically important to area ~~_____~~

Not significant because:

- 1) Common type _____
- 2) Post-1931 _____
- 3) Design - no contribution to bridge technology _____
- 4) Integrity lost because of: a) alterations _____
b) disintegration _____
- 5) Builder unimportant or not known _____
- 6) No known significance in area _____

Potentially eligible Not eligible

Comments:

Built 1875 according to Asst. Env. Eng., Dist. 7
(no date on print out).

Mr. Justin L. Radlo
Page 2

The following bridges appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places:

Brockton (B-25-9): 1889 granite arch over Salisbury Creek. This is one of a series of granite-arch bridges built over Salisbury Creek that may be eligible for a thematic resource nomination.

Duxbury (D-14-3): Powder-Point Bridge. 1881 Wood-pile trestle, and thought to be one of the longest in the state. Though rebuilt in 1976, MHC staff considers that its historic integrity has been maintained.

Middleborough (M-18-UNKNOWN) (Long Point Road over Pocksha Pond): 1910 Granite bridge and causeway. This is part of the New Bedford Water Works (1899), a complex that is NR eligible in itself. The adjacent gatehouse and bridge may be eligible as part of the waterworks development, even if slightly later.

Sandwich (S-4-5): 1875 Footbridge over Mill Creek, historically documented to development of village of Sandwich.

West Bridgewater (W-18-2 and W-18-5): Two adjacent bridges, stone arch and stone slab, closely associated with the adjacent memorial park in West Bridgewater center. The arch bridge gives the name to Arch Street.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact William Smith, Preservation Planner, at this office.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Weslowski
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW/vh



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

Smith
SDW.905
(S-4-5)

May 31, 1984

Mr. Justin L. Radlo
Chief Engineer
E.O.T.C.
Massachusetts Department of Public Works
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02216

RE: Historic Bridges, National Register evaluation

Dear Mr. Radlo:

The Massachusetts Historical Commission staff have reviewed several historic bridge inventory forms prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works. The MHC concurs with the preliminary findings of MDPW that the following bridges do not appear to meet criteria for listing in the National Register of historic Places.

Bourne	B-17-2	Shore Road over Back River
Bridgewater	B-23-2	Plymouth Street over Taunton River
Carver	C-4-4	Rochester Street over Weweantic River
Falmouth	F-3-1	Waquoit Road (Route 28) over Childs River
Falmouth	F-3-2	Menauhant Road over Green Pond
Halifax	H-2-8	South Street over Winnetuxet River
Lakeville	L-1-5	Bedford Street (Route 18) over NY-NH Railroad
Mattapoissett	M-9-2	Fairhaven Road (Route 6) over Mattapoissett River
Middleborough	M-18-8	Murdock Street over Nemasket River
Middleborough	M-18-26	Wareham Street over Nemasket River
Plymouth	P-13-12	River Street over Eel River
Sandwich	S-4-1	Route 6A over Scorton Harbor Creek
Wareham	W-6-3	Route 28 over Weweantic River
Wareham	W-6-6	Fearing Hill Road over Weweantic River
Wareham	W-6-18	Route 6 over Agawam River
Wareham	W-6-56	Station Street over Horseshoe Pond

Middleborough (M-18-22) and Wareham (W-6-19): Although neither bridge is itself eligible, both are located adjacent to potentially significant resources, and any replacement should take such resources into account. The East Main Street Bridge in Middleborough (M-18-22) is located adjacent to the historic "Wading Place", noted by earlier MDPW administrations and by the town. The Cranberry Highway Bridge in Wareham is adjacent to the Tremont Nail Works (NR).

CHAPTER 2

Sandwich Events From "Now I Remember"

In 1960 when TWB was 86 he published his Autobiography, "Now I Remember". This book is filled with an affectionate recall of certain events, places, people and influences in Sandwich which clung to him all his life. Here are a few he referred to, and something more about each one:

P. 5-8 *Going to see the "striped whale" on Town Beach which was being cut up by a whaler from Provincetown. He went with an older cousin and the cousin's grandfather, crossing the marshes over the boardwalk.*

Here is an early picture of the boardwalk, which had been built for \$500 in 1875 by Gus Howland, the lumberman and house-móver. This was the time the beach apparently began first to be used by the public. The only other access to this beach (see map of Sandwich in Chapter I) was by way of Town Neck, an area owned privately by a Proprietors' Company and fenced off for the grazing of cattle. The Town in 1875 built not only the boardwalk for foot traffic from the Glass Factory area, but also built a road from the railway crossing down to the beach for carriages and carts, with a fence on one side for the cattle area. This shows that the beach then became open to the public. On this beach in early colonial days there were occasional groundings of whale, black-fish and porpoises, and the rights to the income from these was specifically vested in the minister as a supplement to his living. This beach also had a heavy clay bank in one section which was good enough for bricks, and twice in the 19th Century an oven had been built here to bake bricks for use in the town. Much of the Cape Cod Glass Co. bricks had been made here and also the bricks for Mrs. French's house on Tupper Road. These brickworks were too exposed to northeast storms and high tides and were abandoned. The boardwalk was also exposed to damage even in the protected marsh. In heavy icing periods the floes of sea ice were borne in on high tides and would smash up the pilings. Also a section would get burned on Hallowe'en occasionally. But the Town always repaired it again and it stands today in the same place.

SDW.905

SDW.905
(S-4-5)

The cousin with whom young TWB ventured out on the beach that windy March morning in 1879 was Willie Tobey (William Hayward Tobey, born June 27, 1872, just a year and a half older than TWB). Willie was a first cousin, son of Lucy Hayward Tobey, the only sister of Thornton's mother Caroline. By a strange coincidence the fathers of both these boys had died not long after their births, leaving their mothers little choice but to fall back on relations in Sandwich. Caroline and TWB stayed with her uncle, the Watermans, while Lucy and Willie went to her husband's parents, the Tobeys.

Willie's grandfather was Robert Tobey (1801-1892) of the old Sandwich family, who joined the Boston and Sandwich Glass Co. when it started in 1825, and retired after 61 years in 1886. It says something for the paternalistic B. & S. that it kept him on the payroll until he was 85!



The Boardwalk over the Town Marsh, Sandwich

Credit: Sandwich Historical Society

Built in 1875 to connect the Glass Factory area with the beach, which is beyond the dunes in the distance. At high tide the marsh is fully flooded. In high winds one is conscious that there is no handrail. TWB crossed here at age five to see a stranded whale.

P. 12 The herring run up to spawning grounds every Spring.

The Cape Cod peninsula and most of Plymouth and Wareham is a big gravel pile pushed up by the glacier. It is extremely permeable to rainfall, which maintains ground water at the level found in ponds throughout the area. Most ponds are landlocked, but some big aquifers supply enough water through springs and seepage so that there is a regular runoff stream flowing from the pond to the marshes and thence to the sea. These streams allow alewives to come up to the ponds to spawn every April, a fact the Pilgrims learned from the Indians. The fish were corned, salted or smoked for food, also used for bait and fertilizer. When the colonists built a grist mill and dammed a stream, they provided a fish ladder or lost the herring run.

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THE CAPE COD STORY OF
THORNTON W. BURGESS

by
RUSSELL A. LOVELL JR.
Sandwich Town Archivist

With an extensive bibliography of Burgess' books
prepared by Ralph M. Titcomb



Published By
Thornton W. Burgess Society, Inc.
in conjunction with
WILLIAM S. SULLWOLD PUBLISHING
TAUNTON, MASS.

Sandwich Historical Commission
145 Main St., P. O. Box 490
Sandwich, Mass. 02563

SDW.905
(S-4-5)

January 5, 1983

Mr. V. M. Cassese, P. E.
District Highway Engineer
Department of Public Works
151 Pierce Street Box 111
Middleboro, Ma. 02346

Dear Mr. Cassese:

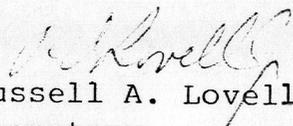
In response to your letter of December 30, the Sandwich Boardwalk was built in 1875 following Town Meeting approval. See extract of Town Meeting Vol 7 P 161 attached. The contractor was Gustavus Howland of Sandwich. The town in 1950 widened the road from the upland at Harbor Street along the old causeway leading to the bit of upland from which the Boardwalk was run across the marsh to the Town Beach. A copy of this drawing is also attached. Since this access road was improved, the Boardwalk has been a popular feature.

The Boardwalk is #137 in our inventory of Historic Assets in Sandwich. A recent photo is attached. It is 1000 feet long.

Attached is also a reference to the boardwalk in March 1879 when (confirmed by newspaper accounts) a whale beached near here and was cut up. The naturalist Thornton W. Burgess (1874-1965) crossed the boardwalk with a cousin and their grandfather to see the whale.

In the 19th Century there was a 2 story bathhouse on the dunes at the beach end of the boardwalk. This was destroyed in the 1898 storm and not replaced.

Yours sincerely,


Russell A. Lovell Jr.
Secretary

RAL:ldk

LL