

PH 0006114 1/22/73 HB NO UTM  
DB 72000 137

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mass.	
COUNTY: Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>AUG 21 1972</b>	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Choate Bridge**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION** Congressional District # 6

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Route 1A over the Ipswich River (South Main Street)**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Ipswich**

STATE <b>Massachusetts</b>	CODE <b>25</b>	COUNTY: <b>Essex</b>	CODE <b>009</b>
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**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Town of Ipswich**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Town Hall**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Ipswich</b>	STATE: <b>Massachusetts</b>	CODE: <b>025</b>
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**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Essex County Registry of Deeds, South District**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**32 Federal Street**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Salem</b>	STATE: <b>Massachusetts</b>	CODE: <b>025</b>
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**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1967**     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Secretary**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**State House**

CITY OR TOWN: <b>Boston</b>	STATE: <b>Massachusetts</b>	CODE: <b>025</b>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Massachusetts  
COUNTY: Essex  
ENTRY NUMBER: **AUG 21 1972**  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

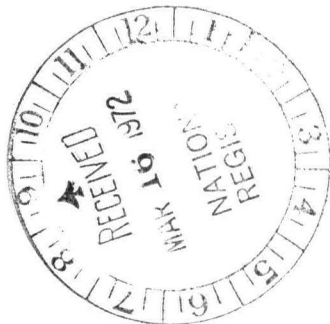
The Choate Bridge in Ipswich spans the Ipswich River and constitutes a section of Main Street (Route 1A). Built in 1764 and widened in 1838, it is constructed entirely of rough hewn granite blocks.

The 1764 construction plans read: "the two end Abutments to be extended so far into the river as to leave about 68 feet space between them. That in the Middle of said space be erected a Butment about 20 feet long and about 8 feet wide. That from the same middle to the two end Butments and Arch be turned so as to leave about 30 feet for the Passage of Water under each Arch." After work had started on the bridge, it was agreed to add to the bridge, instead of "rails", a "wall guard not exceeding 15 inches wide at the Bottom nor less than 9 inches at the Top, and about 3 feet high." The guard wall on the western side still exists today.

Set into the south end of the western wall guard, facing the street, is the stone inscribed with the words "Choate Bridge, Built by Town and County, 1764." When the bridge was completed, the Court of General Sessions ordered it be so named in recognition of "the great Care and Assiduity of the Honorable John Choate, Esq."

The bridge, 80'6" long and 20'6" wide in 1764, was widened to 35'6" on the eastern side in 1838. On the western, 1764 side, small, evenly cut stones are used for the voussoirs of each of the two elliptical arches and in the wall guards of the bridge. The spandrels are set with rubble. The eastern, 1838 facade consists of random ashlar, each stone about twice the size of that used in the earlier construction. Each arch rests on a heavy base of random rubble.

Looking at the arches from underneath, the clear division between the two construction periods is sharply defined in the intrados, the cut stones of the earlier period again roughly half the size of the stones set later.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1764

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	osophy	_____
<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

Choate Bridge, Ipswich, is significant in the history of American road building as an example of early stone construction. It has been cited as such to the Society of American Bridge Engineers by the Massachusetts Department of Public Works. Built in 1764, Choate Bridge is one of the oldest stone bridges in Massachusetts, if not the oldest. On that basis it has been certified a Massachusetts Historic Landmark.

Choate Bridge was built to replace an old cart bridge on the same site. The project was initiated by the Essex County Court (in March, 1764), but the Town of Ipswich agreed to share the cost of the new structure. In December, 1764, the Essex County Court voted to name the bridge in honor of Col. John Choate, who had supervised its construction. Col. Choate spent many months strengthening provincial forts during the French and Indian Wars and had acquired a reputation as an expert on building with stone. Besides being an engineer, Col Choate was also -- simultaneously -- judge of the Court of General Sessions, Chief of the Court of Common Pleas, town moderator, county treasurer and Governor's Councillor.

The eastern side of the Choate Bridge was widened in 1838. The western side and parapet, with its inscription to Col. Choate, remain unchanged.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UTM  
Zone 19  
E. 349450  
N 4726620  
um 9-10-75

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Essex County Court, Records, April to December 1764.  
 Felt, Joseph, History of Ipswich, Essex to Hamilton, Cambridge, 1834.  
 Ipswich, Town of, Records, Meetings, March & April, 1764, March 1765.  
 Thompson, Katherine, "Choate Bridge," in Ipswich Chronicle, February 4, 1965.

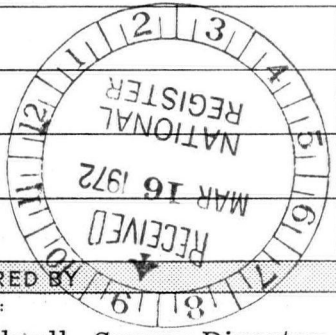
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	42°	40'	46"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	70°	50'	16"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Anne Wardwell, Survey Director

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Secretary DATE: March 18, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: State House

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 John F. A. Downer  
 Secretary of the Commonwealth and  
 Chairman, Massachusetts Historical  
 Title Commission

Date March 6, 1972

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

Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/21/72

ATTEST: William Sturtevant  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PROPERTY

Choate Bridge

ESSEX

STATE

MASS

DATE OF RECEIPT

3/16/72

YES

NO

NUMBER

REGISTERED

AUG 21 1972

DATA PAGE

PHOTO (S)

PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)

MAP (S)

MAP DESCRIPTION (S)

LOGGED

ACKNOWLEDGE

3/16/72

RESUBMIT

REVIEW

HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

ASST. KEEPER

KEEPER

WRITER/EDITOR

DIRECTOR, OAHP

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

Federal Registry Entry

9-5-72

Annual Edition Entry

Logged

AUG 21 1972

Card

AUG 21 1972

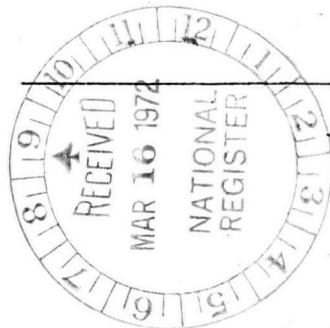
COMMENTS:

WORKING NUMBER

3/16/72/381

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

# 6



OK Madano 8/8/72

Chay. Seale 8/9/72

OK Chambers 8-10-72

OK Muller 8/15/72

OK [signature] 8/16

OK [signature] 8/14/72



Choate Bridge, Ipswich - Eastern side

MHC 1971

NPS Number

Title:

Loc.

Aug. 24/1972

Choate Bridge

Essex County, Mass

Cho

Wls

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER AUG 21 1972	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Choate Bridge			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 1-A, South Main Street, over the Ipswich River			
CITY OR TOWN: Ipswich			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Essex	CODE 009
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT: Massachusetts Historical Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Archives Museum, Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston, MA 02133			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Choate Bridge, Ipswich, western side			

PROP



NPS Number August 21, 1972

Title: Choate Bridge

Loc. Essex County Mass.  
Choate Bridge Ipswich,  
eastern side

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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AND/OR HISTORIC:			
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CITY OR TOWN: Ipswich			
STATE: Massachusetts		CODE 025	COUNTY: Essex
		CODE 009	
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PHOTO CREDIT: Massachusetts Historical Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Archives Museum Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston, MA 02133			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Choate Bridge, Ipswich, eastern side			

PROP

10



Choate Bridge, Ipswich - Western side

MHC

1971

NPS Number

August 21, 1972

Title:

Choate Bridge

Loc.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 21 1972



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON Choate Bridge  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Route 1-A, South Main Street, over the Ipswich River

CITY OR TOWN:

Ipswich

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

COUNTY:

025

Essex

CODE

009

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE OF PHOTO:

1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Massachusetts Historical Commission, Archives Museum, Office  
of the Secretary, State House, Boston, MA 02133

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Choate Bridge, Ipswich, under arch

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>AUG 21 1972</b>	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Choate Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Route 1-A, South Main Street over the Ipswich River

CITY OR TOWN:

Ipswich

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Essex

CODE

009

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U. S. G. S. 7 1/2' quadrangle, "Ipswich, Mass."

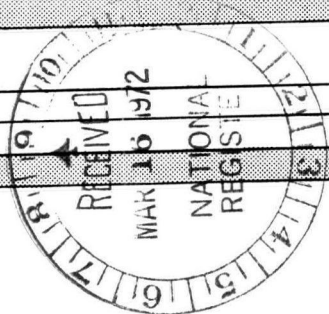
SCALE: 1 : 24,000

DATE: 1966

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



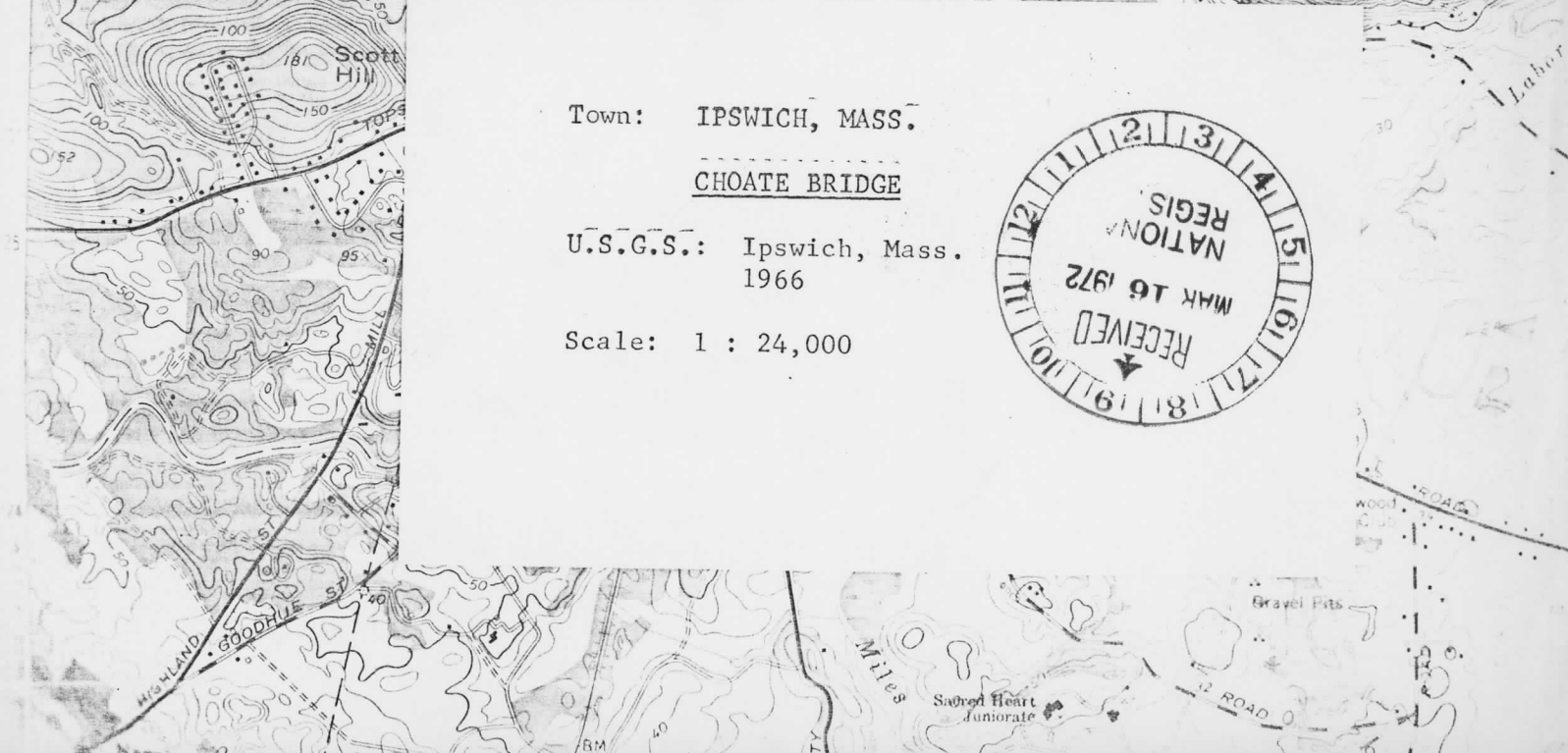


Town: IPSWICH, MASS.

CHOATE BRIDGE

U.S.G.S.: Ipswich, Mass.  
1966

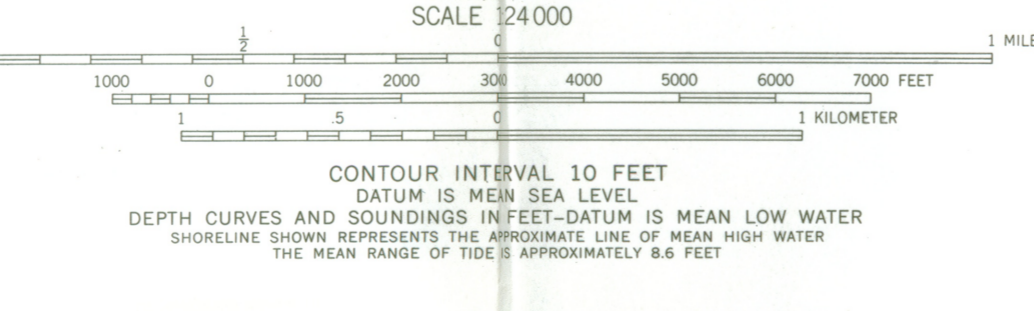
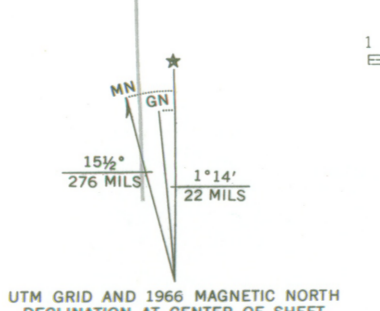
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Zone 19  
E 349450  
N 4726620  
wm (9-10-75)

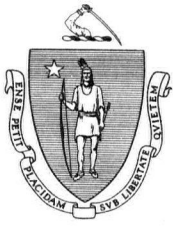
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1941-1942. Revised 1966  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USCGS Charts 213 (1965)  
and 243 (1964). This information is not intended for navigational  
purposes.  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
1000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information  
furnished by Massachusetts Department of Public Works



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

IPSWICH, MASS.  
N4237.5—W7045/7.5

1966  
AMS 6869 III NE—SERIES V814



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*Office of the Secretary*

*State House, Boston 02133*

*John F. X. Davoren*

*Secretary of the Commonwealth*

March 7, 1972

Office of Archeology & Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
801 Nineteenth Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

CERTIFIED MAIL



Attention: Miss Mary Means

Enclosed is a National Register submission for:

1. Choate Bridge, Ipswich, Massachusetts

It has been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and has been signed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, John F. X. Davoren, Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission and designated State Liaison Officer.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard W. Hale, Jr.".

Richard W. Hale, Jr.  
Acting Chairman  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

RWH/akc  
enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered AUG 21 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Middlesex Canal	Towns of Woburn, Wilmington, Billerica, Chelmsford, Lowell Middlesex County
Choate Bridge	Ipswich Essex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy  
Hon. Edward W. Brooke  
Hon. F. Bradford Morse  
Hon. Michael J. Harrington

Director, Northeast Region

HR

NRowland:mm 8/21/72

State Liaison Officer  
Hon. John F. X. Davoren  
Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical  
Commission  
Office of the Secretary, State House  
Boston, Massachusetts 02133