

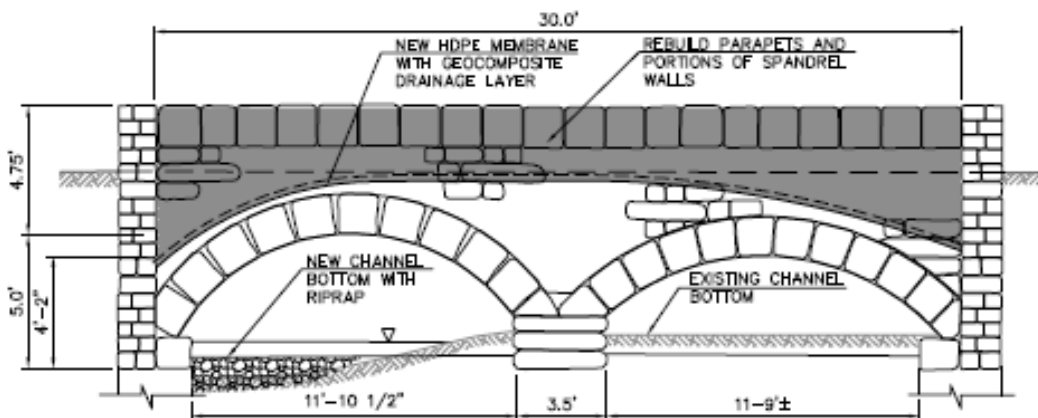
Bridges and Dams Rehabilitation Advising Spring Street Bridge Rehabilitation Manchester, Connecticut

The Town of Manchester retained a team to study options for the two-span ca.1900 stone-arch bridge that carries Spring Street across Birch Mountain Brook. In addition to limitations posed by the crossing's geometry—steep grade, sharp curve, single lane—the bridge's masonry was failing on one side, where there was a pronounced bulge in the spandrel wall. The bridge is part of an historic district that was at the time in the process of being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (the district was listed in June 2009). Although no state or federal funds were involved, the district was identified in the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development as a high-priority historic area. Consequently, the Town wanted to minimize any adverse effects on the bridge or the surrounding historic district.



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AHS, Inc. served as the historic-preservation consultant for the design team. AHS recommended that the spandrels could be rebuilt with no effect on the bridge's historic character provided that the work “duplicate existing material as closely as possible in composition, tint and tooling.” AHS identified the key features of the masonry that would have to be duplicated and recommended a formula for an appropriate mortar. AHS also evaluated the visual impact of the proposed guide rail and the structural reinforcement designed by the engineers. The engineer's recommendation called for replacing the existing roadway with a concrete slab, installing a membrane to control moisture penetration, and repaving the roadway.



Proposed rehabilitation by Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.