

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic THE CANTON VIADUCT

and/or common

2. Location

NEPONSET & WALPOLE STREETS

street & number

___ not for publication

city, town CANTON

___ vicinity of

state MASSACHUSETTS

code 025

county NORFOLK

code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

street & number 40 HIGH STREET

city, town BOSTON MASS, 02108

___ vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

street & number

city, town

state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

THE CANTON VIADUCT IS 615 FEET IN OVERALL LENGTH AND CARRIES THE MAIN LINE TRACK BETWEEN BOSTON AND PROVIDENCE. IT SPANS THE EAST BRANCH OF THE NEPONSET RIVER AND NEPONSET STREET IN CANTON MASS. THE STRUCTURE CONSISTS OF STONE FOUNDATIONS EXTENDING TO A DEPTH OF EIGHT FEET BELOW THE EXISTING GROUND LEVEL, AS WELL AS THE RIVERBED ITSELF.

THE STRUCTURE IS A MULTIPLE STONE ARCH COMBINATION BRIDGE AND VIADUCT. THE PRINCIPLE CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL IS NATIVE GRANITE. THERE ARE OVER 30 STONE BUTTRESSES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE STRUCTURE EXTENDING THE ENTIRE LENGTH. THE BUTTRESSES ARE 5'-6" APART FROM EACH OTHER. BETWEEN EACH BUTTRESSES TWO CONTINUOUS AND PARRALELL 5' WIDE STONE WALLS EXTEND THE SUPERSTRUCTURES' ENTIRE LENGTH. THESE WALLS ARE SEPERATED BY A 4' AIR SPACE THUS ACHIEVING A COMPLETELY HOLLOW STRUCTURE. SEGMENTAL ARCHES BETWEEN BUTTRESSES CANTILEVER 4' BEYOND THESE SUPPORTING WALLS, YET THE ARCHES DO NOT EXTEND THROUGH THE STRUCTURE. THE 4' AIR SPACE IS ,HOWEVER, SPANNED WITH ORDINARY STONE COVER, SUPPORTED BY THE PARRALELL WALLS. THE ENTIRE VIADUCT IS ON A 1⁰ CURVE. THE STRUCTURE WAS CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN THE YEARS OF 1834 - 1835. TOTAL CONSTRUCTION TOOK A LITTLE UNDER TWO YEARS. IN 1860 A DOUBLE TRACK WAS PLACED ON THE STRUCTURE, A HEAVY WOODEN FENCE WAS ALSO CONSTRUCTED ON THE UPPER DECK OF THE STRUCTURE. IN 1888 WOODEN TIMBERS AND FENCE WERE REMOVED AND AN H-BEAM ROLLED SECTION WAS PLACED TRANSVERSE TO THE STRUCTURE AT BUTTRESSES CENTERS AND INTERMEDIATE THIRD POINTS AND LONGITUDINAL TIMBERS WERE LAID TO RETAIN BALLAST. FROM THE YEARS 1910-1918 ALL THE EXTERIOR ARCHES WERE REINFORCED WITH CONCRETE. THE FINAL ALTERATION TO THE STRUCTURE OCCURED IN 1952 WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SECOND OPENING FOR NEPONSET STREET TRAFFIC. THIS OPENING WAS CREATED WITH REINFORCED CONCRETE, AND METAL RODS. THIS ALTERATION TOOK PLACE ON ARCH #9.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1834

Builder/Architect WILLIAM GIBBS Mc NEILL

DODD & BALDWIN

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)