

Hillsborough River Lift Bridge

T.N. Henderson Bridge
Hillsborough County
FDOT #100920, 8HI6669

The 1939 Hillsborough River Lift Bridge, also known as the T. N. Henderson Bridge, carries Hillsborough Avenue (SR-600/US-92) over the Hillsborough River in Tampa. It was designed by J.H. Dowling of the State Road Department, and built by the Cone Brothers Construction Company of Tampa. The bridge consists of nine spans that extend 358 feet. The eight concrete girder approach spans are flanked by slotted concrete railings, indicative of the bridge's 1930s construction date. The lift span features a 94-foot-long Warren pony truss, and



Photo 5-54. Hillsborough River Lift Bridge, Hillsborough County (No. 100920)

the lift mechanism remains in excellent condition. The main span is hoisted by cable from machinery housed in two steel towers, which also contain the concrete counterweights.

The bridge underwent rehabilitation in 1999 and remains in use alongside a newer bascule bridge. The Hillsborough River Lift Bridge was built as part of a road expansion project that connected the northern suburbs of Tampa. It is the only tower-driven, mechanical lift bridge remaining in the state, and it is one of only two operable vertical lift bridges in Florida. This bridge retains its historic physical integrity. As a result of its technology, its association with the historic growth of the Tampa area, and the rarity of this bridge type, the Hillsborough River Lift Bridge represents one of Florida's important historic highway bridges. It was determined NRHP-eligible during the 2000 survey under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development and under Criterion C in the area of Engineering as a rare extant example of a vertical lift bridge.

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