

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. 05540-1415
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Ben Steele, Jr. DATE: August 1979
130 Spring St.
YOUR ADDRESS: Rochester, New York 14608 TELEPHONE: 716-546-7029
ORGANIZATION (if any): Landmark Society of Western New York

MAR 28 1980

IDENTIFICATION

- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): Platt St. Bridge
- 2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN/CITY: Rochester VILLAGE: _____
- 3. STREET LOCATION: Platts St; between State St. and St. Paul St
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private Public Safety Building
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: City of Rochester; DPW ADDRESS: Rochester, New York 14614
- 6. USE: Original: vehicular bridge Present: closed to traffic
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain unofficially open to pedestrian traffic

DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: see continuation sheet.
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: (if known) a. wood frame with interlocking joints
b. wood frame with light members
c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) trusses (see continuation sheet)
e. other _____
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known):
wood deck replaced by steel grate.

12. PHOTO: view from South



13. MAP: NYS DOT Planimetric Series
Rochester East Quadrangle
Scale: 1:24,000



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
d. developers e. deterioration
f. other: plans for reuse as park bridge unimplemented(8/79)

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn b. carriage house c. garage
d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse
g. shop h. gardens
i. landscape features: crosses Genesee River Gorge
j. other: oriented East-West

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
a. open land b. woodland
c. scattered buildings
d. densely built-up e. commercial
f. industrial g. residential
h. other: _____

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

Bridge is a key visual element in Rochester's Upper Falls Gorge. It offers an excellent view of the 98' Upper Falls and the city skyline to the South. Upper Falls Terrace Park extends North from the Falls to the East abutment of bridge. Adjoining park is old ~~_____~~ Brewery Building (now Genesee Brewing Co. which owns E. end of Platt St.).

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):
See Also Continuation Sheet.

Bridge retains its original cast and wrought iron pedestrian railing. Posts and railing are cast iron pipes; balustrade is a wrought iron web w/ central medallions cast in iron w/ raised flowers (see contin. sheet for Dwg.). Many medallions have been stolen and sidewalks and railing are endangered by reuse plans.

- SIGNIFICANCE**
19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1890-1891

ARCHITECT: Leffert L. Buck

BUILDER: Rochester Bridge and Iron Works

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

See Also Continuation Sheet.

This is the second bridge in Rochester by Leffert Buck (cf. Driving Park Bridge). Buck was the engineer for the second Verrugas Viaduct in Peru, the Clifton Arch over the Niagara Gorge, and the Williamsburg Bridge in New York City. The Platt St. design is fairly standard; five deck trusses on trestle bents. Its significance lies in its iron construction; the 1880s were the heyday of the iron bridge and Platt St. came at the end of that era. It is one of the earlier works of Leffert Buck and the Rochester Bridge and Iron Works, and one of the last of the iron bridges.

21. SOURCES:

Historic American Engineering Record, HAER Inventory, 1976 by T. Leary, on file at LSWNY.

David Plowden. Bridges: The Spans of North America, Viking Press, N.Y. City, 1974, P. 126.

22. THEME: TRANSPORTATION

Continuation Sheet: Bridge Inventory Form

8. Substructure:

Material: Steel and Concrete
 Piers: 4 steel trestle bents, 55-67' high (see continuation sheet)
 Abutments: rough-faced brownstone, coursed ashlar masonry

9. Superstructure:

Material: iron
 Characteristics, details and members:

Connections: pin....counterbraces and cross braces
 rigid....all other members.

Top Chords: parallel riveted plates and angles w/ lattice bars

End Posts: parallel riveted channels w/ lattice bars

Bottom Chords: parallel riveted plates and angles w/ stayplates

Posts: _____

Diagonals: parallel angles intersecting parallel angles w/ lattice bars

Horiz. Braces: rectangular or round wrought iron eyebars w/ turnbuckles.

18. a) Truss Configuration:

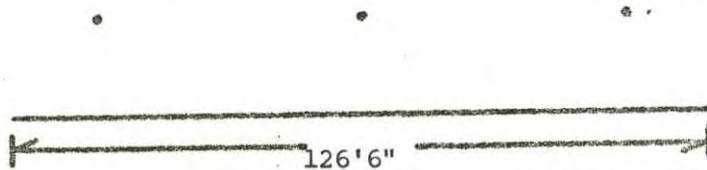
Main span type: double intersection lattice truss Through/Pony/Deck



25'

22'

Secondary span type: double intersection lattice truss Through/Pony/Deck



25'

22'

b) No. of spans: five length overall: 857' 8"

Span types:

- (1) double intersection lattice truss length: 158' 2"
- (2) double intersection lattice truss length: 158' 2"
- (3) double intersection lattice truss length: 158' 2"
- (4) double intersection lattice truss length: 158' 2"
- (5) double intersection lattice truss length: 126' 6"
- (6) _____ length: _____

No. of lanes: two (plus sidewalks) width: 22' (plus 10') c to c.

20. Historical or Technological Significance:

Unique/Unusual in its time: unique in Monroe County

Rare survivor though of standard design: one of two truss-trestle iron bridges in Monroe County (see Genesee River Viaduct).

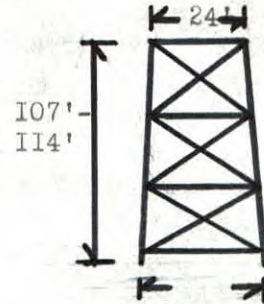
Typical example of its time and a common survivor: _____

Other Remarks/Explanation: _____

Continuation Sheet; Platt St. Bridge

8. Substructure: Trestle Bents on concrete footings

Verticals: riveted channels w/ lacing bars.
Horizontals: open box girders w/ lacing bars.
Diagonals: rectilinear eyebars w/ turnbuckles.
Cross-bracing: rectilinear eyebars w/
turnbuckles.

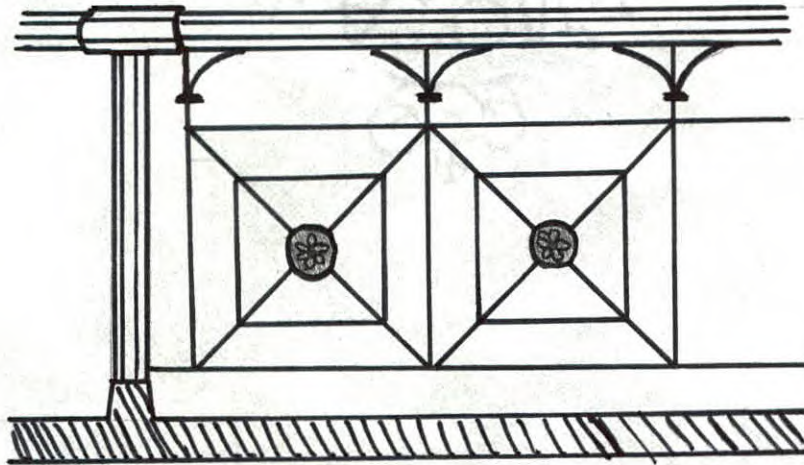


9. Superstructure:(continued)

Vertical Cross-bracing: rectilinear or round wrought iron eyebars w/
turnbuckles.
Horizontal Cross-bracing: rectilinear or round wrought iron eyebars w/
turnbuckles.

18. Notable Features of Structure:(continued)

Drawing of Pedestrian Railing--



Continuation Sheet: Platt St. Bridge

12. Additional Photos:

a) view of Rochester and Falls from Platt St. Bridge--



BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
NEW YORK STATE PARKS AND RECREATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK (518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
UNIQUE SITE NO. 055-40-1415
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: The Landmark Society of Western, N. Y. Inc DATE: FEB 28 1977
YOUR ADDRESS: 130 SPRING STREET TELEPHONE: _____
ROCHESTER, N. Y. 14608
ORGANIZATION (if any): _____

MAR 09 1977

IDENTIFICATION

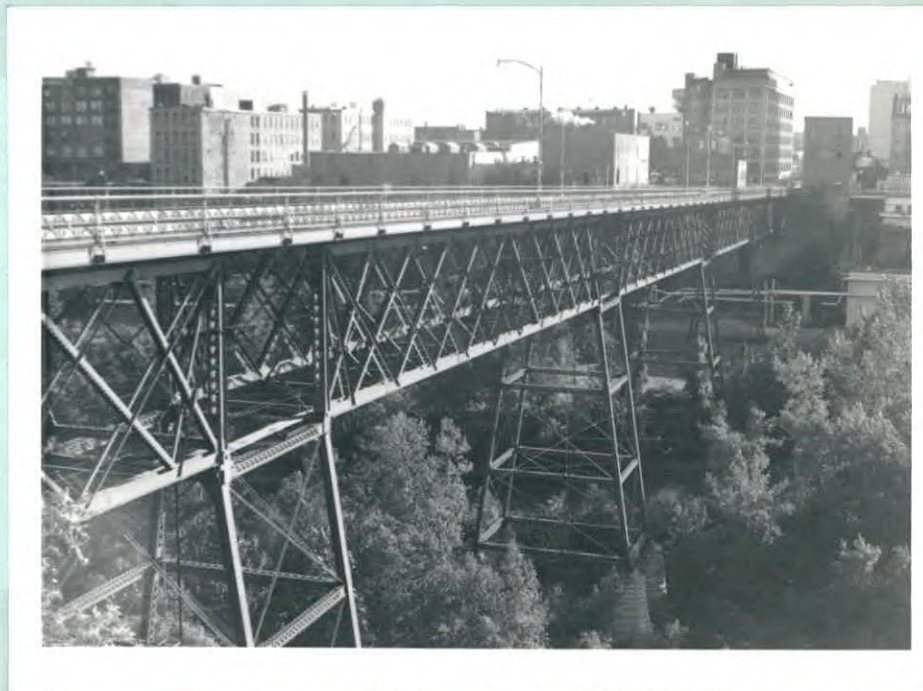
- 1. BUILDING NAME(S): PLATT ST. BRIDGE
- 2. COUNTY: MONROE TOWN/CITY: ROCHESTER VILLAGE: _____
- 3. STREET LOCATION: OVER GENESEE RIVER
- 4. OWNERSHIP: a. public b. private PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
- 5. PRESENT OWNER: CITY OF ROCHESTER: DPW ADDRESS: ROCHESTER, NY 14614
- 6. USE: Original: HIGHWAY BRIDGE Present: CLOSED
- 7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes No
Interior accessible: Explain _____

DESCRIPTION

- 8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard b. stone c. brick d. board and batten
e. cobblestone f. shingles g. stucco other: _____
- 9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints HAER
b. wood frame with light members
(if known) c. masonry load bearing walls
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
- 10. CONDITION: a. excellent b. good c. fair d. deteriorated
- 11. INTEGRITY: a. original site b. moved if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

12. PHOTO: HAER

13. MAP:



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known b. zoning c. roads
d. developers e. deterioration
f. other: PRESENTLY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn b. carriage house c. garage
d. privy e. shed f. greenhouse
g. shop h. gardens
i. landscape features: _____
j. other: N/A

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
a. open land b. woodland
c. scattered buildings
d. densely built-up e. commercial
f. industrial g. residential
h. other: GENESSEE RIVER

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

N/A

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

HAER

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: 1891

~~ARCHITECT:~~ ^{ENGR} W. H. BUCK

BUILDER: ROCHESTER BRIDGE + IRON CO.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

HAER

21. SOURCES: HAER

22. THEME: HAER



HAER INVENTORY

1. NAME OF STRUCTURE Platt St. Bridge	2. DATE 1891	3. NATURE OF STRUCTURE Highway Bridge	4. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION BT&A: TRES (63)
5. LOCATION: STREET & NUMBER over Genesee River	CITY OF TOWN Rochester	COUNTY Monroe	STATE NY
7. OWNER OF PROPERTY City of Rochester:DPW	ADDRESS Public Safety Building Rochester NY 14614		6. USGS 7 1/2 QUAD & UTM GRID REF. 18.287340.4781960
8. CONDITION:	<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR
	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED
	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC	

9. DESCRIPTION & BACKGROUND HISTORY. NUMBER OF STRUCTURES; DIMENSIONS; FABRIC; STRUCTURE & FORM; SURVIVING MACHINERY, FITTINGS AND EQUIPMENT; APPROX. AREA OF SITE; ALTERATIONS; PRESENT USE; ENGINEER; ARCHITECT; DESIGNER; IMPORTANT EVENTS & INDIVIDUALS.

A second project of Leffert L. Buck in Rochester during 1890-1891 was the bridge immediately below the Upper Falls of the Genesee River. On this site he eschewed a steel arch in favor of five deck-type, double-intersection lattice trusses, resting on four high steel bents with concrete footings. Four of the trusses have spans of 158'2"; the east bank truss is 126'6". The height of the bents range from 55' to 67'. The overall length is 857'3" and the roadway is carried at 107-114' above the river. This bridge was also built by the Rochester Bridge and Iron Company. Now closed to all traffic, it may be reopened for pedestrian use to capitalize on its advantageous location for viewing the Upper Falls. (see also Driving Park Avenue Bridge)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS & SKETCH MAP ON REVERSE SIDE.

11. RELATED SOURCES OF INFORMATION: HISTORICAL REFERENCES (PUBLISHED ARTICLES, MANUSCRIPTS, REPORTS, DRAWINGS, PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS) CONTACTS: (NAMES & ADDRESSES OF ANYONE WITH EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS OR RELEVANT INFORMATION): TAPE RECORDINGS.

Edwin A. Fisher, "Engineering and Public Works in the City of Rochester," Centennial History of Rochester, (1933), table facing p.182
Ray Lawrence, Rochester DPW (716-423-6828)

12. DANGER OF DEMOLITION OR DAMAGE YES NO **perhaps: structural evaluations and plans for re-use**
 NATURE OF THREAT: **incomplete**

13. PRIORITY

3

14. EXISTING SURVEYS AND DATES: NHL NR HAER HABS STATE COUNTY LOCAL OTHER **ASCE**

1976

15. INVENTORIED BY: YOUR NAME ADDRESS AFFILIATION DATE

T.E. Leary

LSWNY-HAER

9/24/76

PLEASE RETURN TO THE HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, WASHINGTON, DC 20240

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES (MFG) UTILITIES (UTIL) POWER SOURCE & PRIME MOVER (PS & PM) TRANSPORTATION (TRANS) BUILDING (BLDG) AIRCRAFT (AIRC)

- 21. MACH
- 22. FASK
- 23. TDDIP
- 24. INST
- 25. CMFG
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31. WATER
- 32. SANI
- 33. GAS
- 34. ELEC
- 35.
- 36. MUSL
- 37. WATER
- 38. WHEEL
- 39. WATER
- 40. TURB
- 41. WIND
- 42. STEAM
- 43. RECIP
- 44. STEAM
- 45. TURB
- 46. INT
- 47. COMB
- 48. DIESEL
- 49. ELEC
- 50.
- 51. RR
- 52. ROAD
- 53. CANAL
- 54. MARINE
- 55. AIR
- 56. PIPE
- 57.
- 58.
- 59. T&T
- 60. R&TV
- 61.
- 62. BEAM
- 63. ARCH
- 64. TRUSS
- 65. SUSP
- 66. AQUE
- 67. TRES
- 68. CANT
- 69. MOVE
- 70.
- 71.
- 72.
- 73.
- 74.
- 75.
- 76.
- 77.
- 78.
- 79.
- 80.
- 81.
- 82.
- 83.
- 84.
- 85.
- 86.
- 87.
- 88.
- 89.
- 90.
- 91.
- 92.
- 93.
- 94.
- 95.
- 96.
- 97.
- 98.
- 99.
- 100.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES (EXTRACT)

BULK PRODUCER INDUSTRIES (BULK)

SUB-CLASSIFICATION

SPECIALIZED STRUCTURES (SPECS STRUCT)

AIRCRAFT TECHNOLOGY (AIRC TECH)

- MUSEUM
- ADAPT
- HOUS
- PAET
- MATS
- MATH
- HEAT
- CONST
- HYDRA
- TUNLS
- DAM
- ANCIL
- MECH
- GENES
- ROOF
- FLOOR
- FRAME
- FOUND

