BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

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

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
UNIQUE SITE NO. 055-40-1415
QUAD __________________ SERIES __________________ N0. __________________

MAR 28 1980

IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME(S):  Platt St. Bridge
2. COUNTY:  Monroe  TOWN/CITY:  Rochester  VILLAGE:  Rochester
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: DFW  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 unoffically 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

Map Key #25 HP-1
14. THREATS TO BUILDING:
   a. none known [x]   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 [x]
   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 96' 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 Niagesa 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, II Viking Press, N.Y. City,
    1974, P. 126.

22. THEME: TRANSPORTATION
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: 1 pin.. counterbraces and cross braces
   2 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
   Diagonals: parallel angles intersecting parallel angles w/ lattice bars
   Horiz. Braces: rectangular or round wrought iron eyebars w/ turnbuckles.

10. a) Truss Configuration:

    Main span type: double intersection lattice truss
                    Through/Pony/Deck
                    25'                158'2''
    Secondary span type: double intersection lattice truss
                        Through/Pony/Deck
                        25'                126'6''

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) double intersection lattice truss length: 126' 6''

    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:
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 Fells from Platt St. Bridge--
BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

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

YOUR NAME: The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.
DATE: FEB 28 1977

YOUR ADDRESS: 130 SPRING STREET
ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14608

ORGANIZATION (if any):

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IDENTIFICATION
1. BUILDING NAME(S): Platt St. BRIDGE
2. COUNTY: MONROE
3. STREET LOCATION: OVER GENESSEE RIVER
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public [ ] b. private [ ]
5. PRESENT OWNER: CITY OF ROCHESTER
6. USE: Original: HIGHWAY BRIDGE
   Present: CLOSED
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes [x] 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 [ ]
   b. wood frame with light members [ ]
   c. masonry load bearing walls [ ]
   d. metal (explain) [ ]
   e. other [HAER]
10. CONDITION: a. excellent [x] b. good [ ] c. fair [ ] d. deteriorated [ ]
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site [x] 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: H. L. BUCK
   BUILDER: ROCHESTER BRIDGE & IRON CO.

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:
   _______ HAER _______

21. SOURCES: HAER

22. THEME: HAER
A second project of Leffert L. Buck in Rochester during 1390-1391 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'-11.4" 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)

Ray Lawrence, Rochester DPW (716-423-6328)