

**Historic
Resource
Inventory**
CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON.



2-336-00000

0 N.W. Glisan Street

QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 2929.5

ORIGINAL NAME: Steel Bridge

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: Bridge

DATE BUILT: 1912

ORIGINAL OWNER: Oregon Railway and Navigation Company, Union Pacific Railroad
TENANTS: Oregon State Highway Department

Rank II

SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:

Double-deck vertical lift span. Steel thru truss (Pratt). Lower deck for train passage, upper deck for vehicles. Largest telescope bridge of its type in the world when it was built for \$1.7 million.

SPECIAL F/M - SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION:

Steel grid installed on upper deck, 1958.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Transportation, Engineering

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Transportation, Engineering: The Steel Bridge, owned by the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company and the Union Pacific Railroad Company, was constructed by the Union Bridge Company. The original structure, built in 1888, was the first steel bridge on the west coast and measured 1245 feet long. It was replaced in 1912 by the present bridge. The lower of the two decks was for the exclusive use of trains and the upper deck was for pedestrian and streetcar traffic. This bridge carried the city's first electric streetcar railway, running from N.W. Glisan Street to Albina in 1889. Tolls were charged until Multnomah County paid a monthly rental. It is believed to be the only bridge in the world with a lower deck which moves independently of the upper deck, and is the only vertical lift bridge in the U.S. which caters to ocean-going traffic.

Determined eligible for National Register.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

MacColl, E. Kimbark, *THE SHAPING OF A CITY: BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN PORTLAND, OREGON 1885 - 1915* (Portland, 1976).

MacColl, E. Kimbark, *THE GROWTH OF A CITY: POWER AND POLITICS IN PORTLAND, OREGON 1915 - 1950* (Portland, 1979).

"A Sketch of the History and Construction of the Willamette River Bridges," vertical file, OHS Collection.

Rhyne, Charles, personal files.

Present owner as of May 1981: Union Pacific Railway, Southern Pacific Railway
MAILING ADDRESS: 921 S.W. Washington Street, Portland 97204

No Preservation Funding

Negative: 1201-14

Score - Design/Construction: 9

Score - Historical:

Score - Rarity: 10

Score - Environment: 10

Score - Integrity: 10

Score - Intrinsic: 9

Score - Contextual: 30

Score - Total: 61.5

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