

7. Local survey organization
 Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

8. property owners name and address
 Allegheny County

9. tax parcel number/other number

10. U.T.M. Zone easting
 17 585700
 2.4 acres
 4476000
 usgs sheet: Pgh. East 1:24000
 northing

11. status (other surveys, lists etc.)
 Allegheny County Survey

12. classification
 site () structure (x) object ()
 building () district ()
 thematic (x)

13. date(s) (how determined)
 1931-32 (plaque)
 14. period
 1921-1940

15. style, design or folk type
 Suspension

19. original use Bridge
 20. present use Bridge

16. architect or engineer
 Vernon R. Covell et al.
 Stanley Roush

17. contractor or builder
 American Bridge Co.

18. primary building mat./construc.
 Steel

21. condition Good
 22. integrity Excelient

23. site plan with north arrow

BLACK AND WHITE PRINT(S)
 3 1/2" x 5" enlargement or medium format contact
 note location of negative in block 24.

24. photo notation

25. file/location

26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings)
 The South Tenth Street Bridge crosses the Monongahela River with a roughly north-south orientation to connect Pittsburgh's South Side with a narrow strip of riverfront land below "The Bluff," just east of Pittsburgh's downtown. The bridge is a steel wire-cable suspension bridge. Its shoreline anchorages are set somewhat inland, and the

27. history, significance and/or background
 The South Tenth Street Bridge is significant for its transportation role at its site, as a product of a period of intensive bridge-building by Allegheny County, and because of its status as Allegheny County's only wire-cable suspension bridge.

The South Tenth Street Bridge was built in 1932 at the narrowest point on the Monongahela River's course through Pittsburgh. The bridge was expressly planned to improve the linkage between central Pittsburgh and the city's South Side by

28. sources of information Allegheny County Survey. Plans. Department of Engineering and Construction, Allegheny County
 (continue on back if necessary)

29. prepared by:
 Martin Aurand
 PHLF

Computer Coding (BHP Survey Grantees Must Complete)

30. date 7/85
 revision(s)

31. county 003 32. style _____
 33. construction material 06; 13; _____ 34. roof _____
 35. design type 07; _____
 36. historic function 190400 P _____
 37. construction feature _____ 38. ext. walls _____ 39. plan _____
 40. facade width _____ 41. roof material _____ 42. stories _____ 43. depth _____
 44. ext. design _____
 45. int. design _____

1. County Allegheny
 2. Municipality Pittsburgh
 3. street address or specific location Monongahela River at South Tenth Street
 4. survey code 00712
 5. present name South Tenth St. Bridge
 6. other name (historic name if any)

#26. Continued

outer spans cross shoreline transportation routes, but there are virtually no approaches. The anchorages have concrete below-deck enclosures, but the central piers, located at the river's brink, are faced with stone masonry. The central span is 725 feet, the width of the river at this site.

The piers are surmounted by openwork steel towers. The main uprights taper and are thickened toward their centers and tops by additional verticals which give the bridge a Moderne character. A frieze of crossing girders and a slightly peaked panel terminate each tower. The towers and anchorages carry a wire-cable catenary encased in steel tubing and tied to the deck with pairs of wire-cable suspenders.

The roadway deck is four lanes wide and originally carried trolleys as well as other vehicular traffic. Walkways on each side have decorative metalwork railings and are bowed outward to pass around the tower uprights.

#27. Continued

replacing an earlier bridge and complementing the Armstrong Tunnel, built through a bluff at the bridge's north end in the late 1920s. (The Armstrong Tunnel has also been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.)

In the early 1920s a new Board of County Commissioners sought to assume County leadership for public works projects. The commissioners undertook an extensive program of bridge and highway construction in 1924 with two pivotal acts: they issued bonds totaling \$29,207,000 and established an Allegheny County Department of Public Works. A second bond issue was made in 1928 totaling \$43,680,000. This work extended to 1932 and included the South Tenth Street Bridge.

The engineering design of the South Tenth Street Bridge is generally attributed to Vernon R. Covell. Covell worked for the County from 1906 into the 1930s and was Chief Engineer after 1922. Most of the actual design work was apparently done by subordinates, but the bridges, and other works produced under Covell's authority, are of uniformly high quality. His projects also included the Sixth, Seventh, and Ninth Street Bridges, and the tied-arch West End Bridge which is already listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Architect Stanley Roush also contributed to the bridge design. Roush was Pittsburgh City Architect from 1914-21 and County Architect from 1921-32. He made necessary alterations to H.H. Richardson's Allegheny County Courthouse after street-lowering operations, designed new portals for Gustav Lindenthal's Smithfield Street Bridge after it was widened, designed the Allegheny County Office Building, and contributed to the design of many of the County's tunnels, bridges, and other public works.

As the County's only wire-cable suspension bridge, the South Tenth Street Bridge is an important part of the visual landscape. It combines straight-forward engineering with a Moderne touch and inherent lightness and grace.

Boundary Description and Justification:

The nominated property consists of a 1275 x 83 foot rectangle bordered by the bridge perimeter. The perimeter on the east and west sides has been defined in terms of the width between the outer edges of the piers which project beyond the width of the deck.

EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

ALLEGHENY COUNTY-OWNED
RIVER BRIDGES:
Ninth Street Bridge
Allegheny County

ALLEGHENY COUNTY-OWNED
RIVER BRIDGES:
Ninth Street Bridge
Allegheny County

ALLEGHENY COUNTY-OWNED
RIVER BRIDGES:
Sixteenth Street Bridge
Allegheny County

Zone 17
E534790 N4477590

Zone 17
E535560 N4478100

