

BROAD STREET BRIDGE

- BRIDGE #305
- Broad Street over Blackstone River
- Cumberland-Central Falls
- 1915
- Maximum Span Length: 72 feet
(3 spans, 225 feet total)

Although missing its original lamps and commemorative plaques, the Broad Street Bridge is an excellent example of the large, stylish arched bridges erected in Rhode Island cities in the early twentieth century. The bridge's massive railings, elaborate stone work that conceals the concrete, and date stones at the apex of its center arch all indicate that the purpose of the bridge went beyond simple transportation; it was intended to be an attractive addition to the landscape as well. The picturesque stone work is especially attractive. Its rough-hewn texture contrasts with the smooth-finished stone in the cap and at the base of the railings. Pilasters and a prominent stringcourse add depth to the bridge's appearance in profile.

Cumberland's City Council initiated the bridge project by appropriating \$35,000. The State then required Central Falls to contribute its share of the construction costs. Engineers Howard F. Esten and Frank H. Black of Pawtucket designed the structure.

