

# POINT STREET BRIDGE

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- **BRIDGE #980**
- Point Street over Providence River
- Providence
- 1926-1927
- Maximum Span Length: 141 feet  
(7 spans, 528 feet total)

Point Street Bridge, the third swing bridge on the site, recalls the days when commercial shipping in Providence's inner harbor was an important part of the city's economic life. The Dyer Street docks, upstream from the bridge, were still active in the early twentieth century, and warehouses, factories, and utility plants in the area relied on water-borne shipping. At that time, Point Street was the only way to cross the river south of the downtown area. Therefore, a large and reliable draw bridge was needed, both to permit river navigation and to carry the growing numbers of cars and trucks on the streets of Providence. The bridge is the only remaining movable highway bridge in Providence.

Point Street Bridge was a large project for its day, costing over \$550,000. Providence took pride that it was designed entirely by City Engineer Frank S. Nolan and his department. Fabricated by Boston Bridge Works, it is typical of early twentieth-century bridges in its Warren truss design and riveted construction. The electrically powered swing span was built at Fox Point and was floated to Point Street on barges; as the tide fell, the bridge settled onto its bearings and was ready to operate.

