

ROOSEVELT AVENUE BRIDGE

- **BRIDGE #968**
- Roosevelt Avenue over Blackstone River
- Pawtucket - Central Falls
- 1910
- Maximum Span Length: 65 feet (3 spans, 189 feet total)

This stone-faced, concrete arch structure is an excellent example of the ornate bridges erected as part of the "City Beautiful" movement. In the early twentieth century, municipal leaders tried to improve the appearance of their cities with bridges that were aesthetically pleasing as well as functional. Often modeled on the bridges of Renaissance Europe or Classical Rome, they were intended to show that a community was progressive, tasteful and prosperous. Pawtucket's bridge, with its large proportions, multiple arches, and fine stone work, amply fulfilled these goals. Soon after its completion in 1911, the bridge was featured in *American City*, a national civic improvement magazine. As part of the bridge's dedication, Governor Aram J. Pothier took the controls of the first trolley car to cross the bridge.

The special commission that built the bridge hired noted Boston engineer Joseph R. Worcester to design the structure. Worcester is best known for the recently demolished 1905 steel arch across the Connecticut River at Bellows Falls, Vermont.

