

HAER
ILL
16-CHIG,
125-

CHICAGO RIVER BASCULE BRIDGE,
GRAND AVENUE
Grand Avenue crossing North Branch of
the Chicago River
Chicago
Cook County
Illinois

HAER No. IL-139

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

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Jet Lowe, Photographer, 1987

IL-139-1 GENERAL VIEW OF BRIDGE, LOOKING NORTH

IL-139-2 DETAIL OF BUILDER'S PLATE: "SUPERSTRUCTURE BUILT BY
STROBEL STEEL CONSTRUCTION CO., CHICAGO, ILL., 1913,
SUBSTRUCTURE BUILT BY FITZSIMONS & CONNELL D&D CO.,
CHICAGO, ILL."

IL-139-3 DETAIL OF UPPER CHORD AND RIVETED GUSSET PLATE
CONNECTION

IL-139-4 DETAIL OF COUNTERWEIGHT INSIDE THE BRIDGE ABUTMENT

IL-139-5 VIEW OF ELECTRIC MOTOR THAT POWERS GEARS FOR LIFTING
THE BRIDGE

IL-139-6 DETAIL OF RACK AND PINION GEAR

IL-139-7 INTERIOR VIEW OF BRIDGETENDER'S HOUSE

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CHICAGO RIVER BASCULE BRIDGE,
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Location: Grand Avenue crossing North Branch of the Chicago River
Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

Date of Construction: 1913

Present Owner: City of Chicago.

Present Use: Highway Bridge.

Significance: The Grand Avenue Bridge represents the "second generation" of the Chicago bascule bridge with improvements executed in the design of the counterweights, a new rack-and-pinion assembly (namely, the use of an internal rack, instead of an external rack that extended along the truss superstructure's upper chords), and a steel pony truss superstructure. (See Donald N. Becker, "Development of the Chicago Type Bascule Bridge," Transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers, v. 109 [1944], 1010-14.)

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons, 1987.

Project Information: This photographic documentation project of the bascule bridges crossing the Chicago River was carried out by Jet Lowe, HAER staff photographer, in 1987 and followed on the heels of an inventory of historic engineering and industrial sites in the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor. HAER historian Gray Fitzsimons was project manager for this undertaking.