

*SOUTH BRIDGES*

(COAST GUARD DRIVE BRIDGE)

Chicago Bridges Recording Project

Spanning Jackson Park Lagoon at S. Lake Shore Dr. (U.S. Rt. 41)

Chicago

Cook County

Illinois

HAER No. IL-146

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PHOTOGRAPHS

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C St. NW

Washington, DC 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Cook County

Illinois

Jet Lowe, photographer, summer 1999.

- IL-146-1      LOOKING E. TOWARD LAKE MICHIGAN, SOUTHBRIDGE IS TOWARD  
BOTTOM CENTER OF FRAME.
- IL-146-2      OBLIQUE VIEW OF EAST SIDE OF BRIDGE LOOKING NORTH.
- IL-146-3      ELEVATION DETAIL OF EAST ARCH KEYSTONES.
- IL-146-4      SOUTH PORTAL LOOKING NORTH.
- IL-146-5      HIPPO DETAIL.
- IL-146-6      OBLIQUE VIEW OF WEST FACE OF BRIDGE LOOKING NE.





HAER No. T1-146-2



HAER No. IL-146-3



HAER No. TL-116-4

HAER No. II - 146 - 5





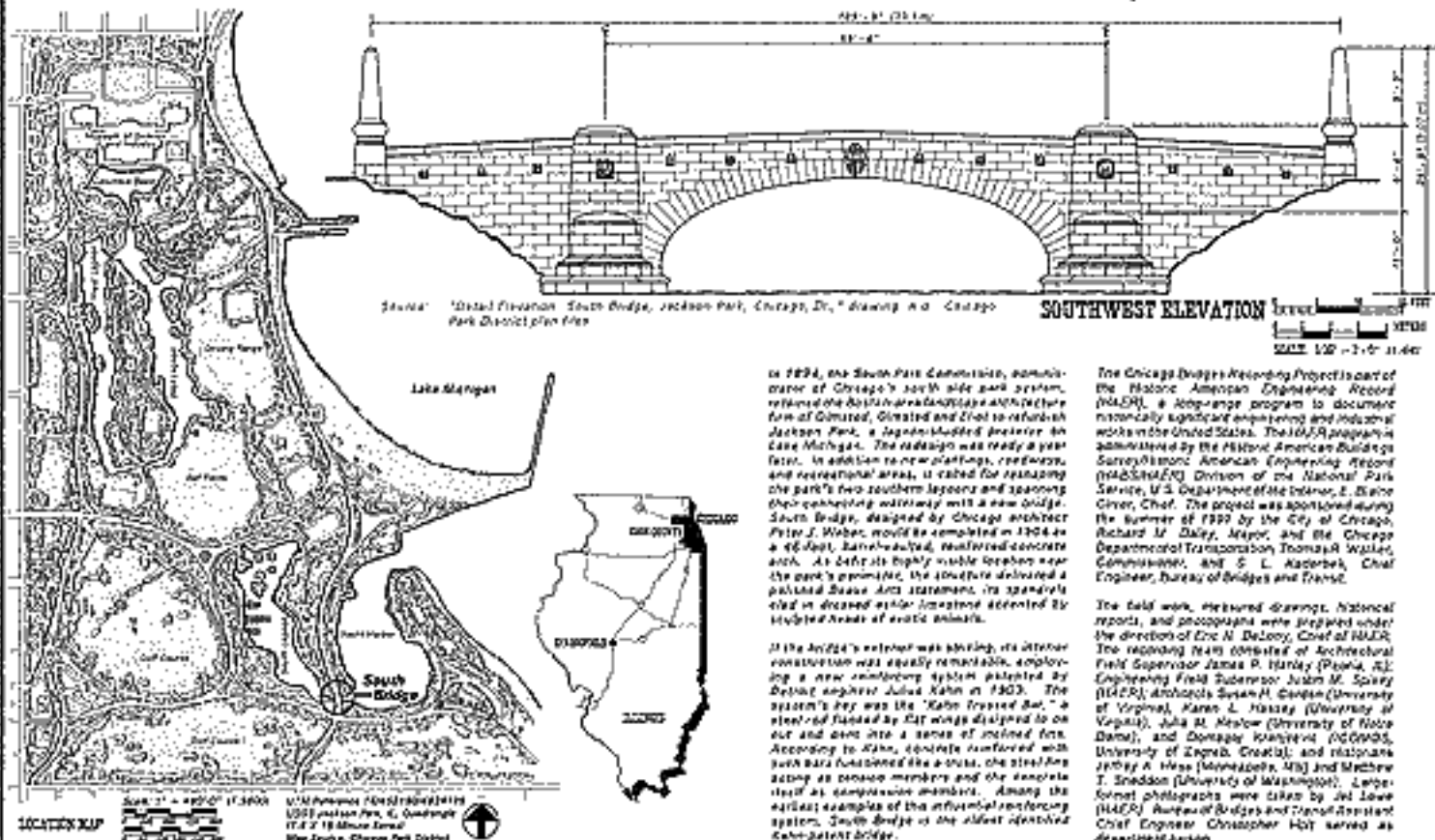
SOUND  
HORN  
INCOMING BOATS  
HAVE THE  
RIGHT OF WAY

HAER No. I.L-146-6



# SOUTH BRIDGE

## SPANNING JACKSON PARK LAGOON 1904 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



Source: "Detail Elevation, South Bridge, Jackson Park, Chicago, Ill.," drawing no. Chicago Park District plan file.

**SOUTHWEST ELEVATION**  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0" at 40'

In 1894, the South Park Commission, administrator of Chicago's south side park system, retained the Boston-based landscape architect firm of Olmsted, Olmsted and Elliot to refurbish Jackson Park, a large wooded preserve in Lake Michigan. The design was ready a year later. In addition to new walkways, restrooms, and recreational areas, it called for spanning the park's two southern lagoons and spanning their connecting waterway with a new bridge. South Bridge, designed by Chicago architect Peter J. Weber, would be completed in 1904 as a 46-foot, reinforced, reinforced-concrete arch. As both its highly visible location near the park's entrance, the structure delivered a political boost. As a statement, its spanville stood in direct and deliberate contrast to the ugly steel truss of nearby bridges.

As the bridge's skeleton was springing, its interior construction was equally remarkable, employing a new reinforcing system patented by Detroit engineer Julius Kahn in 1893. The system's key was the "Kahn Trussed Bar," a steel rod fused by hot wings designed to on one end and bent into a series of inclined fins. According to Kahn, concrete reinforced with such bars functioned like a cross, the steel bars acting as tension members and the concrete itself as compression members. Among the earliest examples of the influential reinforcing system, South Bridge is the oldest reinforced-concrete bridge.

The Chicago Bridges Recording Project is part of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), a long-range program to document historically significant engineering and industrial works in the United States. The HAER program is administered by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) Division of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. E. Blair Cliver, Chief. The project was sponsored during the summer of 1999 by the City of Chicago, Richard M. Daley, Mayor, and the Chicago Department of Transportation Thomas A. Weller, Commissioner, and S. L. Ackerbek, Chief Engineer, Bureau of Bridges and Trench.

The field work, measured drawings, historical reports, and photographs were prepared under the direction of Eric M. DeLooy, Chief of HAER. The recording team consisted of Architectural Field Supervisor James R. Hartley (Penn., R.I. Engineering Field Supervisor John M. Sperry (HAER); Architects Susan M. Gagan (University of Virginia), Karen L. Haxley (University of Virginia), Julia M. Kestow (University of Notre Dame), and Donaghy Krasner (CGO/MS, University of Zagreb, Croatia); and Historians Jeffrey A. Hesse (Minneapolis, MN) and Matthew T. Stredon (University of Washington). Large-format photographs were taken by Ted Lowe (HAER). Bureau of Bridges and Trench Assistant Chief Engineer Christopher Holt served as department liaison.

**LOCATION MAP**  
Scale: 1" = 400' (1:1600)  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1000 Jackson Park, E. Quadrangle  
17.4' x 18.5" (Scale)  
Map Source: Chicago Park District

E. Blair Cliver and James DeLooy, 1999. Last Edition, 2000.

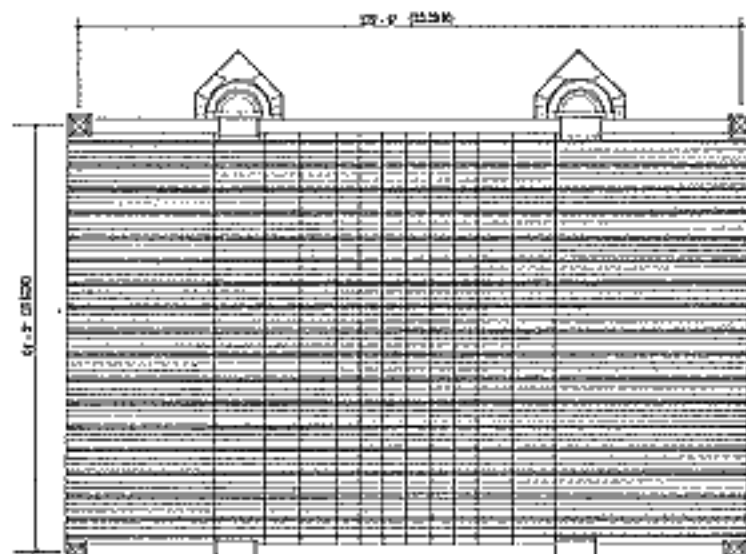
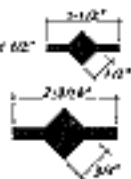
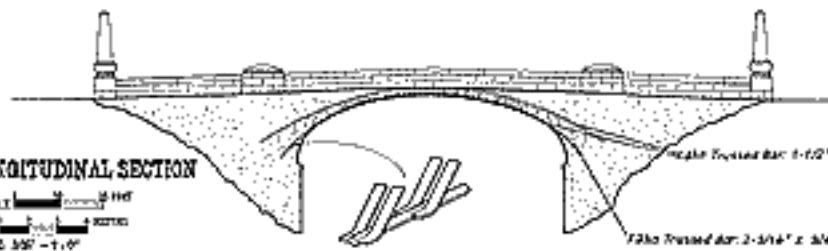
CHICAGO BRIDGES RECORDING PROJECT  
 HAER-1130-0100  
 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" at 40'  
 PHOTOGRAPHY: JAMES R. HARTLEY  
 ARCHITECTURE: JAMES R. HARTLEY  
 HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHY: TED LOWE  
 FIELD SUPERVISOR: JAMES R. HARTLEY  
 ARCHITECTS: SUSAN M. GAGAN, KAREN L. HAXLEY, JULIA M. KESTOW, DONAGHY KRASNER  
 HISTORIANS: JEFFREY A. HESSE, MATTHEW T. STREDON  
 PHOTOGRAPHY: TED LOWE  
 FIELD SUPERVISOR: JAMES R. HARTLEY  
 ARCHITECTURE: JAMES R. HARTLEY  
 HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHY: TED LOWE

Source: Trussed Concrete Steel Co., "South Bridge, Jackson Park, Chicago, Ill.," drawing, "Approved for construction" 1904; and "Detail Elevation, South Bridge, Jackson Park, Chicago, Ill.," drawing, n.d. Both: Chicago Park District plan files.

# REINFORCING

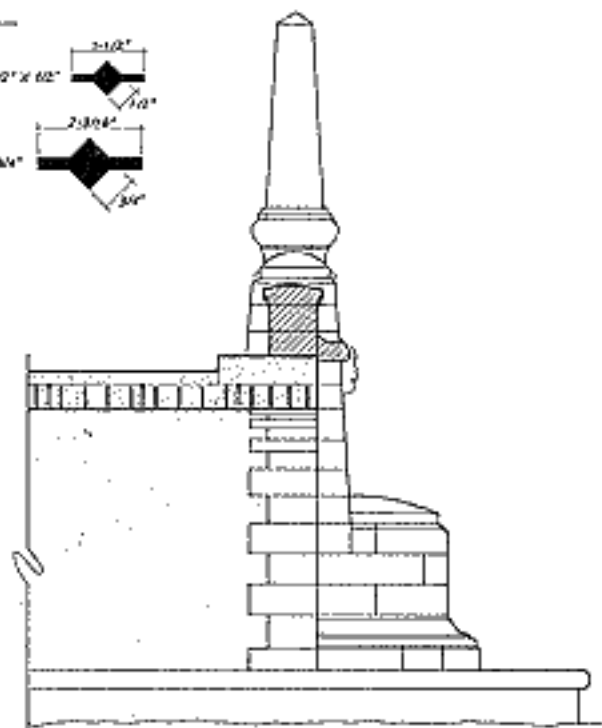
LONGITUDINAL SECTION

Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



DECK PLAN

Inset Source: Trussed Concrete-Steel Co.,  
"Plan System of Reinforced Concrete"  
(Chicago, Ill.)



TRANSVERSE SECTION

Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"