



## Historic Bridge Foundation Facebook Archives

### Focus Bridges: Tampa, Hillsborough River Bridges

The Hillsborough River, which flows through Tampa, Florida, has a collection of movable bridges, which is noted for its variety. Several different movable bridge types are showcased over a relatively short distance of waterway.

The Platt Street Bridge and the Cass Street Bridge, both Strauss under-deck counterweight double leaf bascule bridges, were built in 1926 and 1927 respectively. The same companies were involved with both bridges, which are very similar in design. For both bridges, Tibbets, Pleasant, Green, and Beckman, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, were the general contractor and Lakeside Bridge and Steel Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was the bascule span contractor. The bridges were designed by the Strauss Bascule Bridge Company of Chicago, Illinois, and feature the company's patented design that has a main trunnion and also a counterweight trunnion. A Strauss patented center span lock design is also featured on these bridges.

Located directly next to the Cass Street Bridge is a railroad bridge over the river. Currently owned by CSX, this is a single leaf rolling lift bascule bridge designed by the Scherzer Rolling Lift Bridge Company of Chicago, Illinois, and built in 1915. The bascule span is a Warren through truss, with deck plate girder approach spans.

The Columbus Drive Bridge, dating to 1926, is a rare and unusual bobtail swing bridge and it features an unusual stepped truss. It is one of the oldest and most unique surviving swing bridges in Florida. The bridge was rehabilitated and a clear glass second story was added to the design of the historic bridgetender house so as to provide a DOT required two-story bridgetender house, while also minimally changing the appearance of the original single story historic bridgetender house. The bridge was built by the Roberts Supply Company of Lima, Ohio, with Mount Vernon Bridge Company of Mount Vernon, Ohio, fabricating the steel. The bridge was designed by Norman S. Sprague of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The T. N. Henderson Bridge is a vertical lift bridge that was built in 1939. Originally built for two-way traffic, it now serves eastbound traffic with a modern bascule bridge carrying westbound traffic. The bridge was built by the Cone Brothers Construction Company of Tampa, Florida, to the design of J. H. Dowling.

The Kennedy Boulevard Bridge was built in 1913 and features a double leaf bascule designed by the Scherzer Rolling Lift Bridge Company of Chicago, Illinois. After a dispute with the Owego Bridge Company of Owego, New York who was leading the design of the overall bridge, the city dismissed Owego Bridge Company and hired Boller, Hodge, and Baird of New York, New York, to complete the bridge design, and the construction contract was awarded to Edwards Construction Company of Tampa, Florida. The National Register Nomination states that in 1995 the concrete arch approach spans were replaced with modern replicas matching the original arches. If this statement is accurate, they are among the finest replicas of historic concrete bridges ever seen, as the concrete arches retain the wooden plank impressions in the concrete, which are typically only found in historical concrete. To replicate this pattern in modern times, contractors would have to use formliners with timber plank shapes.

The Laurel Street Bridge was built in 1926 and is a rare example of a Strauss overhead counterweight bascule bridge in Florida, designed by the Strauss Bascule Bridge Company of Chicago. The design features a large counterweight supported by a frame over the roadway, with a counterweight trunnion and a main trunnion located slightly above the road level and visible to the traveling public. The bridge was built by U. G. I. Contracting Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



T. N. Henderson Bridge / Hillsborough Avenue Bridge



Cass Street Bridge



Columbus Drive Bridge





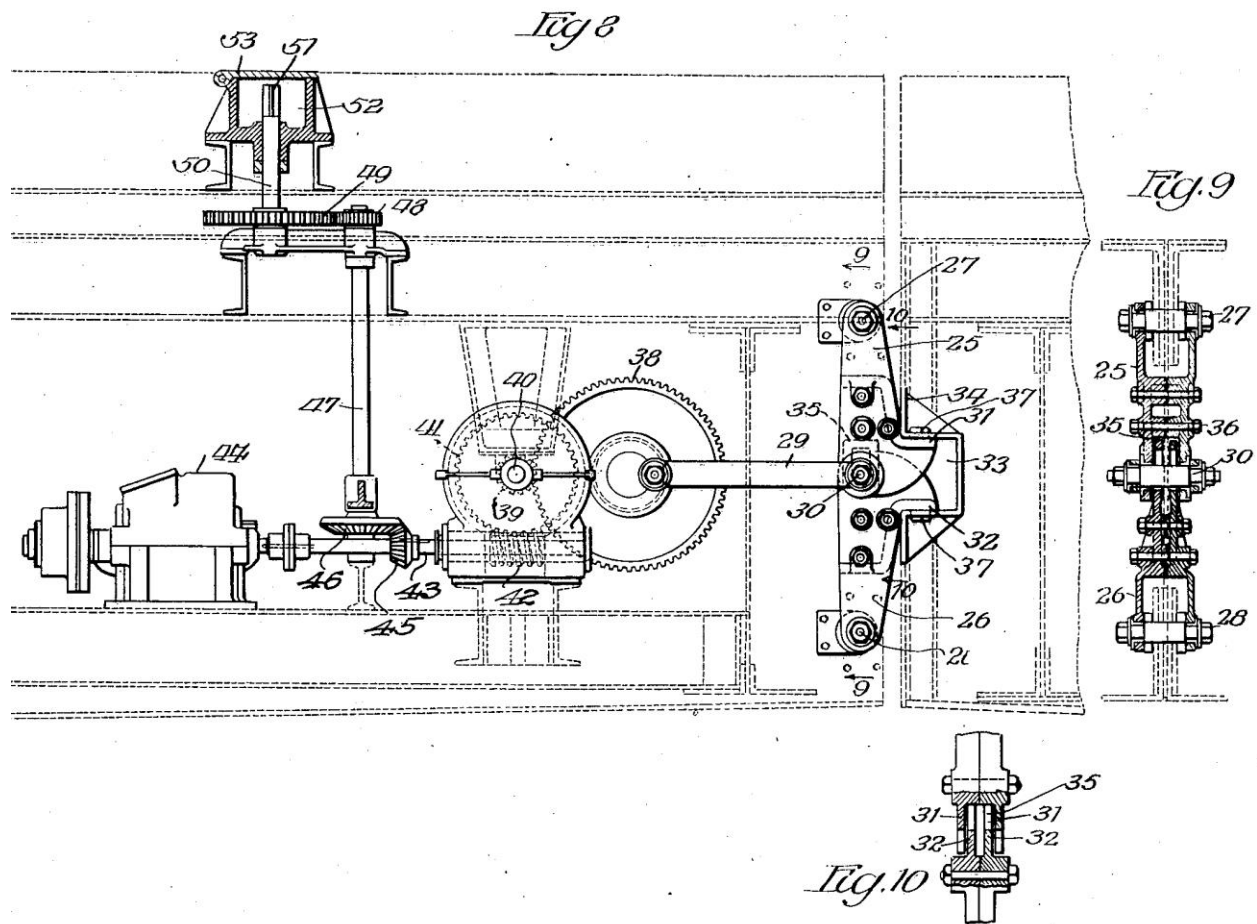
CSX Bridge



Kennedy Boulevard Bridge



Laurel Street Bridge



Strauss patented lock design seen on bridges designed by Strauss in Tampa.





Platt Street Bridge