

MW-AUS-091

STATEWIDE BRIDGE SURVEY INVENTORY FORM

MNDOT No.: 5368
Historic Name: Roosevelt Bridge (A,B)
Common Name: Roosevelt Bridge
Owner: Mower County
Year Built: 1934 (A)
Engineer: Alvin C. White, Mower County Highway Department (A,B)
Contractor/Mason: CWA Project No. 1726 (A,B)

Location

County: Mower
City: Austin
Legal Description: Township 102N, Range 18W, Section 2
Crossing: County Highway 29 (Fourth Street) over Cedar River

Technical Data

Stone Type: Pink and buff-colored limestone
Masonry Type: Rockfaced random range (spandrel walls); Rockfaced ashlar (piers, abutments, stringcourse, coping, ring stones)
No/Type of Arches: 2 identical segmental arches (limestonering stones with reinforced-concrete vault)
Length of Arch Barrel: 45'
Span Length: 80' (each arch)
Rise: 18' 6" (each arch)

Significance

Local x State x National _____
Historic Context: Minnesota Masonry-Arch Highway Bridges, 1875-1940
Integrity: Excellent ___ Good x Fair ___ Poor ___
No. of Resources within Property: 1 contributing structure(s)

Summary Description

Spanning Cedar River in a north-south direction on Fourth Street, the Roosevelt Bridge stands in the City of Austin, just southeast of the downtown commercial district. Designed by engineer Alvin C. White of the Mower County Highway Department, it was constructed in 1934 under the federally sponsored CWA program (A,B). The structure displays two, identical, segmental arches, springing from reinforced-concrete abutments and a coursed-ashlar limestone pier with a pointed cutwater on its upstream (west) elevation. The arches consist of a reinforced-concrete vault faced with rockfaced, limestone voussoirs ranging in height from 4 feet at the skewbacks to 2 feet 8 inches at the crown. Displaying joints about one-half inch wide, the voussoirs are well bonded into the vault and appear to form an actual bearing arch, rather than a decorative veneer.

The concrete spandrel walls are faced with rockfaced random-range limestone. Mirroring the horizontal line of the bridge's coping is an

Summary Description Con't.

ashlar stringcourse, which marks the level of the roadway. The stringcourse is interrupted at the crown of each arch by a slightly elongated keystone. On the north arch of the west elevation, the keystone bears the inscription "1934." The bridge's roadway is a two-lane bituminous surface flanked by concrete sidewalks and stone railings of rockfaced random-range limestone. At endpoints and mid point, the railings are adorned with large, rockfaced, ashlar blocks in an almost pylon-like arrangement. Appearing on both the roadway and river sides of the bridge, these blocks originally formed the base of ornamental street lamps, which have been removed (B).

Sources of Information

- A. Bridge plate on midpoint of railing, west side of roadway.
- B. Mower County Highway Department. Plans for Roosevelt Bridge, CWA Project 1726, unpublished, n.d. Mower County Highway Department.

Date of Survey: October 1987
Surveyor: Jeffrey A. Hess

