

leaves and lion's heads. These two-story buildings stand at each end of the bascule and on opposite sides of the roadway.

As Bayshore Boulevard became the main artery on the east side of south Tampa, the Platt Street Bridge served as the southernmost connection between the east and west banks of the Hillsborough River and as south Tampa's link with the central business district. As part of a major bridge building program initiated by the city in 1924, the Platt Street Bridge was intended to relieve the congestion on the Lafayette Street Bridge (now the Kennedy Boulevard Bridge), as well as to connect Bayshore Boulevard to downtown. Platt Street was named after O. H. Platt. Platt came to Tampa in the late 1880s and developed the Hyde Park area. He named his new development after his hometown of Hyde Park, Illinois.

The Platt Street Bridge was determined NRHP-eligible by the SHPO in 2005. The architectural embellishments signify both the affluence of the era and the importance given to the bridge's place at the confluence of Hillsborough Bay and the Hillsborough River. Thus, age, type, aesthetic qualities, landmark position, and association with the 1920s expansion of Tampa all contribute to the bridge's historical value. This bridge retains its historic integrity. It is significant under Criterion A in the area of Transportation and Community Planning and Development, primarily based on its association with the growth and development of Tampa during the early part of the 20th century. It also meets NRHP Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Engineering as an early example of a double-leaf trunnion bascule bridge designed by the Strauss Bascule Bridge Company, and for the aesthetics of the Mediterranean Revival style detailing.

Cass Street Bridge
Hillsborough County
FDOT #105502, 8HI6670

The 1927 Cass Street Bridge over the Hillsborough River was designed by the Strauss Bascule Bridge Company of Chicago and constructed by Tibbets, Pleasant, Green and Beckman, of Oklahoma City. It is near identical in all of its major architectural and historical characteristics to the Platt Street Bridge. It also features 10 reinforced concrete tee-beam approach spans and a double-leaf Strauss trunnion bascule main span, as well as the distinctive eight-point star railing and Mediterranean Revival style tender stations.

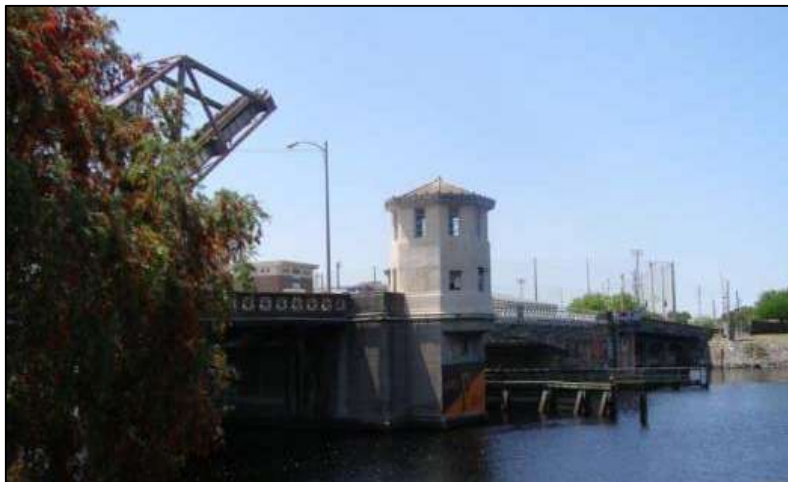


Photo 5-80. Cass Street Bridge, Hillsborough County (No. 105502)

Tampa's need to expand its road system across the Hillsborough River and into the western suburbs during the great spurt in growth of the 1920s led to the construction of the Cass Street and Platt Street Bridges, which were erected under the same contract that spanned 1925 and 1926. Although reconstructed in 1949, this bridge maintains its historic physical integrity. The Cass Street Bridge was determined NRHP-eligible by the SHPO in 2002. It is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Transportation and Community Planning and Development and under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Engineering as an early example of a bascule bridge with Mediterranean Revival detailing.