

SW 1st Street Bridge
Miami-Dade County
FDOT #870660, 8DA6222

This double-leaf steel bascule span bridge carries SW 1st Street Bridge over the Miami River in downtown Miami. After a successful \$2.15 million bond election in 1926, Miami established plans to construct five bridges over the Miami River to facilitate expansion to the south and west of downtown. As a navigable waterway often crowded with vessels hauling supplies into the city, the river required movable spans. For the bridge design and specifications, Miami selected the engineering firm of Harrington, Howard and Ash of Kansas City, nationally recognized for its work in planning drawbridges. The



Photo 5-75. SW 1st Street Bridge, Miami-Dade County (No. 870660)

The contract to build the foundation and approaches went to the W.S. Lockman Company of West Palm Beach. The Tampa Shipbuilding and Engineering Company supplied the steel bascule. The SW 1st Street Bridge was completed in 1929 at an approximate cost of \$300,000.

Thirteen steel stringer approach spans join a 150-foot, trunnion-type, double-leaf bascule main span, bringing the entire bridge to a total of 651 feet. Plain concrete abutments house the operating machinery, and a concrete balustrade runs along the approaches.

The SW 1st Street Bridge, along with the NW 17th Avenue Bridge, represents one of two remaining bascule bridges associated with the Harbor Bond Issue of 1926, a major bond initiative passed for the sole purpose of constructing bridges in the Miami area. It retains its historic physical integrity. This bridge was determined NRHP-eligible by the SHPO in 2007. It is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of Transportation and Community Planning and Development and under Criterion C in the area of Engineering as an early example of a bascule bridge designed by a notable engineering firm.