



Photo 5-54. Hialeah-Miami Springs Vertical Lift Bridge, Miami-Dade County (No. 874129)

Hialeah-Miami Springs Vertical Lift Bridge

Miami-Dade County

FDOT #874129, 8DA0099

The oldest of Florida's surviving vertical lift bridges, the Hialeah-Miami Springs Vertical Lift Bridge was designed and constructed by the Champion Bridge Company of Ohio in 1927. This bridge is also known as the Miami Canal Bridge and East 1st Avenue Bridge. It carries southbound Curtiss Parkway across the Miami River Canal and connects the cities of Miami Springs and Hialeah. The bridge

originally carried NW 36th Street over the Miami Canal, but it was moved to its current location in 1954.

The lift span features a Parker through truss, and the operating system incorporates span drive technology. As with most lift bridges, the towers at each end of the main span visually dominate the structure. The drive machinery originally stood in the towers, but it was removed at the time of relocation. The truss consists of I-beam chords, posts-with-ladder-type bracing, and riveted posts. Both the towers and truss consist of steel with a concrete substrate, and both maintain their original appearance. The wooden decking was replaced with asphalt in 1954, and in 1983, the bridge was reconstructed, during which time the 125,000-pound counterweights were removed. Reconstruction did not diminish the historic character of the bridge.

Despite its alterations, and although no longer operable, this bridge retains its historic physical integrity. It is the oldest example of vertical lift technology extant in Florida, and the only example of a Parker through truss lift span. The Hialeah-Miami Springs Vertical Lift Bridge was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP by the SHPO in 1995. It is significant under Criterion C in the area of Engineering; Criteria Consideration B for moved properties is applicable.¹²⁰ It also represents a rare example of an extant vertical lift bridge associated with the Champion Bridge Company.

¹²⁰ Anderson, Sherry, Hialeah-Miami Springs Vertical Lift Bridge, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, September 1997.