



**Photo 5-33. Indian Creek Bridge, Miami-Dade County (No. 876100)**

**Indian Creek Bridge**

Miami-Dade County

FDOT #876100, 8DA6439

The 1930 Indian Creek Bridge carries Surfside Boulevard over Indian Creek, providing access to the village of Indian Creek, an island community in Biscayne Bay. Designed by engineer Richard A. Belsham with assistance by construction architect Robert A. Taylor, both local men, the structure was built for the Indian Creek Golf Club. Construction was undertaken by the R. G. Lassiter Company of North Carolina, whose president, Robert G. Lassiter, owned a home in the Miami Beach area and may have been a club member.

A 13-span, 367-foot long reinforced concrete tee-beam bridge, the Indian Creek Bridge represents a common bridge type of its time. Designers lavished attention on the aesthetic qualities of the bridge, transforming a technologically standard bridge type into an impressive architectural structure. The outermost concrete beams are arched and the central span has been lengthened to suggest a stylized bascule. Extending up the face of the bridge are pilasters that connect the piers to the short, square columns that form a part of the ornate railings. Tapered pylons stand on top of each column, and alternating pylons function as light fixtures. The railings feature a Neoclassical Revival style motif, with urn-shaped balusters topped by a heavy concrete cap.

The Indian Creek Bridge is a historically important structure. It represents a superior example of decorative architectural treatment of a standard concrete bridge. In addition, its age, prominent place in the Indian Creek community, and construction by an important builder substantially enhance its value. The bridge retains its historic physical integrity. Therefore, it was determined NRHP-eligible during the 2000 survey under Criteria A and C in the areas of Community Planning and Development, as well as Architecture and Engineering, respectively.