

CHICAGO RIVER BASCULE BRIDGE, KINZIE STREET
Spanning North Branch Chicago River at Kinzie Street
Chicago
Cook County
Illinois

HAER No. IL-134

HAER
ILL
16-CHIG,
127-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

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CHICAGO RIVER BASCULE BRIDGE,
KINZIE STREET
HAER No. IL-134

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ILL
16-CHIG,
127

Location: Kinzie Street crossing North Branch of the
Chicago River
Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

Date of
Construction: 1909

Engineer/Designer: Alexander von Babo, City Engineer of Bridge
Design

Present Owner: City of Chicago.

Present Use: Highway Bridge.

Significance: This single-leaf bascule bridge represents
the transition between the early Chicago-type
bascule bridge, first employed in the West
Cortland Street Bridge (see HAER No. IL-138),
and subsequent improvements in the original
design executed by city engineers. (See
Donald N. Becker, "Development of the Chicago
Type Bascule Bridge," Transactions of the
American Society of Civil Engineers, v. 109
[1944], 1009-10.)

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons, 1987.

Project
Information: This photographic documentation project of
the bascule bridges crossing the Chicago
River was carried out by Jet Lowe, HAER staff
photographer, in 1987 and followed on the
heels of an inventory of historic engineering
and industrial sites in the Illinois and
Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor.
HAER historian Gray Fitzsimons was project
manager for this undertaking.

ADDENDUM TO:
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COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

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