

Northern Avenue Swing Bridge
Spanning Fort Point Channel at Northern Ave.
Boston
Suffolk County
Massachusetts

HAER MA-37

HAER
MASS,
13-BOST,
84-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER MA-37

NORTHERN AVENUE SWING BRIDGE

HAER
MASS,
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84-

Date: 1908

Location: Spanning Fort Point Channel at Northern Avenue.

Builder: City of Boston

Owner: City of Boston

Significance: The Northern Avenue Bridge, built in 1908, is one of only three surviving swing bridges built by the city of Boston in the late 19th and early 20th century. Today, still operated infrequently on its original compressed-air system, it is the only operable bridge in Boston of its type. The bridge is 80 feet in width, encompassing between four sets of pin connected trusses, two sidewalks, two roadways and a center lane reserved for a double-track freight railroad. The swing span is 283 feet in length. the "rim bearing swing span is carried by a 40 foot diameter drum, in turn supported by 56 steel wheels running on a track along the rim of the granite island pier.

Transmitted by: Dan Clement, 1984. Historical information written by Peter Stott.

ADDENDUM TO:
NORTHERN AVENUE SWING BRIDGE
Spanning Fort Point Channel at boundary between Boston & South
Boston
Boston
Suffolk County
Massachusetts

HAER MA-37
HAER MASS, 13-BOST, 84-

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001