

GENESEE ROAD BRIDGE
Genesee Road spanning the Grand Trunk
Western Railroad
Lapeer vicinity
Lapeer County
Michigan

HAER No. MI-89

HAER
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

GENESEE ROAD BRIDGE HAER No. MI-89

Location: Genesee Road spanning the Grand Trunk Western Railroad, Lapeer vicinity, Lapeer County, Michigan

UTM: 17.306445.4767660
Quad: Elba, Mich.

Date of Construction: 1928

Engineer: Michigan State Highway Department

Contractor: Unknown

Present Owner: Lapeer County Road Commission
Lapeer, MI

Significance: With a center span of 20.42 m (67') and two end spans 12.19 m (40') for total length of 44.81 m (147'), this is the sixth longest known surviving example of a concrete camelback bridge in the state.

Project Information: The bridge replacement became more critical after the 1991 bridge inspection indicated the 50 ton load limit. To mitigate the adverse effect, the State Historic Preservation Office stipulated documentation of the historic bridge. This documentation was undertaken to fulfill the first stipulation of the Memorandum of Agreement.

R.S. Scott Associates
405 River Street
Alpena, MI 49707

Summary Description of Bridge and Setting

The Genesee Road Bridge is located near the city of Lapeer, in Lapeer County. Built in 1928, the bridge is a three span camel back concrete structure. The two end spans are 12.19 m (40') and the center span is 20.42 m (67') for a total bridge length of 44.81 m (147'). The over all width of the bridge is 8.31 m (27'-3") with a 8.31 m (21'-0") clear roadway width. The existing Genesee Road Bridge crosses over the Grand Trunk Western Railroad tracks at a 45° skew. It is presently posted for 50 tons. The material used in the bridge is reinforced concrete.

Genesee Road east and west of the bridge is constructed of bituminous material on a 30.48 m (100') right-of-way. The total roadway width is 11.28 m (37') with two 3.35 (11') bituminous lanes and 1.83 m (6') foot gravel shoulders. The present average daily traffic is 1887 vehicles, and the future expected traffic is 3600 vehicles in the year 2010.

The information came from the Lapeer County Road Commission's bridge survey, and inspection reports. Plans of the original design may be found at the Lapeer County Road Commission Office. Two plan sheets (sheet 1 of 12 and sheet 7 of 12) are shown in photographic section MI-89-23 and MI-89-24 respectively.

The bridge is significant to the local residents commuting from their homes near Lapeer. Genesee Road is used by school buses, trucks, and cars primarily traveling in and out of the City of Lapeer. Crossroads east and west of the site are Golf Road and Lake Nepessing Roads respectively. Both of these roads are used primarily for access to Lake Nepessing and Lapeer Country Club.

The existing Genesee Road bridge was the first bridge built at this location. The bridge was designed with state of the art techniques and materials. The designers probably used concrete because labor was cheap and concrete was less expensive than steel.

Bibliography

Lapeer County Road Commission, Genesee Road over the Grand Trunk Western Railroad Survey Notes and Bridge Inspections, 1991.