

**Guide to the
Harrington & Cortelyou, Inc.
Mississippi River Bridge Papers
circa 1926-1930**

18.0 linear feet.

2002.091



Abstract

Correspondence, engineering journals, reports, plans, financial and legal documents, charts, and photographs relating to the construction of the traffic bridge spanning the Mississippi River between Cape Girardeau, [Mo], and East Cape Girardeau, [Il], constructed by the engineering firm of Harrington, Howard and Ash (now Harrington and Cortelyou, Inc.,) of Kansas City, [Mo].

By William Baehr, 2003

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Descriptive Overview

Provenance: Gift of David J. Glastetter, Design Engineer, Harrington & Cortelyou, Inc., Kansas City, Missouri, May 2002.

Citation: Harrington & Cortelyou, Inc., Mississippi River Bridge Papers, Special Collections and Archives, Southeast Missouri State University.

Restriction: None

Historical Note

The Cape Girardeau, Missouri traffic bridge was dedicated in September of 1928. The chief engineer was Percival V. Pennybacker of Harrington, Howard & Ash, Kansas City. The construction of the bridge began in 1926 and was constructed for \$1,600,000. The main span is 1342 feet long, and the eight lengths of steel extend 4,744 feet. \$400,000 was raised locally to fund the bridge. The elaborate dedication ceremony in 1928 designated the bridge as the "Gateway to the Ozarks" and included a parade and beauty queens. In 1928, it was the only traffic bridge over the Mississippi River between St. Louis and Memphis. The Cape Girardeau Bridge Company owned the bridge until the Great Depression when it went into receivership and was sold to private owners. The long-range plan for the bridge after 1949 was for it to become "toll free" and the bridge became a part of the Missouri and Illinois highway departments during 1957.

The Bill Emerson Memorial Bridge opened in December of 2003, and the original Cape Girardeau traffic bridge was scheduled for demolition in the spring of 2004.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of photographs, daily engineer journals, original hand-drawn plans for the bridge and toll house, alternate rejected designs, progress charts, Gantt charts, correspondence, financial and legal papers.

Series Descriptions:

Series I: Correspondence

Primarily from the Harrington, Howard & Ash main office in Kansas City from 1926-1929, with Cape Girardeau Bridge Company, the contractors, suppliers, Corps of Engineers and Compton Investment Company regarding the proposal, design, erection and completion of the Cape Girardeau Bridge.

Subseries 1: General Correspondence

Subseries 2: Field Office Correspondence

Series II: Reports

Subseries 1: U.G.I. Contracting Company

Reports generated by the U.G.I. Contracting Company between 1926 and 1929.

Subseries 2: Robert W. Hunt Company

Reports generated by the between 1926 and 1928, pertaining to structural features, progress, and tests.

Series III: Reports and Financial Records

Consists of early memos, statistical reports, receipts, balance sheets, correspondence, construction logs, and steel testing reports, 1926-1928; as well as Reports generated by the Robert W. Hunt Company between 1926 and 1928, pertaining to structural features, progress, and tests.

Series IV: Photographs

Consists primarily of black and white 8" x 10" photographs with some smaller format images. Kassel Studios of Cape Girardeau made most of the photographs between 1927-1928.

Series V: Logs, Reports and Journals

Composition books containing calculations, journal of instrument work, concrete data, equipment journals, weather log, survey reports, pile driving records, and other engineering notes, 1927-1928.

Series VI: Engineer Shop Drawings

The "scheme of erection" plan, 1927, and various design plans for the bridge.

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Folder 3	Correspondence, Includes estimated earnings of bridge toll booth.	1926 Jul
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Folder 21	Correspondence Re. negotiations with Frisco Railway.	1927 Jan 7-12
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Folder 24	Correspondence Re. "Bridge Jubilee" day in Cape Girardeau; P. V. Pennybacker first mentioned as Resident Engineer.	1927 Feb 1-5
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Folder 34	FOC Re. borrow pits, Illinois approach to bridge, and includes levee photographs.	1928 Aug 1-10
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Series II Reports

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Folder 3	Daily Force Reports. Includes letters to Mr. Pennybacker listing daily workforces at Hollady-Bolz Sand Company,	1927 Sep 3-10

Folder 4	Daily Force Reports	1927 Sep 11-Oct 13
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Series III Reports and Financial Records

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Folder 28	Unused Invoice and American Bridge Company Erecting	1928 Mar 5-Apr 19

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Folder 36	Equipment lists and attached notes	1927 Feb 26 and Mar 15
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Folder 43	Construction of cofferdams and caissons. 2.75" x 4.5", b/w, (4)	1927 Aug
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Folder 45	Erection of 1342 ft. span. 2.75" x 4.5", b/w	1928 Feb 29
Folder 46	Bridge approach and steel structure erection. 2.75" x 4.5", b/w, (3)	1928 May 24
Folder 47	Approaches, rising river stage, completion of steel structure erection. 2.75" x 4.5", b/w (6)	1928 Jun
Folder 48	Derricks, rip-rap placement, damage caused by lightening, roadway expansion castings. 2.75" x 4.5", b/w, (6),	1928
Folder 49	Pier construction. 3.5" x 5", b/w, (2)	circa 1928
Folder 50	Setting piles for piers, American Bridge Company office, pier construction, floating steel caisson, some undated. 2.75" x 4.5", b/w, (10)	1927 Mar 19-Sep 20
Folder 51	Bridge construction progress. b/w, (35)	1927 and 1928
Folder 52	Scenes indicating where approach to Cape Girardeau Bridge would be located. Shows Mississippi River front, train tracks and bluff. 8" x 10", b/w, (6),	circa 1926
Folder 53	Houses on Cape Girardeau Bluff (Osterloh House and others), U. G. I Office, workmen, Meyer Albert Grocery Company, riverfront flooding, Bahn Brothers Hardware Company, Townsend Furniture Company, Cape Dairy, and bridge construction progress. 8" x 10",	1927

b/w, (14),

Series IV Photographs

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Folder 54	Bridge construction, "Paul Thompson" steamboat, St. Vincent's College, Cape riverfront. 8" x 10", b/w, (18)	1928
Folder 55	Office shots, caisson construction, and pier preparation. 8" x 10", b/w, (5),	1927 Feb and Mar
Folder 56	Pier construction and the compressor barge. 8" x 10", b/w, (8)	1927 Apr
Folder 57	West approach construction. 8" x 10", b/w, (5)	1927 May and Jun
Folder 58	West approach construction. 8" x 10", b/w, (4),	1927 Jul
Folder 59	Approach, caisson, and pier construction. 8" x 10", b/w, (8),	1927 Aug
Folder 60	Cofferdams and piers. 8" x 10", b/w, (4)	1927 Sep
Folder 61	Storage yards, cofferdams, and the beginning of span construction. 8" x 10", b/w, (7)	1927 Oct
Folder 62	Pier and span construction. 8" x 10", b/w, (5),	1927 Nov and Dec
Folder 63	Span construction over an ice clogged river. 8" x 10", b/w, (3)	1928 Jan
Folder 64	Span and east approach construction and the river clogged with ice. 8" x 10", b/w, (6)	1928 Feb, Mar
Folder 65	Completed bridge, pier construction, and other bridges. 8" x 10" and 3" x 5", b/w, (7)	undated

Series V Logs, Reports and Journals

Box 1669

Folder 1	B.W. Composition Book. Miscellaneous figuring book. H.W.B. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	undated
Folder 2	The Rexall Store Composition Book. Miscellaneous figuring book #2. P.V.P. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	1927 Feb 27
Folder 3	The Rexall Store Composition Book. Miscellaneous figuring book #3. P.V.P. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	1927 Mar 6
Folder 4	B.W. Composition Book. Miscellaneous figuring book #4. "Earthwork East + West Approach." 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	undated
Folder 5	B.W. Composition Book. Miscellaneous figuring book #5. H.W.B. & P.V.P. Base Line. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	undated
Folder 6	B.W. Composition Book. Miscellaneous figuring book #6. Base Line Measurements. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	undated
Folder 7	B.W. Composition Book. Miscellaneous figuring book #7. West Approach Viaduct. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	undated
Folder 8	B.W. Composition Book. Figure Book #1. J.A. Bergman. North Base Line. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	undated
Folder 9	B.W. Composition Book. Pier #3. P.V.P. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	undated
Folder 10	B.W. Composition Book. Pier #9. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	undated
Folder 11	B.W. Composition Book. East Approach Embankment. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	undated
Folder 12	B.W. Composition Book. Diary of instrument work 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	undated
Folder 13	7.5"x5"x.3" "Office File. Level & Cross-Section Notes,"	undated
Folder 14	B.W. Composition Book. Pier #4. 29.5"x7.25"x.25"	undated
Folder 15	B.W. Composition Book. Final Pay Quantities West Approach 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	undated
Folder 16	B.W. Composition Book. Pier #2. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	undated

Folder 17	B.W. Composition Book. Piers #5, 6, 7, 8. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	undated
Series V Box 1669		
Folder 18	B.W. Composition Book. Records a variety of data 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	undated
Folder 19	B.W. Composition Book. Final Quantities Concrete Slab. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	undated
Folder 20	B.W. Composition Book. No. 092. Label on front "Rivet Weight. Span #3," 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	1928 Apr-Jun
Folder 21	B.W. Composition Book. Ledger/Journal recording pouring of concrete, No. 086. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	1928 Jul and Aug
Folder 22	Ledger. 11.75"x9.5"x.5" Complete records for triangulation system for Cape Girardeau Bridge. P.V.P. W/Laid in pages.	undated
Folder 23	Ledger. 11.75"x9.5"x.5" H.W. Buzzell. Info on Jobs on Weiland; Cape Girardeau; Wilmington, DE; Memphis, TN; Dayton, OH; Sandusky Bridges,	1926Nov 26 -1927May 26
Folder 24	The Rexall Store Composition Book. "Odds & Ends P.V.P." 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	Mar 1927
Folder 25	Monitor School Series Composition Book. Ledger of end posts, bottom chords, main diagonals, subdiagonals, posts, hangers, subposts, nominals, top laterals, bottom laterals, portals, floor beams & at. struts, showing mark, weight, dates shipped & erected + # of pcs. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	1928
Folder 26	Monitor School Series Composition Book. Ledger of stringers, braces or sway frames, roadway beams, handrails & miscellaneous items, indicating date shipped, weight, mark & # of pieces. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	1927-1928
Folder 27	The Rexall Store Composition Book. "Daily River Stage & Weather Records. W/ Remarks about Progress of Contractors. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	1927 Feb-Jul
Folder 28	Monitor School Series Composition Book. Investigation of stresses in west half of B42' truss for removal of all falsework when east half is complete from (a) 2 panels (b) 4 panels (c) 6 panels (d) 8 panels east of Pier #2. 29.5"x7.25"x.25,"	1928 Jan 24
Folder 29	Monitor School Series Composition Book. W/info on top chord points, "M" points, bottom chord points, top laterals, bottom laterals, bottom chord splices, sways, portals, stringers & roadway beams. showing date riveted. 9.5"x7.25"x.25,"	undated
Folder 30	"Ledger." Weather log noting what work was accomplished. 9"x5.75"x.3,"	1928 Jan 1-1928 Sep 29
Folder 31	"Record." Work journal 9.5"x6.25"x.5,"	1927 Jan 29-Aug 18
Folder 32	"Record." "Concrete MTL." 9.5"x6.25"x.5,"	1927 Feb 12-1928 Apr 14
Folder 33	"Record." Metal Pars Log and Price Log. 9.5"x6.25"x.5,"	undated
Folder 34	"Harrington Howard & Ash Survey Cape Girardeau Bridge McGeeham. Book 'A'." Survey of houses and other buildings prior to construction. 6.5"x4"x.3,"	1926.Sep
Folder 35	Cofferdam Soundings Record Book, 6.5"x4"x.3"	1927 Sep 30
Folder 36	"Book #1, Triangulation System. Readings of Angles No. Missouri. Base Line Measuring." 6.5"x4"x.3,"	undated
Folder 37	"Book #1, Triangulation System. Readings of Angles No.	undated

Folder 38	Missouri. Base Line Measuring." Office Copy. 6.5"x4"x.3,"	undated
Series V	"Book #2, Miscellaneous Notes." 6.5"x4"x.3,"	
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Folder 40	"Book #3, Miscellaneous Level Notes." 6.5"x4"x.3,"	undated
Folder 41	"Book #3, Miscellaneous Level Notes." Office Copy. 6.5"x4"x.3,"	undated
Folder 42	"Book #4, Measurements of North and South Illinois Base Lines." 6.5"x4"x.3,"	undated
Folder 43	"Book #4, Measurements of North and South Illinois Base Lines." Office Copy. 6.5"x4"x.3,"	undated
Folder 44	"Book #5, Piledriving Record." 6.5"x4"x.3,"	undated
Folder 45	"Book #5, Piledriving Record." Office Copy. 6.5"x4"x.3,"	undated
Folder 46	"Book #6, Miscellaneous Level Notes." 6.5"x4"x.3,"	undated
Folder 47	"Book #6, Miscellaneous Level Notes." Office Copy. 6.5"x4"x.3,"	undated
Series VI	Engineer Shop Drawings	
Box 1667		
Folder 41	Scheme of Erection,	1927 May 7
Folder 42	Various design plans for the Cape Girardeau Bridge,	circa 1926
MMC 2.2		
Folder 12	Shop Drawings from the folder "Specifications & Contracts," 24" x 36", (3)	1926 Nov
Folder 13	Engineer shop drawings of the bridge related to the superstructure 17" x 31.5" / 20" x 38", (6)	circa 1926-1928
Folder 14	Engineer shop drawings of the bridge not related to the superstructure 24" x 36", (11)	circa 1926-1928
Folder 15	Engineer shop drawings of devices used on the Cape Girardeau Bridge 24" x 36", (4)	circa 1926-1928
Folder 16	Engineer shop drawings of other projects 24" x 35.5", (8)	circa 1920's
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Folder 01	U. G. I. Contracting Company Drawings of caissons and piers, 15" x 15" / 34" x 24", (8)	Circa 1927
Folder 02	Contract drawings of bridge segments for the Cape Girardeau Bridge Company by Harrington, Howard & Ash. 24" x 36", (36)	1929
Folder 03	Contract drawing blueprints of bridge segments for the Cape Girardeau Bridge Company by Harrington, Howard & Ash 24" x 36", (36)	1927
Folder 04	Miscellaneous drawings (5) and a map of the Cape Girardeau region, 15" x 21" / 20" x 20" / 23" x 36"	Circa 1926
Folder 05	Voided drawings from the Harrington, Howard & Ash contract 8.5" x 11" / 24" x 26", (7)	Circa 1926
Above Rows F & G		
Folder 1	Oversized Bridge Drawings, 24" x 62", (12)	circa 1926-1928

Glossary of Engineering Terms

Borrow Pits – An area of land, usually with close proximity to the project site, in which soil can be obtained for use as embankment fill on the project.

Caissons – A rectangular or cylindrical chamber for keeping water or soft ground from flowing into an excavation.

Chord Points (Top & Bottom) – 1. Points along a generally horizontal member of a truss. Usually, the extreme top and bottom horizontal members of a truss. 2. That portion of a truss the main function of which is to resist bending on the span. Bottom Chord – The lower member of a truss usually resisting tension. Top Chord – The upper members of a truss usually resisting compression.

Chord Splices – The union of two separate chord members that occurs independently from the junction of the chord with a diagonal or lateral. Usually only occurs when chord member is exceptionally long and could not be shipped in one piece.

Cofferdams – A temporary dam-like structure constructed around an excavation to exclude water. A wall-like barrier composed of driven piling constructed to surround the area to be occupied by a structure and permit dewatering of the enclosure so that the excavation may be produced in open air.

End Posts – the end compression member of a truss, either vertical or inclined in position and extending from the top chord to the bottom chord.

Falsework – a temporary wooden or metal framework built to support the weight of a structure during the period of its construction and until it becomes self supporting.

Laterals (Top & Bottom) – Cross bracing that joins each side of the truss, intended to resist lateral movement and deformation.

"M" Points – Points in a subdivided truss at the intersection of a main diagonal and a subdiagonal. Named for the M shape that the members create.

Main Diagonals – the primary sloping structural members of a truss or bracing system. The main diagonals extend from the top chord to the bottom chord.

Nominals – Truss members other than main load carrying members used mainly for bracing other members.

Portals – the clear unobstructed space of a through truss bridge forming the entrance to the structure.

Rip-Rap – Gabions, stones, blocks of concrete, or other protective covering material of like nature deposited upon river and stream beds and banks, lake, tidal or other shores to prevent erosion and scour by water flow, wave or other movement.

Stringers – a longitudinal (running parallel to the centerline of the road) beam supporting the bridge deck.

Subdiagonals – the secondary sloping structural members of a truss or bracing system. The subdiagonals extend from the top or bottom chord to a main diagonal.

Substructure – The abutments, piers, or other constructions built to support the span of a bridge superstructure.

Superstructure – The entire portion of a bridge structure which primarily receives and supports traffic loads and in turn transfers these loads to the bridge substructure.

Sways – diagonal bracing located at the top of a through truss, perpendicular to the truss itself and usually in a vertical plane, to resist horizontal forces.