Level K

CI7-0030

Consultant's Report

MHPR No. RA-VHC-017

Original 🖂 or Addendum No. ___

Historic District Name:

Minnesota Historic Property Record Background Data Form

1. Name of Property	«					
Historic name: Bridge No. 6580	SHPO inventory no.: RA-VHC-017					
Current name: Rice Street Bridge						
2. Location						
Street & number, intersection of feature carried and feature cro Rice Street (County State-Aid Highway 49) over Interstate 694	ossed, or general prope	rty location description:				
City or township: City of Vadnais Heights						
County: Ramsey	State: MN	Zip code: 55126				
Legal description: T 30 R 22W Section 31 NW SW						
UTM Reference: Zone 15E Easting 491632.1875	Northing 4987970.5	NAD 83				
3. Description						
Prestressed concrete stringer/multi-beam or girder						
4. National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) status						
NRHP, individually listed \Box or eligible \boxtimes : Date of designation	tion: 2011					
NRHP, in listed or eligible historic district: Date of designation:						
National Historic Landmark: Date of designation:						
5. Previous Designation or Recordation						
Local designation program: Date of designation:	Name of p	rogram:				
Name and location of repository:						
Other (e.g. HABS/HAER/HALS): Date of designation:	Name of p	rogram:				
Name and location of repository:						

MHPR No. RA-VHC-017

6. Preparer's Information							
Federal or State agency: Minnesota Department of Transportation	Date MHPR prepared: April 20, 2017						
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A. Narrative

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD Bridge 6580 – Rice Street Bridge RA-VHC-017

I. Description

A. Bridge 6580 location and setting

The Rice Street Bridge (Bridge 6580) carries Rice Street (County State-Aid Highway [CSAH] 49) on a north-south axis over a segment of Interstate (I-) 694 that is aligned northwest-southeast. It is located in the city of Vadnais Heights, north of Saint Paul in Ramsey County, Minnesota. Rice Street demarcates the city line between Vadnais Heights to the east and Shoreview to the west. The bridge setting is a lightly populated suburban residential area of the larger Twin Cities metropolitan region. Immediately adjacent to the bridge along Rice Street are several small automobile-oriented retail businesses, such as a gas station and a convenience store.

B. Bridge description

Bridge 6580 is a four-span, prestressed-concrete girder with a total structure length of approximately 239 feet, including two center 72-foot spans and two 45-foot side spans. Within the overall deck width of 63 feet, 3 inches, the bridge carries a 56-foot, undivided, four-lane, two-way roadway and a 2-foot-6-inch sidewalk on each side. The bridge has a skew of approximately 39 degrees (left side forward). The vertical clearance beneath the spans is approximately 15 feet. The horizontal roadway clearance beneath each of the main spans is 54 feet and originally included two double lanes divided by a median, later changed to two lanes northbound and three lanes southbound.

The center spans (spans 2 and 3) are each comprised of 15 precast, prestressed (pretensioned), Isection, concrete girders that are 3 feet, 6 inches deep; 71 feet, 3 inches long; spaced at 4 feet, 2 inches on centers. The side spans (spans 1 and 4) are comprised of eight precast, prestressed (pretensioned), I-section, concrete girders that are 3 feet, 6 inches deep; 44 feet, 11-3/16 inches long; spaced at 8 feet, 4 inches on centers. Each girder has concrete end blocks (shear blocks) on both ends. The girders rest on expansion bearings at the abutments and center (median) pier 2, and fixed bearing assemblies at the two side piers (piers 1 and 3). Concrete diaphragms are located between the beams on all four spans. The deck is constructed of cast-in-place concrete, as are the sidewalks.

The substructure is comprised of two reinforced-concrete abutments on pilings and three reinforcedconcrete piers on pilings. Each pier has four square columns separated by angular flat-arched openings. The outside columns of each pier have a pair of vertical flutes on the side facing traffic, with the recess of the fluting deepening at the top of the column to create a shadow. The U-form wingwalls at the abutments are aligned with the skew of the superstructure. Each wingwall is a stepped, three-panel, concrete pilaster, measuring approximately 15 feet tall for the tallest panel, which is adjacent to the superstructure. This pilaster element also serves to terminate the railings with a modern architectural stylistic element. The wingwalls are supported on pilings separate from the abutments. Precast concrete-block slope protection is located between each abutment and side pier (piers 1 and 3). The railings, which are original, extend the length of the four spans, terminating at the wingwalls, and are comprised of two horizontal aluminum pipes supported by curved cast-aluminum posts. The aluminum railing is mounted on a low reinforced-concrete post-and-rail system on the concrete curb. Each aluminum rail post was bolted directly above a concrete post. The metal rail is 1 foot, 9 inches high and the concrete base rail is 1 foot, 6 inches high for a total rail height of 3 feet, 3 inches above the combination sidewalk-curb. A bronze state bridge plate is mounted on the inside of the northwest railing, but is completely obscured by a metal guardrail added at an unknown date.

Bridge 6580 has experienced few alterations and reflects its historic appearance. In 1982 the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) completed a repair and overlay project that involved no structural changes beyond the deck overlay, and repairs to expansion joints and slope paving.¹ In 2015-2016 concrete pier protection was added around the columns of the three piers. In addition, the arch openings in the three piers were in-filled with concrete.²

Bridge 6580 is scheduled for removal and replacement in 2017.

II. History and Context

The following historic context provides information on the construction of Bridge 6580 within the framework of the development the Interstate Highway System and prestressed concrete nationally and in Minnesota during the post-World War II (postwar) period, including discussion of key players in the use of prestressed concrete in Minnesota and on Bridge 6580.

A. Bridge history

The Minnesota Highway Department (MHD) constructed the Rice Street Bridge as part of the State Trunk Highway No. 10 (later I-694) Interstate Highway project just north of Saint Paul. The MHD anticipated the expansion of the highway at the time the bridge was constructed: MHD Bridge Engineer A.E. LaBonte noted that "in order to provide a necessary opening for a possible future additional lane in each direction we have allowed 18 feet from the right edge of the pavement to the side pier instead of the usual 10 feet." Improvements to Rice Street were also expected. At the request of the Bureau of Public Roads (BPR), the bridge roadway had been widened from 52 feet to 56 feet "to provide for a future island." The BPR made the request "since the approach roadways will probably be constructed as a four lane divided facility at some time in the future."³

¹ Minnesota Department of Transportation, "Construction Plan for Bridge Repair and Overlay - Bridge No. 6580," Bridge plans (Saint Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Department of Highways, March 31, 1982), available at the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

² Minnesota Department of Transportation, "Construction Plan for Pier Protection - Bridge No. 6580," Bridge plans (Saint Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Department of Highways, August 27, 2015), available at the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

³ The information in this paragraph, including the quoted material, is incorporated from Hess, Roise, and Company, *Advisory Council on Historic Preservations' Program Comment Review of Minnesota Bridges, 1955-1970* (Prepared for Minnesota Department of Transportation, June 2014), 34.

The MHD notified the BPR in April 1956 that it would be seeking funds to construct the Rice Street bridge.⁴ E.L. Gardner, Chief Structural Engineer for Ellerbe & Company, prepared the preliminary design study. Gardner, who signed the known bridge plans from Ellerbe & Company, always identified himself as E.L., although his full name was Elza Lloyd Gardner. Other than his position with Ellerbe, little is known about Gardner, who was born on May 1, 1904, in Iowa and died in Saint Paul on February 7, 1983.⁵

Gardner's preliminary design study, submitted on July 26, 1956, looked at two designs: a prestressed, post-tensioned, concrete girder span and a continuous, composite, steel-beam span. It recommended the prestressed-concrete girder option as "more practicable," stating it would be less costly than the alternative, particularly because of "the current critical situation regarding the supply of structural steel." According to Gardner's analysis, the prestressed-concrete option would cost an estimated \$169,860 and the continuous steel-beam option would cost an estimated \$176,927.⁶

A final design and estimate was submitted by Gardner almost one year later, on May 14, 1957. The design included prestressed, post-tensioned, concrete girder spans, following the preliminary design study, which also specified post-tensioned beams. The cost estimate had grown to \$223,778, with about half the increase in the post-tensioned beams, which jumped from about \$39,000 to \$62,000. The reason for the increase was not explained.⁷

Ellerbe & Company's overall plans for Bridge 6580, again signed by Gardner as the engineer of record, were submitted to MHD and approved by the MHD Chief Engineer on July 23, 1957. The approved plans included pretensioned concrete girders instead of the previously submitted post-tensioned girders, with no explanation for the change.⁸

⁶ Ellerbe & Company, *Preliminary Design and Recommendations: Bridge No.* 6580 *Trunk Highway 10 and Rice Street* (Prepared for the Minnesota Department of Highways, July 26, 1956), 1–3, available in the Bridge 6580 files, MnDOT Bridge Project Records, St. Paul, Minnesota.

⁷ Ellerbe & Company, *Final Design and Estimate: Bridge No.* 6580 *Rice St./T.H. No.* 10 (Prepared for the Minnesota Department of Highways, May 14, 1957), 1, available in the Bridge 6580 files, MnDOT Bridge Project Records, St. Paul, Minnesota.

⁸ E.L. Gardner, Ellerbe & Co., "Construction Plan for Bridge No. 6580, TH No. 393, North of St. Paul," Bridge plans (Saint Paul, Minn.: Minnesota Department of Highways, July 23, 1957), available at the Minnesota Department of Transportation; see notes regarding pretensioned girders on sheet 3, "Prestressed Concrete Girder Details."

⁴ Hess, Roise, and Company, ACHP Program Comment Review, 34.

⁵ E.L. Gardner, "The Lafayette Bridge," *Modern Steel Construction* 9, no. 1 (First Quarter 1969): 3–5; "Elza Lloyd Gardner: Find A Grave Memorial 683468," *Find A Grave*, n.d.; United States of America, Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940* (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1940), M–T0627–00875–00128–Sheet No. 10A.

On August 2, 1957, BPR district engineer A.L. Overbee sent a letter to MHD Commissioner L.P. Zimmerman authorizing "construction of a prestressed girder bridge, type X781, 56 feet in width."⁹ The MHD issued a request for proposal for construction on July 23, 1957, with bids due on August 23. The Sheehy Construction Company was awarded the contract for Bridge 6580 with a bid of \$217,437.76.¹⁰

In 1957 MnDOT awarded the contract for the design and fabrication of the prestressed girders to the Elk River Concrete Products Company of Elk River, Minnesota, a division of Cretex Companies. In that same year the firm constructed its first two prestressed casting beds under the technical guidance of prestressed concrete pioneer Charles Zollman.¹¹ About the same time, December 1957 and January 1958, Charles C. Zollman and Associates, Consulting Engineers of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania (just outside Philadelphia), prepared the calculations for Bridge 6580's prestressed beams. Zollman's firm was a subcontractor to Elk River Concrete Products Company (see below for more on Zollman and Elk River Concrete Products).¹² In a letter dated November 15, A.H. Bailey of Elk River notified F.C. Fredrickson at the MHD that the company would be fabricating the girders for Bridge 6580. He noted that "The coarse aggregate will be gotten from Barton's pit at Osseo, the sand from Big Lake Sand and Gravel at Big Lake, the cement from U.S. Steel Supply, and the sole plates and pipe sleeves will be fabricated at Bros Incorporated."¹³ The modern aluminum railings were supplied by Wheeler Lumber Bridge and Supply Company of Saint Louis Park, Minnesota.¹⁴

Ellerbe's 1956 plan had shown 36-inch-deep I-section beams, 12 inches wide at the top and 18 inches at the base. MHD's final plans showed 42-inch-deep girders. A drawing dated October 29, 1957, compared a 42-inch girder modeled after the Ellerbe girder from MHD's plans with a proposed alternative of a slightly different geometry.¹⁵ There were other changes in addition to the beam depth. Elk River submitted a series of computations by Zollman and Associates dated January 9, 1958, "to suggest a new strand pattern in order to use draped strands in beams G 1, G2 [for the 45-foot spans] and to drap [sic] the strands in beams G3, G4, G5 [for the 72-foot spans] in three points instead of two as suggested in the

¹² Charles C. Zollman and Associates, Consulting Engineers, *Calculations for Bridge 6580 Prestressed Girders* (Newtown Square, Pa., 1958), available in the Bridge 6580 files, Minnesota Department of Transportation.

¹³ A.H. Bailey, Elk River Concrete Products Co., "To the Minnesota State Highway Department Regarding Fabrication of Prestressed Girders for Bridge 6580," Letter, November 15, 1957, available in the Bridge 6580 files, Minnesota Department of Transportation.

¹⁴ G. Duane Bell, Wheeler Lumber Bridge and Supply Co., "To the Minnesota State Highway Department Regarding Fabrication of Bridge Railing for Bridge 6580," Letter, September 27, 1957, available in the Bridge 6580 files, Minnesota Department of Transportation.

¹⁵ Hess, Roise, and Company, ACHP Program Comment Review, 35.

⁹ A.L. Overbee, Division Engineer, "To L.P. Zimmerman, Commissioner of Highways Regarding SP No. 6285-07," Letter, (August 2, 1957), Bridge 6580 files, Minnesota Department of Transportation.

¹⁰ Hess, Roise, and Company, ACHP Program Comment Review, 35.

¹¹ Don Stolz et al., *Cretex Times* (Edina, Minn.: Beaver's Pond Press, 1997), 103–105; Jim Nystrom, Dennis Voight, and Roy Barthel, Elk River Concrete (Cretex) Early Years; Mead & Hunt Interview by Robert M. Frame and Darrell Berry, at Elk River, Minnesota, September 17, 2009, Mead & Hunt, Minneapolis Office.

original design of 12-2-57." The "purpose of these computations to redesign 3'-6" beam section standard to a modified AASHO II beam section—thereby saving Cretex Companies cost of formwork for a non-standard section which will no longer be used."¹⁶

In February 4, 1958, letter to A.H. Bailey at Elk River Concrete Products, MHD Bridge Engineer A.E. LaBonte stated: "We have reviewed the design computations of the pretensioned girder for the above bridge [6580] as made by your consulting engineers, Charles C. Zollman and Associates, and have found them to be satisfactory." LaBonte stipulated that Elk River had to prepare shop drawings for the girders, which would need to be approved by MHD prior to any fabrication.¹⁷

Elk River responded to this request promptly, submitting shop drawings on February 18, 1958. On February 26, C.F. Bertossi, MHD's engineer of bridge plans, returned the marked-up drawings, with a letter providing additional comments. One comment was the need to "change either the pipe and bolt spacing in the sole plate unit or the cable spacing." The plans called for spacing of 2-5/8 inches. He remarked: "It might be simpler to obtain new sole plate units since the sole plates with the 3" dimension will be used for all future bridges." Elk River subsequently met with Bertossi and decided that the "height of the 1" pipe [would be] changed from 3" to 2-5/8"." This was reflected on shop drawings that Elk River sent to MHD on March 7. In addition, "instead of welding the 1" pipe onto the 3/8" x 8" bar, two holes the size of the O.D. of the 1" pipe will be punched in the bar and the pipe inserted through the holes and held in this position until the concrete has set." The contractor added: "We would appreciate your advising us as soon as possible if you find anything radically wrong with this shop drawing as we are pressed for time and have instructed the fabricator to start his fabrication on the assumption that this drawing will be approved."¹⁸

That optimism was not completely warranted. In a letter to Elk River on March 11, Bertossi required "the 3" vertical dimension to the centerline of the pipe in the sole plate" rather than 2-5/8". Bertossi did, however, concede on another issue: "We . . . understand that Mr. W. C. Nitardy has permitted the use of unwelded pipes for the transverse anchor bolts in the sole plates to facilitate placement of the pretensioning cables...This deviation from plan details of the sole plate will be permitted for this bridge project only on a performance observation basis."¹⁹ This exception was not put to the test in the end, as Elk River reported in January 1959, well after the work was done: "The sole plates with the removable sleeve that we were going to try out on this work were delayed in the fabricator's shop so that we did not

¹⁶ Charles C. Zollman and Associates, Consulting Engineers, *Calculations for Bridge 6580 Prestressed Girders* (Newtown Square, Pa., 1958), sheets 1 & 26 of 30, Bridge 6580 files, Minnesota Department of Transportation.

¹⁷ A.E. LaBonte, Bridge Engineer, "To Elk River Concrete Products Co. Regarding Bridge 6580 Design Computations," Letter, (February 4, 1958), Bridge 6580 files, Minnesota Department of Transportation.

¹⁸ The information in this paragraph, including the quoted material, is incorporated from Hess, Roise, and Company, *ACHP Program Comment Review*, 36–37.

¹⁹ C.F. Bertossi, MHD Engineer of Bridge Plans, "To Elk River Concrete Products Co. Regarding Bridge No. 6580, Pretensioned Girder Details," Letter, (March 11, 1958), Bridge 6580 files, Minnesota Department of Transportation.

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receive them until after we had finished pouring this bridge. We had the sole plates as originally shown on the plan drawing in stock so these were used on the bridge."²⁰ Bartossi's letter of March 11, 1958, concluded with the statement that "the print being returned is stamped for approval as noted and we request that after the original tracing has been revised you will send us a cloth reproduction to keep for our permanent files." Thus the final plan approval was granted.²¹

Sheehy Construction Company of Saint Paul, which had been incorporated only three years earlier in 1955, won the contract for Bridge 6580's construction, which was completed in late 1958 (see Figures 1-4). The MHD signed the Final Inspection Report on November 29, 1958.²² The I-694 segment crossed by Bridge 6580 opened in 1961 (see Figures 3-4).²³



Figure 1. Perspective view of the east side of Bridge 6580, looking northwest, in 1958. In this view, the bridge has been constructed but the Interstate Highway beneath is not yet complete. Image available at State of Minnesota, Minnesota Highway Department, Bridge Division files, Gale Family Library, Minnesota State Archives, Minnesota History Center, Saint Paul, Minn.

²² "Sheehy Construction Co. Incorporation Record," *Minnesota Secretary of State*, January 21, 1955, https://mblsportal.sos.state.mn.us/Business/SearchDetails?filingGuid=d8ee2fd0-b2d4-e011-a886-001ec94ffe7f; *Bridge No. 6580*, Final Bridge Inspection Report (Minnesota Highway Department, November 29, 1958), Bridge 6580 files, Minnesota Department of Transportation.

²³ "Interstate 694 Minnesota: History," *Interstate Guide*, n.d., www.interstate-guide.com/i-694_mn.html; "I-694 MN - History," *Roadnow*, 2017, m.roadnow.com/i694mn/Minnesota-Route-Description.html.

²⁰ A.H. Bailey, Elk River Concrete Products Co., "To Walter J. Grabner, Minnesota Department of Highways," Letter, (January 29, 1959), Bridge 6580 files, Minnesota Department of Transportation.

²¹ C.F. Bertossi, MHD Engineer of Bridge Plans, "To Elk River Concrete Products Co. Regarding Bridge No. 6580, Pretensioned Girder Details"; A.H. Bailey, Elk River Concrete Products Co., "To Walter J. Grabner, Minnesota Department of Highways."

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Figure 2. Perspective view of east side of Bridge 6580, looking southwest, in 1958. In this view, the bridge has been constructed but the Interstate highway beneath is not yet complete. Image available at State of Minnesota, Minnesota Highway Department, Bridge Division files, Gale Family Library, Minnesota State Archives, Minnesota History Center, Saint Paul, Minn.



Figure 3. Perspective view of west side of Bridge 6580, looking northeast, on November 28, 1961. By this time, I-694 has been opened. Image available at State of Minnesota, Minnesota Highway Department, Bridge Division files, Gale Family Library, Minnesota State Archives, Minnesota History Center, Saint Paul, Minn.



Figure 4. Deck view of Bridge 6580, looking northeast, on November 28, 1961. Image available at State of Minnesota, Minnesota Highway Department, Bridge Division files, Gale Family Library, Minnesota State Archives, Minnesota History Center, Saint Paul, Minn.

B. Area of significance and historic context

Bridge 6580 is significant under National Register of Historic Places (National Register) *Criterion C* in the area of Engineering at the state level; it is exempt from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Program Comment for Common Post-1945 Concrete and Steel Bridges under Section IV(C). The bridge is one of the earliest uses of prestressed concrete in the state of Minnesota. Prestressed concrete represents a significant advance in construction materials and was first used by the MHD in 1957. Bridge 6580 was constructed the following year. Additionally, the history of the bridge's construction distinguishes it as a pioneering example of prestressed-concrete girder bridges in Minnesota. Extensive consultation between the MHD and Elk River Concrete Company during the bridge's design and girder fabrication indicates the process was in the early phases of development for the bridge type.²⁴ The bridge's significance is demonstrated through the use of prestressed, pretensioned girders.

(1) Development of prestressed concrete nationally

Prestressed concrete first achieved widespread use as a bridge construction material in the middle of the twentieth century and subsequently was used for a large number of bridges. Prestressed concrete was developed in the late 1920s in Europe as a method for overcoming concrete's natural weakness in

²⁴ Mead & Hunt, Inc., "Inventory form for Bridge 6580" (prepared for the Minnesota Department of Transportation, July 2013, available within Mead & Hunt, Inc., *Evaluation Report and Historic Context Minnesota Bridges, 1955-1970 (including Trunk Highway Evaluations)* [prepared for the Minnesota Department of Transportation, July 2013]; Hess, Roise, and Company, *ACHP Program Comment Review*, 37.

tension. It was considered innovative because it allowed for longer spans and elements than reinforced concrete, which was the preferred concrete bridge construction material at the time.²⁵

Prestressed concrete is best defined in A Context for Common Bridge Types:26

In prestressed concrete bridges, the tensile forces caused by the application of loads are reduced in the main structural members by inducing internal compressive forces by means of high tensile strength wires, cables or (occasionally) bars. The compressive forces may be applied during fabrication of the member by stretching the steel reinforcement prior to casting and curing of the concrete. After the concrete has cured, the tension on the steel is released, thus transferring the load to the concrete. The concrete is in direct contact with the steel so that bonding of the two materials can occur. When external loads (traffic and the weight of the deck and other bridge components) are applied to the member, tensile forces that are thus created are counterbalanced by the internal compressive forces induced by the pre-tensioning of the steel. This method of pre-stressing is called pre-tensioning.

Another method of pre-stressing, called post-tensioning, involves placing sleeves or ducts in the concrete member during fabrication, into which steel reinforcement is placed after curing of the concrete. The reinforcement is then stretched (stressed) by jacking, and locked in place by anchor plates or other locking devices. If bonding is desired, grout may be injected into the sleeves. In some cases, however, a protective covering is applied to the steel to de-bond it from the concrete in order to control cracking in end sections. Occasionally, though usually in more modern bridges that have not yet achieved "historic age," a combination of pre-tensioning and post-tensioning is used. But, whatever the method employed, when compressive forces are properly calculated and proper fabrication methodology is followed, the prestressed bridge members will not develop stress cracks.

Unlike reinforced concrete, prestressed beams require specialized tensioning or casting beds for their manufacture, meaning they cannot be produced just anywhere or by anyone, or at the bridge site itself. The design and construction of the beds were technological achievements in their own right in the early years of prestressed concrete usage, thus limiting manufacture of prestressed concrete to those precasters who made the investment in beds and could provide transportation of the beams to the bridge site. Precasting of prestressed concrete units also allowed for cost savings, as large quantities of beams could be mass produced at plants and then delivered to construction sites, allowing for reuse of forms.²⁷ Historian Carl Condit describes the importance of precast beams: "The precasting and prestressing of girders for concrete bridges have brought their construction as close to the methods of mass production as the building arts have yet come."²⁸ The ability to quickly produce large volumes of prestressed-concrete bridge components allowed for fabrication and use on a large scale.

²⁵ Robert M. Frame III and Richard E. Mitchell, "Constructing Suburbia: The Hidden Role of Prestressed Concrete," *Minnesota History* 64, no. 4 (Winter 2014): 159.

²⁶ Parsons Brinckerhoff and Engineering and Industrial Heritage, *A Context for Common Bridge Types*, NCHRP 25-25, Task 15 (prepared for the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, October 2005), 3-101.

 ²⁷ Tung Y. Lin, *Design of Prestressed Concrete Structures* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1955), 31; Tung
 Y. Lin and Felix Kulka, "Fifty-Year Advancement in Concrete Bridge Construction," *Journal of the Construction Division, Proceedings of the American Society of Civil Engineers* 101, no. CO3 (September 1975): 494-495.

²⁸ Carl W. Condit, *American Building: Materials and Techniques from the First Colonial Settlements to the Present, 2d ed.* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982), 257.

With the introduction of precasting concrete units in large quantities, it was quickly considered an ideal bridge construction material. The ability to use prestressed concrete to span longer lengths without adding weight also contributed to its popularity. Between 1951, when the first prestressed-concrete bridge was constructed, and the mid-1950s, when the material was widely used in bridge building, information was readily disseminated on prestressed concrete to a wide audience. The Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI), established in in 1954 in Tampa, Florida, became influential in the formulation of code provisions for prestressed concrete. The PCI, along with other organizations such as the American Concrete Institute (ACI), promoted the use and benefits of prestressed concrete in bridge construction. These groups disseminated information about prestressed concrete to bridge engineers and contractors through conferences, symposiums, and publications, such as the *PCI Journal* and *ACI Journal*. Articles written by bridge designers, fabricators, manufacturers, and university professors touted the advantages of this material, and the Bureau of Public Road's (BPR's) 1954 *Criteria for Prestressed Concrete Bridges* provided codified standards.²⁹

The first prestressed-concrete bridge constructed in the United States was the Walnut Lane Memorial Bridge in Philadelphia; it was replaced by a new prestressed-concrete bridge in 1989.³⁰ The bridge was designed by a Belgian engineer Gustave Magnel, and opened to traffic in 1951.³¹ Magnel began working on the theory of prestressed concrete in the 1920s at the University of Ghent in Belgium and promoted the idea during a lecture series around North American universities in 1946. His book *Prestressed Concrete*, published in 1948, was significant as one of the first books on prestressed concrete in English.³² Magnel was ultimately responsible for carrying the knowledge of Europe's prestressed concrete methods to the United States.

The Walnut Lane Memorial Bridge was a three-span, prestressed-concrete bridge supported by 13 concrete girders in each span. The girders were prestressed by using four post-tensioned wire cables embedded in the concrete.³³ The main span was 160 feet, long even by today's standards. Following the successful completion of the Walnut Lane Memorial Bridge, other states began exploring prestressed concrete as a building material for bridges. By 1955, when construction began on the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway outside New Orleans, Louisiana, engineers were comfortable enough with prestressed concrete construction to build the 24-mile-long bridge. At the time of construction, it was the longest precast, prestressed-concrete bridge in the world.³⁴

²⁹ Charles C. Zollman, "The End of the 'Beginnings," in *Reflections on the Beginnings of Prestressed Concrete in America* (Chicago: Prestressed Concrete Institute, 1981), 310.

³⁰ George D. Nasser, "The Legacy of the Walnut Lane Memorial Bridge," *Structure Magazine* (October 2008), 31.

³¹ Joseph H. Wierbicki, P.E., A.G. Lichtenstein & Associates, Inc., "Walnut Lane Bridge, HAER No. PA-125," Historic American Engineering Record, Northeast Field Area, National Park Service, March 1988, http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/item/pa1791/.

³² Charles C. Zollman, "Magnel's Impact on the Advent of Prestressed Concrete," *Journal of Prestressed Concrete* 23, no. 3 (May – June 1978): 29-31.

³³ Nasser, 27.

³⁴ Nasser, 30.

(2) Minnesota's prestressed-concrete bridges

With the implementation of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, Interstate and highway construction projects flourished in Minnesota. The need for Interstate bridges prompted the construction of specialized facilities to manufacture prestressed-concrete beams, an undertaking that required substantial investment. Prestressed concrete quickly emerged as an important material for Interstate and non-Interstate bridges. It was used for 57 percent of Minnesota's Interstate bridges between 1956 and 1970.³⁵

Prestressed concrete was first used by the MHD in 1957, a year after the implementation of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956. Within the first three years of prestressed concrete usage on the Trunk Highway System in Minnesota, 70 bridges were built and contracts were let for 14 more.³⁶ In only 13 years the MHD constructed more than 450 prestressed-concrete structures on both Interstate and non-Interstate routes. Ellerbe & Company's Chief Structural Engineer, E.L. Gardner, designed the first Stateowned, prestressed-concrete bridge in 1957. Bridge 9053 (extant) was constructed as part of the I-35W project and carries 94th Street over the Interstate in the Twin Cities suburb of Bloomington. Prestressed concrete was selected over steel as the construction material because it was the less expensive option, a result of using precast, prestressed concrete produced in large quantities. In addition, steel deliveries would not meet the expedited timing conditions for the project.³⁷

Use of prestressed concrete in MHD bridges significantly increased after its first use in Bridge 9053. In 1958 the Walter Butler Company recommended using prestressed concrete for four bridges along a portion of the I-94 corridor through Saint Paul. The company cited prestressed concrete's economy over steel. Their designs followed the standards codified in the 1954 *Criteria for Prestressed Concrete Bridges*, published by the BPR.³⁸ At about this time, the MHD retained Ellerbe & Company to prepare final plans for a portion of I-35E, which included bridges crossing the corridor as well as a section of I-694 that was near the I-35E work. Early segments completed by Ellerbe & Company using prestressed concrete include the Arlington Avenue Bridge (Bridge 6579, nonextant), the Wheelock Parkway Bridge (Bridge 6511, built in 1959, extant), the Larpenteur Avenue Bridge (Bridge 6514, built in 1960, extant), and the Rice Street Bridge (Bridge 6580).³⁹

³⁵ Minnesota Department of Transportation, *Bridge Inventory Database*, 2009.

³⁶ Mead & Hunt, Inc., *Evaluation Report and Historic Context Minnesota Bridges, 1955-1970 (including Trunk Highway Evaluations)* (prepared for the Minnesota Department of Transportation, July 2013), 87–88.

³⁷ Ellerbe & Company, "Final Design and Estimate: Bridge No. 9053, 94th Street/T.H. 65 for State of Minnesota Department of Highways," 1957, available in the Bridge 9053 Records, Minnesota Department of Transportation Central Files, Saint Paul, Minn.

³⁸ Walter Butler Company, "Preliminary Design Report for S.P. 1982-08, 6280-23 & 6280-25, Interstate Route 35E," Saint Paul, Minn., 1959, available at the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Saint Paul, Minn.

³⁹ Report of Commissioner of Public Works of the City of Saint Paul, for 1956-1957-1958, (Saint Paul, Minn.: [City of Saint Paul], 1958), 11; "Progress," *Saint Paul Dispatch*, November 2, 1960, n.p., available at the Minnesota Highway Department, newspaper clipping files, Minnesota State Archives, Minnesota Historical Society, Saint Paul, Minn.; "I-694 MN - History."

Interestingly, Ellerbe & Company did not identify its 1950s-1960s bridge design work in its promotional material, despite being pioneers in prestressed-concrete bridge design, including the state's first prestressed-concrete bridge and the Lafayette Bridge, a major Mississippi River crossing in Saint Paul. The one book published on the company history neglects to mention the firm's engineering or transportation projects of any kind during the 1950s and 1960s, providing instead chapters on its well-known architectural specialties of health-care facilities and educational and commercial buildings. The only mention of the firm's bridge work is included in its 1963 federal form titled "Architect-Engineer Experience Data," which lists all of the firm's work to date. On the form, Ellerbe & Company identified \$18 million in ongoing bridge construction on the Interstate Highway System, along with another \$1.5 million in state highway bridge construction. The dollar amount of Interstate Highway and bridge work ranked among their largest efforts listed, including work back to 1942 that involved major buildings for the military and the Mayo Clinic.⁴⁰

The MHD and Minnesota's prestressed concrete industry collaborated over the use and development of prestressed-concrete bridge members. Area manufacturers, such as the Elk River Concrete Products Company, were active in urging the MHD to permit innovations in prestressed concrete fabrication, such as alterations to concrete mixtures, in order to improve concrete quality. They also promoted the incorporation of accelerants to cure concrete and speed the manufacturing time, and adopted methods for increasing the strength of the prestressed-concrete beams. The collaboration between the MHD and manufacturers was a mutually beneficial relationship for both the state and privately owned companies.⁴¹

Elk River Concrete Products, fabricator of the beams used on Bridge 6580, was uniquely equipped to produce prestressed-concrete bridge members during this early period of use and development. Founded in 1917 by L.D. Bailey and D.W. Longfellow, Elk River Concrete was the first of several companies in the Midwest that would comprise Cretex Companies, Inc. in the 1920s. By the 1950s Elk River Concrete had eight plant locations across Minnesota, including a concrete pipe plant and bridge fabrication department. Elk River Concrete's bridge design department was under the leadership of L.D. Bailey's son, Albert, with engineer Charles C. Zollman providing technical guidance.⁴²

Zollman, born 1916 in the Netherlands, studied under Gustave Magnel at the University of Ghent before immigrating to the United States in 1941. Following World War II the two men renewed their correspondence, out of which grew a professional relationship. During Magnel's North American lecture series, Zollman acted as his representative, making arrangements for the tour. After the tour was complete, Zollman worked with Magnel to translate chapters of what would become *Prestressed*

⁴⁰ Gardner, "The Lafayette Bridge," 3–5; Thomas Farr Ellerbe and Bonnie J Hayskar, *The Ellerbe Tradition: Seventy Years of Architecture & Engineering: From the Papers of Thomas Farr Ellerbe* (Minneapolis, Minn.: Ellerbe, Inc., 1980), 77–112; Ellerbe & Company, Saint Paul, *Ellerbe and Company, Architects, Engineers, Planners, Saint Paul, Rochester, Minnesota* (Saint Paul, Minn.: N.p., 1963).

⁴¹ Mead & Hunt, Inc., 88.

⁴² Stolz et al., *Cretex Times*, 42, 51, 104.

Concrete into English.⁴³ It was Zollman who proposed Magnel's design for the Walnut Lane Memorial Bridge to the City of Philadelphia. Zollman's employer, the Preload Corporation located in Garden City, New York, was also chosen to fabricate the prestressed-concrete beams, and Zollman acted as a supervisor for the design.⁴⁴ After completion of the Walnut Lane Memorial Bridge, Zollman emerged as one of the America's engineering experts on the design, fabrication, and installation of prestressed-concrete beams.

Albert Bailey had studied the prestressing process, but needed further advice on the techniques and installation for the new, and expensive, casting and tensioning beds. In the mid-1950s he reached out to Zollman, as well as Zollman's coworker Morris Schupack, to act as a consultants for designing and constructing the new prestressed concrete precasting area in the plant at Elk River. Later, Zollman would remark:

The wise potential investor, the intelligent producer is the one who is willing to assume that he doesn't know anything about it [prestressed concrete fabrication] – most likely an understatement – but who then surrounds himself with competent men and lets them carry the ball.⁴⁵

Zollman applied his expertise garnered while working on the Walnut Lane Memorial Bridge and developed a complex pattern for building casting beds, just one facet of the significant infrastructure required to manufacture, transport, and erect prestressed-concrete beam bridges.⁴⁶ In 1957, with Zollman's guidance, Elk River Concrete built two casting beds at its Elk River location and began producing prestressed-concrete members, primarily for MHD Interstate bridges, through the 1960s.⁴⁷ At the same time, Zollman acted as a design consultant for Elk River Concrete on MHD bridge projects and developed alternate designs for stringers in order to reduce construction costs of casting for non-standardized, prestressed bridge sections.⁴⁸ With their combined knowledge and skill, Bailey and Zollman "gave Cretex its leading position in bridge construction using prestressed products."⁴⁹

(3) Interstate development in Minnesota and the Twin Cities metropolitan area

The rise in widespread prestressed-concrete bridge construction coincided with the end of World War II and the initiative to develop a national Interstate Highway System. In April 1944 President Franklin D. Roosevelt received the final report of the National Interregional Highway Committee, a task force

⁴³ Zollman, "Magnel's Impact on the Advent of Prestressed Concrete," 28, 31.

⁴⁶ Jim Nystrom, interview by Mead & Hunt, Inc., Oakdale, Minn., January 28, 2008. Nystrom was an employee at Cretex, which is still in operation.

⁴⁷ Nystrom, Voight, and Barthel, Elk River Concrete (Cretex) Early Years; Mead & Hunt Interview by Robert M. Frame and Darrell Berry, at Elk River, Minnesota.

⁴⁸ Charles C. Zollman Consultants, "Alternate Stringer Design, 1958," Minnesota State Highway Department, available in the Bridge 6579 Records, Minnesota Department of Transportation Central Files, Saint Paul, Minn.

⁴⁹ Stolz et al., Cretex Times, 104.

⁴⁴ Nasser, 27.

⁴⁵ Charles C. Zollman, "Planning and Design of Installations of Today's Pretensioned Requirements," *Journal of Prestressed Concrete* 2 (March 1958), 74.

convened in 1941 to make plans for a federal highway construction program that could be implemented after the war to offset anticipated unemployment. The committee's report, entitled *Interregional Highways*, called for the construction of 39,000 miles of Interstate express highways, including 5,000 miles constructed in and around major cities. The roads were to follow new alignments, with right-of-way selected cooperatively by federal, state, and local governments. To ensure a smooth flow of traffic, the new Interstates were to have limited access and grade separations, or bridges, to eliminate intersections. *Interregional Highways* formed the basis for the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1944, which called for the creation of a 40,000-mile Interstate Highway System that would "connect principal metropolitan areas...industrial centers... serve the national defense, and connect... with routes of continental importance in the Dominion of Canada and the Republic of Mexico."⁵⁰

When World War II came to an end in August 1945, it seemed as though road and bridge building would immediately emerge as a domestic priority. The need for improvements was clear. In Minnesota and other states, road construction slowed during the war. Shortages of materials and funding had caused even routine maintenance to be deferred. Meanwhile, major highways had been used heavily by an ever-expanding fleet of large trucks that transported raw materials and equipment for the war effort. As trucks increased in size and number, it became clear that many of the state's existing bridges were no longer sufficient to carry the heavy new loads.⁵¹

As a result of the need for new roadways and bridges, government leaders began to chart a course for nationwide road-building projects. The Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1944 provided funds for planning and surveys, and facilitated cooperation between federal, state, and local governments. However, it was not until the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, with the increased funding it provided, that rapid development of the Interstate Highway System occurred. After passage of the 1956 Act, the MHD announced plans to proceed with a \$66 million road and bridge construction program, and construction started in earnest. The undertaking was described by *Minnesota Highways* as "a record shattering" effort representing the "biggest twelve-month's contract" in the state's history. Among other things, the program enabled the MHD to improve 530 miles of Minnesota Trunk Highways and construct 41 new bridges, including 22 grade separations and 19 stream crossings on this system.⁵² Many of these efforts upgraded major Trunk Highway routes to expressway standards. Both expressways and freeways were designed to provide fast and safe mass transportation within and between metropolitan areas.

Within Minnesota, in addition to updates to the Trunk Highway System, three Interstate routes were proposed to pass through the state, covering some 900 miles and corresponding closely to the eventual

⁵⁰ Patricia Cavanaugh, *Politics and Freeways: Building the Twin Cities Interstate System* (Minneapolis, Minn.: University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies/Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 2006), 7; Bruce E. Seely, *Building the American Highway System: Engineers as Policy Makers* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1987), 177-182.

⁵¹ Automotive Safety Foundation, "Highway Transportation in Minnesota: An Engineering Analysis," Saint Paul, Minn., September 1954, 78; Michael T. Morris, "Before the Interstate: The Minnesota Highway Department from 1921-1956" (M.A., University of Wisconsin, River Falls, 1990), 96-97.

⁵² "6-Month Program Covers 530 Miles," *Minnesota Highways* 6, no. 4 (February 1957), 1.

alignments of I-35, I-90, and I-94.⁵³ I-35 was designed as a north-south route entering the state from lowa and terminating in Duluth. I-90 was designed as an east-west route across the southern portion of the state from the border with La Crosse, Wisconsin, to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. I-94 was planned as an east-west route entering the state at Hudson, Wisconsin, and running northwest through Saint Paul and Minneapolis to Fargo, North Dakota.

The Twin Cities metropolitan freeway system eventually included five Interstate routes: I-35, including I-35W through Minneapolis and I-35E through Saint Paul; and I-94, including its outer beltline comprised of I-494 encircling the southern and western portions of the greater metro area, and I-694 encircling the northern and eastern portions of the metro area. The construction of I-694 was authorized in 1956. One of the earliest sections of I-694 to be completed was a short section from Rice Street east to I-35E; this section included Bridge 6580 and was opened to traffic in 1961.⁵⁴

⁵³ District Nine Resource Section - Minnesota Highway Department, "History of the Interstate System at the National Level," 1975, 19.

⁵⁴ "Interstate 694 Minnesota: History"; "I-694 MN – History."

B. Photographs

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MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

MHPR No. RA-VHC-017

BRIDGE 6580 UTM Coordinates 491632m E/ 4987970m N/Zone 15 T Carrying Rice Street (Trunk Highway 49) over Interstate 694 Saint Paul Ramsey County Minnesota

Large format photographs by Daniel R. Pratt, February 2017.

RA-VHC-017-01	VIEW OF BRIDGE 6580 IN CONTEXT, LOOKING NORTHWEST.
RA-VHC-017-02	VIEW OF BRIDGE 6580 EAST ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTHWEST.
RA-VHC-017-03	VIEW OF BRIDGE 6580 WEST ELEVATION, LOOKING EAST.
RA-VHC-017-04	VIEW OF BRIDGE 6580 STEPPED CONCRETE END POST AT NORTHEAST CORNER, LOOKING WEST-SOUTHWEST.
RA-VHC-017-05	VIEW OF BRIDGE 6580 SOUTH ABUTMENT, LOOKING SOUTHEAST.
RA-VHC-017-06	VIEW OF BRIDGE 6580 RAILING, END POST, DECK GIRDER, BEARING, AND ABUTMENT AT NORTHEAST CORNER, LOOKING NORTHWEST.
RA-VHC-017-07	VIEW OF BRIDGE 6580 DECK GIRDER BEARING AT NORTH ABUTMENT, LOOKING NORTHEAST.
RA-VHC-017-08	VIEW OF BRIDGE 6580 GIRDER AND BEAM DECK SYSTEM FROM SOUTH ABUTMENT, LOOKING NORTH.
RA-VHC-017-09	VIEW OF BRIDGE 6580 SOUTH ABUTMENT, PIER, AND DECK SYSTEM, LOOKING SOUTH FROM CENTER PIER.
RA-VHC-017-10	VIEW OF BRIDGE 6580 GIRDER AND BEAM DECK SYSTEM FROM NORTH ABUTMENT, LOOKING SOUTH
RA-VHC-017-11	VIEW OF BRIDGE 6580 DECK SYSTEM FROM CENTER OF ROADWAY, LOOKING UP AND SOUTHWEST.
RA-VHC-017-12	VIEW OF BRIDGE 6580 NORTH APPROACH ON RICE STREET, LOOKING SOUTH-SOUTHEAST.
RA-VHC-017-13	VIEW OF BRIDGE 6580 WEST RAILING AND DECK SURFACE AT NORTH END OF BRIDGE, LOOKING SOUTHEAST.

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- RA-VHC-017-14 VIEW OF BRIDGE 6580 PIER, DECK GIRDER, AND RAILING ON SOUTH END OF WEST ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTHEAST.
- RA-VHC-017-15 VIEW OF BRIDGE 6580 DECK, CURB PROFILE, AND RAILING NEAR SOUTH END OF BRIDGE, LOOKING NORTH.































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D. Drawings and Plan Recordation







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