

HABS/HAER INVENTORY

1059/1055/1050

See "HABS/HAER Inventory Guidelines" before filling out the card.

1. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE
 Tucson Underpasses:
 Fourth Avenue, Sixth Avenue and Stone Avenue

2. LOCATION
 Fourth Avenue, Sixth Avenue and Stone Avenue under SP Railroad
 Tucson; S20-12-12 T14S R13E
 Pima County, Arizona

3. DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION
 1914-16; 1930; 1935-36

4. USE (ORIGINAL/CURRENT)
 city street underpass / city street underpass

5. RATING
 NRHP eligible: local significance

ADOT: 8453
 1580
 0169

6. CONDITION
 fair / good

owner: City of Tucson, Arizona (Fourth); Arizona Department of Trans. (Sixth and Stone)

Fourth Avenue	span number : 2	Sixth Avenue	span number : 4	Stone Avenue	span number : 2
	span length : 12.0'		span length : 14.0'		span length : 25.0'
	total length : 257.0'		total length : 42.0'		total length : 76.0'
	roadway width : 26.0'		roadway width: 80.0'		roadway width: 49.0'

superstructure: reinforced concrete slab and rigid frame
 substructure : concrete abutments and retaining walls w/ spill through concrete piers
 floor/decking : asphalt paving (street); stone and earth fill (railroad)
 other features: architectural treatment (see item 9)

7. DESCRIPTION

Dating from the late 1870s, the Southern Pacific Railroad provided a vital transportation link for the southern Arizona city of Tucson as it passed through the city center. But the heavy rail traffic on the railroad's main line posed problems for street traffic, snarling traffic and creating dangerous on-grade crossings. In 1913, the city moved to separate 4th Avenue from the railroad by constructing an underpass. The design for the structure was completed in August 1914 by L.R. Walker, and the 4th Avenue Underpass was completed in 1916. Twelve years later, city engineer Glenton Sykes designed a similar underpass for 6th Avenue. In May 1930, the city contracted with the Lee Moor Construction Company to build the 6th Avenue Underpass. In 1935, the Arizona Highway Department contracted with M.M. Sundt under Project No. NRM-9 to build a third underpass in the city center, carrying U.S. 89 beneath the railroad at Stone Avenue. Sundt completed the structure in January 1936. All three underpasses remain in unaltered, albeit vandalized, condition and are now scheduled for replacement by the Aviation Corridor highway project.

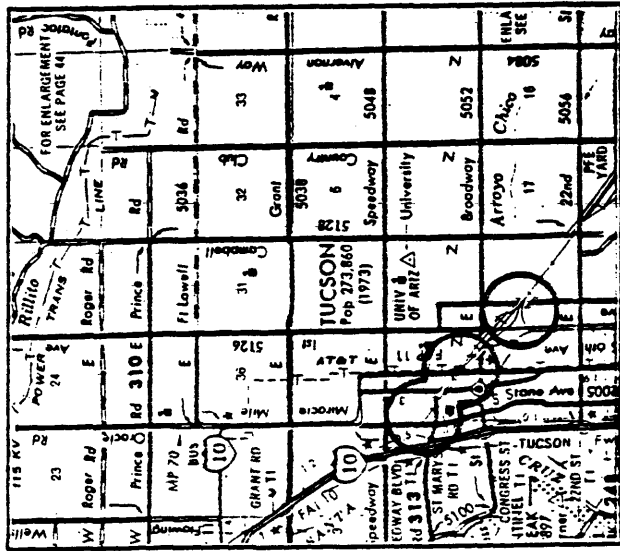
8. HISTORICAL DATA

Unlike bridges, which were typically located in rural settings, Arizona's urban grade separations were usually designed with consideration of their aesthetic impact. Most featured architectural treatments, either revisionists or modernists, intended to integrate the structures within their urban settings. The oldest urban grade separation in the state, the 4th Avenue Underpass features the simplest detailing of the three Tucson underpasses, with paneled concrete parapet walls and link chain guardrails. The 6th Avenue Underpass, with its squashed balusters and bud capitals, has a vaguely Egyptian tone. Finally, the Stone Avenue Underpass displays mainline Mission Style detailing, notable for its prominent curvilinear parapet and arched copings. A prototypical Arizona style, this was an architectural treatment that AHD used for a number of its underpasses. As a group, these three structures well represents this architectural trend. All were determined eligible for NRHP and are now being documented for HAER as mitigation before demolition.

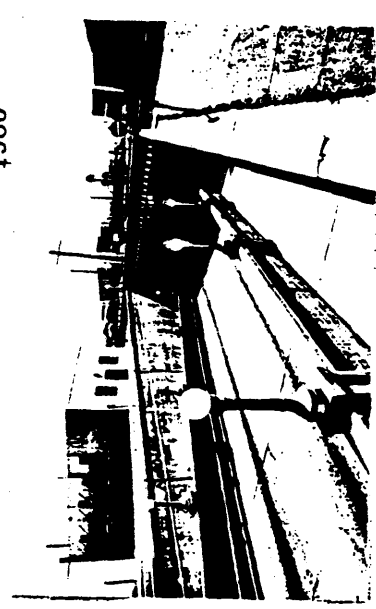
10. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

Tucson Underpasses

11. PHOTOS (W/ FILM ROLL & FRAME NO.) AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



LOCATION MAP
TAKEN FROM DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP



Bridge Record, Arizona State Highway System: 8453 (4th Avenue), 1580 (6th Avenue), 0169 (Stone Avenue); Structures Section, Arizona Department of Transportation, Phoenix AZ.

Original construction drawings for 4th Avenue, 6th Avenue and Stone Avenue underpasses, Structures Section, Arizona Department of Transportation, Phoenix AZ.

"Tucson Continues to Build," Tucson: 6:1939:2.

Arizona Highways: 12:1935:18; 1:1936:19; 2:1936:23.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 22 February 1987.

13. INVENTORIED BY:

Clayton B. Fraser

AFFILIATION

Frasersesign Loveland Colorado

DATE

1 April 1987