

**MAIN STREET BRIDGE (ASSINIBOINE RIVER SPAN) – COMPONENTS  
ORNAMENTAL STONEMWORK**  
*Arthur A. Stoughton, 1931*



The first bridge across the Assiniboine River at the south end of Main Street was completed in 1881, a toll structure providing an important year-round link between Fort Rouge (then known as St. Boniface West) and Winnipeg. The bridge connection was the impetus for the annexing of Fort Rouge by the City in 1883, which then purchased the Assiniboine Bridge from the Hudson's Bay Company which had built it. A decade later, the Norwood Bridge connected Main Street to St. Boniface and Norwood, both expanding areas.

In 1897, because increased traffic loads were threatening the stability of the spans, the City built two new bridges to replace the 1880s structures (the Assiniboine River span was renamed the Main Street Bridge).

In 1914, the City asked its bridge engineer, Paul Schioler (1883-1945), to prepare plans for three Assiniboine River spans. He was assisted in these plans by newly appointed University of Manitoba Architecture Department head Arthur A. Stoughton (1867-1955). Stoughton was born in New York State and studied architecture at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris, France. He worked in his home state in partnership with his brother until 1913 when he was named the first head of the Architecture Department at the University of Manitoba until his retirement in 1929. He returned to New York State and again worked with his brother.

Both men were advocates of the “City Beautiful” movement, striving to heighten the architectural treatment of city structures and development, including bridges. Although the highly stylized plans were shelved because of World War I, they became the basis of the new spans that were built as relief employment in 1930-1931 during the Great Depression.

Construction of the bridges took just under 1 year, the Main Street Bridge was not designed with a raising middle section; the Norwood Bridge had one raising bascule span. Carved limestone elements were found at the four corners of both bridges, as well as large and small pylons connected by solid stone walls.

In the late 1990s, when the Main Street and Norwood Bridges were replaced, these ornamental stone elements were used to accent the new Main Street Bridge, which was renamed Queen Elizabeth Way and the new Norwood Bridge.

Elements of the building that would require approval if alterations were planned are:

Exterior-

- The 1930s-era limestone pylons and solid walls located at the four outer corners of the bridge spanning the Assiniboine River.

Interior-

- None