

The Historic Bridge

The bridge within the project area (Bridge Inventory Number 2035) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria C and A for its association with Federal Relief Programs of the Great Depression, particularly the Public Works Administration (PWA). President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his cabinet established the New Deal economic recovery plan in response to the Great Depression. The PWA was created through the New Deal. As opposed to preparing designs or specifications for projects, the PWA acted as a “bank” through which money flowed to governmental agencies or architects employed on non-federal projects. The PWA funded a range of projects, such as courthouses, cemetery improvements, schools, and sewer systems. The program also funded large highway projects such as the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Washington D.C.

The bridge is also eligible for listing to the NRHP under criteria C and A as an excellent example of a renowned local contractor. In 1909, Charles G. Kershaw started the C.G. Kershaw Contracting Company. The Company had facilities and organization for “general railroad construction, steam shovel and teamwork, loading slag ballast, trestle building,” and for many years handled “contracts over all the states south of the Ohio River.” In 1938, the company was located at 2308 4th Avenue North in Birmingham, Alabama. (Alabama State Bridge Inventory).

