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**Landmarks Commission  
Agenda  
October 5, 2020**

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**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that there will be a meeting of the City of Eau Claire Landmarks Commission on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. as a virtual Webex meeting.

While City Hall offices and meeting rooms remain closed in response to COVID-19, meetings of the Landmarks Commission are being held virtually through online meeting systems and will be available to the public via Webex using a computer, tablet or smartphone (requires Webex app), or telephone (audio only) using the link or dial-in number.

**Web Address for Attendees:**

<https://eauclairewi.webex.com/eauclairewi/onstage/g.php?MTID=e924c1e0cd110e88e2975bccf6a7d8f35>

**Join by Phone:**

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

**Access code:** 146 350 2710

The following items will be on the agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approval of minutes: September 14, 2020
4. Presentation of Landmarks Plaque to Pat Ivory
5. Open public comment period for items that do not appear on this agenda noted as public hearings or items for public discussion
6. Public Discussion:
  - a. Consideration of scheduling a public hearing regarding the Chicago-Milwaukee-St. Paul Railroad Bridge (Phoenix Park Bridge)
7. Other business agenda items:
  - a. Update on Landmark projects and activities
8. Future agenda items and announcements
9. Adjournment

*In order to accommodate the participation of individuals with special needs at this meeting, the City will provide the services of a sign language interpreter or make other reasonable accommodations on request. To make such a request, please notify the City at 715-839-4902 at least two days prior to the meeting.*

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Scott Allen  
Director of Community Development

c: News Media

**EAU CLAIRE  
LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

**Meeting of September 14, 2020**

**Members Present:** Jenny Ebert, Greg Kocken, John Mann, Joan Myers, Dale Poynter

**Members Absent:** Brady Foust, David Klinkhammer

- 1. | 2. Call to Order | Roll Call.** The meeting was chaired by John Mann and called to order at 4:30 p.m. The meeting was held online via Webex.
- 3. Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the August 3, 2020 meeting were approved as written.
- 4. Open Public Comment Period.** None.
- 5. Public Hearing on local designation for 204 East Grand Avenue.** A public hearing to consider local landmark designation was held on the local designation of 204 East Grand Avenue. Mr. Alex Padrnos and Mr. Jim Bunkelman were in attendance representing the property owner. No one from the public spoke on this item. A motion was made by Greg Kocken and seconded by Jenny Ebert to approve the local designation. Motion carried 6-0.
- 6. Discussion on schedule for the nomination of the Chicago-Milwaukee-St. Paul Railroad Bridge.** The Commission reviewed the landmark nomination form for the Chicago-Milwaukee-St. Paul Railroad Bridge (Phoenix Park Bridge) and chose to set the public hearing for November. The public hearing will be held on November 9, 2020.
- 7. Update on Landmark projects and activities.** Greg Kocken asked if The Priory (UWEC) would be eligible for local designation. John Mann requested that it be placed on a list for review of eligibility. Jenny Ebert asked if it would be eligible locally since it is outside of the city limits. John Mann suggested it may be eligible for state or national designation. Scott Allen noted that staff would further research the property and report back with findings.
- 8. November meeting.** The Commission noted that the meeting date for the November meeting would be on November 9<sup>th</sup> instead of November 2<sup>nd</sup> due to proximity to Election Day and to allow a full 30 days prior to the November meeting for the notification process related to the Phoenix Park Bridge designation.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jenny Ebert, Secretary



October 5, 2020

**TO:** City Council  
Plan Commission  
City Attorney  
Community Services Department  
Engineering Department  
Fire Department  
Police Department  
City-County Health Department

**FROM:** Director of Community Development

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Local Landmark Designation

This memo is to advise you that the Landmarks Commission will be considering the local landmark designation for the following:

Chicago-Milwaukee-St. Paul Railroad Bridge, known as the Phoenix Park Bridge, located west of Riverfront Terrace and East of First Avenue and City recreational trail.

Pursuant to the Landmarks Ordinance (Chapter 2.65 of the Eau Claire General Ordinances), the Landmarks Commission must notify you of the pending designation. Any comments concerning the proposed designation should be forwarded to the Department of Community Development, by November 6, 2020.

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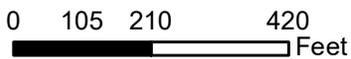
Scott H. Allen, AICP  
Director of Community Development



**Phoenix Park Bridge**



Landmarks Commission  
 Designation (Phoenix Park Bridge)  
 Location Map



 Bridge

# City of Eau Claire Landmark Nomination

**DRAFT**

## 1. Name

historic Chicago-Milwaukee-St. Paul Railroad Bridge

and/or common Phoenix Park Railroad Bridge

## 2. Location

street & number West of Riverfront Terrace and East of First Avenue and City recreational trail

city, town Eau Claire

state Wisconsin

zip code 54701

county Eau Claire

## 3. Classification

### Category

district  
 building(s)  
 structure  
 site  
 object

### Ownership

public  
 private  
 both  
Public Acquisition  
 in process  
 being considered

### Status

NA  
 occupied  
 unoccupied  
 work in progress  
Accessible  
 yes: restricted  
 yes: unrestricted  
 no

### Present Use

agriculture  
 commercial  
 educational  
 entertainment  
 government  
 industrial  
 military  
 museum  
 park/recreation  
 private residence  
 religious  
 scientific  
 transportation  
 other: vacant

## 4. Owner of Property

name City of Eau Claire

street & number 203 South Farwell Street

city, town Eau Claire

state Wisconsin

zip 54701

## 5. Location of Legal Description (in County Courthouse)

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Eau Claire County Courthouse

street & number 721 Oxford Avenue

city, town Eau Claire

state Wisconsin

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title 1981 and 1993 Intensive Surveys and Bridge research from Mr. John Marvig

date 1981 and 1993  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Wisconsin Historical Society and City of Eau Claire

city, town Eau Claire

state Wisconsin

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## 7. Description

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Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered  
 altered

Check one

original site (see description)  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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A. Describe physical appearance and historical information associated with the structure.

The original structure at this location was an unknown bridge type, but presumably a wooden truss of sorts. It was built in 1882 by the Chippewa Falls and Superior Railway; a small company which desired to connect Wabasha, Minnesota to Chippewa Falls. This new bridge was one of a pair constructed over the Chippewa River. This structure is south of present day Madison Street. The railroad was purchased by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway (later Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railway) the following year. The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway had built a considerable empire around Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota by this time.

In late 1903, the bridge would be replaced by a new-three span iron bridge. New concrete substructures would be poured, and iron superstructures would be relocated from other bridges. The westernmost span, a large 232'6" Whipple through Truss with 16 panels and pin connections was relocated from Bridge #L-4 (East Channel Mississippi River Crossing at La Crescent/La Crosse). The span was originally constructed in 1876 to serve as a span on one of four bridges at La Crosse crossing the Mississippi/Black Rivers, all replaced in 1902. The bridge was originally 247', and was cut back to the present length in 1903.

The eastern two spans are 146'3" Pratt through Trusses, with 10 panels each and pin connections. The center span was also relocated from Bridge #L-4 over the East Channel at La Crosse, and was also originally built 1876. The original length was 160'10.5", however it was cut back in 1903. The eastern span was an identical truss, cut from Bridge #L-2 (French Slough Bridge) in La Crosse. The span was also built in 1876, and was cut down from the same dimensions at the same time. The bridge features a rare example of a Whipple through Truss, and a unique history of relocation.

John Marvig notes that Whipple trusses are rare, as there are only two such bridges in western Wisconsin. The other such bridge design is the Dunnville Bottoms Bridge located in rural Dunn County, also crossing the Chippewa River.

The floor beams for all three spans were replaced in 1903 by timber floor beams from Bridge #L-332 in Minneapolis, Minnesota across the Mississippi River. These beams were originally built in 1880. The spans were strengthened with new bracings in 1941. The line was severed in 1951 when a pontoon bridge was destroyed in Wabasha. The Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railway embargoed the line in 1980 due to this bridge, and the State of Wisconsin purchased the line and later sold it to the City of Eau Claire.

The City converted the bridge into a pedestrian bridge in circ. 1990 and is located at the north trailhead of the Chippewa River State Trail. The City worked with the Downtown Eau Claire, Inc., University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, Eau Claire Rotary Club (and other donors) and B&B Electric installed an LED lighting system on the bridge in 2017. The lighting was completed on October 12, 2017.



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# 11. Municipal Data

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zoning district none

parcel number west of 08-0032

legal description: approximately 50 yards northeast of the corner of First Avenue and Fulton Street

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## **Commission Actions**

Hearing Date Authorized on: July 6, 2020

Hearing Date Set for: 11/9/20

Landmark Designated (date): \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Findings of Significance: \_\_\_\_\_

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Certified by: \_\_\_\_\_

Commission Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_