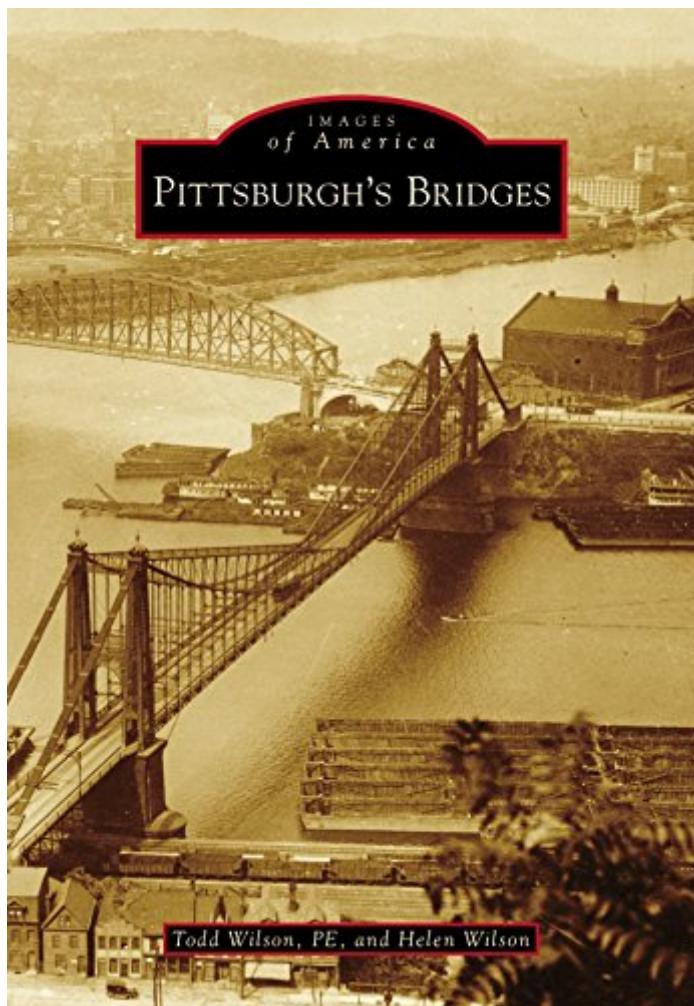


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# Pittsburgh's Bridges (Images Of America)



## **Synopsis**

Pittsburgh is the "City of Bridges," and what remarkable bridges they are! The area's challenging topography of deep ravines and mighty rivers—the Monongahela, Allegheny, and Ohio—set the stage for engineers, architects, and contractors to conquer the terrain with a variety of distinctive spans. Many were designed to be beautiful as well as functional. While other cities may have one signature bridge, Pittsburgh has such a wide variety that no single bridge can represent it. Pittsburgh's Bridges takes a comprehensive look at the design, construction, and, sometimes, demolition of the bridges that shaped Pittsburgh, ranging from the covered bridges of yesterday to those that define the skyline today.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 32512 KB

Print Length: 128 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1467134244

Publisher: Arcadia Publishing (October 26, 2015)

Publication Date: October 26, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0195NB1SM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #503,811 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #22 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Architectural > Bridges #57 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil & Environmental > Bridges #341 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Photography > Travel

## **Customer Reviews**

Bridges connect people and communities. This book, Pittsburgh's Bridges, connects Pittsburgh's residents to their past. Todd and Helen Wilson have written an authoritative and meticulous history of Pittsburgh's architectural and engineering landmarks. The book

will likely evoke readers' memories about the roles Pittsburgh's bridges played in visits to relatives, family vacations, sporting events, school field trips and other endeavors. Todd and Helen Wilson have enriched Pittsburgh's historical record. The book traces the bridges' planning and construction from the standpoint of Pittsburgh's history. They explain the economic rationale supporting the bridges. It is interesting to note the aesthetic sensitivity that city officials displayed in planning the bridges. They sought beauty as well as function. Readers will likely marvel at the construction accomplishments in an era before computers. The authors describe how bridge design and construction techniques have evolved. They explain how engineers have drawn on the law of physics to achieve strength and durability. Engineers design bridges to optimize the distribution of the load's weight. Some bridges operate according to the force of compression, whereas others function based on tension. One particularly intriguing section on page 32 deals with suspension bridges. These bridges pose formidable construction and operating challenges. The Seventh Street Bridge embodies a self-anchored design patterned after the Cologne-Deutz Bridge in Germany. Additional discussion of suspension bridges would have enhanced the book. Like downtown's former venerable department stores, some bridges have disappeared. Pittsburgh has demolished some bridges due to obsolescence. The fortress-like Union Bridge, for example, was destroyed in 1907 because its low clearance blocked Allegheny River traffic. The book spans only 127 pages, yet it amasses numerous facts and photos. The book's succinct and clear prose supports a quick reading. I recommend it to Pittsburgh's residents, friends and visitors.

What a beautiful book! Having lived away from Pittsburgh for many years, this brought back so many memories. A great history lesson, too!

This is a great book for seeing all of the amazing history to the bridges of Pittsburgh. It is clearly written and makes the technical side of things easy for a lay-person to understand. If you live in Pittsburgh, the city of bridges, this is a must read. I only wish they'd have made a coffee table version with bigger pictures so you could get a better look.

Exactly what you'd expect from an "Images of America" Book, and that's a good thing, amazing vintage/historical photos, a must for anyone with an interest in Pittsburgh and/or Bridges in general.

Good present for Pittsburgh lovers!

Given as a gift.

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