

HISTORIC RESOURCE: GENEVA STREET BRIDGE

LOCATION: GENEVA STREET

OWNERSHIP: Public

LAND AREA: Bridge

ZONE: N/A

DESIGNATION: Glendale Register

YEAR BUILT: 1937

STYLE: Vierendeel truss

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

There are three examples of the Vierendeel Truss bridge type in Glendale. All bridges are located at intersections with the Verdugo Wash. These may be the only ones remaining in the United States. They were designed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in 1937 and constructed by Consolidated Steel Corporation in 1937 and 1938. The bridges were intended to provide "a modern, aesthetic, and functionally sound solution for roadway connections on the Verdugo Flood Control Project, the nation's first major flood control project undertaken by the agency (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) after passage of the 1936 Flood Control Act."

This bridge spans the Verdugo Wash at Geneva Street. They are of identical construction. Each bridge has one span of 95 feet that contains two traffic lanes.

Named after and developed by a Belgian engineer in the 1890s, the Vierendeel is not a true truss because it does not rely on a triangulated configuration of its parts as do all other truss bridges. The Vierendeel is made up of all other truss bridges. The Vierendeel is made up of heavily stiffened vertical members of a polygonal top chord. There are no overhead lateral supports and the roadway is carried on the lower chord.

The three Glendale Vierendeel bridges are significant historic resources. The California Department of Transportation has determined that they are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places because of the purpose they serve and for their design and construction.

