

**Historic
Resource
Inventory**
CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON

0-920-01200

1200 S.W. Vista Avenue
QUARTER SECTION MAP #: 3027, 3127
Goose Hollow

ORIGINAL NAME: Vista Avenue Viaduct
OTHER NAMES: Vista Bridge, Suicide Bridge

ORIGINAL FUNCTION: Bridge

DATE BUILT: 1926

ARCHITECTURAL PLANS BY: Fowler, Fred, Bridge Engineer
ZONING: C2, R5, R7

Rank III

HISTORIC DISTRICT: King's Hill (potential)

DESIGNATION: Landmark, Recommended for listing on National Register.

SPECIAL FEATURES AND MATERIALS:

Reinforced concrete with balustrade, lamp standards, and entrance pylons.
Arched span.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Engineering, Transportation, Social



1067 1081

117

Engineering, Transportation: The Vista Bridge replaced the Ford Street Bridge, dismantled and relocated as the present Terwilliger overpass.

Social: Of the total cost of \$197,000 the city paid approximately one-quarter and the residents the remainder.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Barret, Steve, City of Portland Street and Structural Engineering, unrecorded interview by Virginia Ferriday.

Paxton, Katherine, "The History of Council Crest Park and Its Surrounding Areas," unpublished typescript, Southwest Hills Residential League inventory, OHS Collection.

*Present owner as of May 1981: City of Portland
MAILING ADDRESS: 1200 S.W. Fourth Avenue, Portland 97204*

No Preservation Funding

Negative: 508-2

Score - Design/Construction: 9

Score - Historical:

Score - Rarity: 5

Score - Environment: 10

Score - Integrity: 10

Score - Intrinsic:

Score - Contextual: 25

Score - Total: 56.5

1068 1082

1162

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310



County Multnomah County
Name na
Location Vista Street Bridge
Historic Name Vista Avenue Viaduct (aka Suicide Bridge)
1200 SW Vista Avenue
Address Portland, Oregon 97201
Present Owner City of Portland
Address 1220 SW Fifth Avenue
Original Use Bridge
Date of Construction 1/1926 - 11/1926

Historical significance:

The bridge, measuring 248 feet, featuring reinforced concrete lamp standards are of concrete with ascending lights posts. Luminaries are of original, unaltered detailing. There are 4 refuge bays, each possessing seven pentagonal, pointed bronze spikes at top of concrete railings. The arched support ribs are of reinforced steel with cement molding. Rolled steel hand railings run along inside of concrete baluster topplings between the intricate entrance pylons that mark the four corners of the bridge structure. Detailing includes 600 concrete spokes, recessed bronze conduits, bronze and iron bracket ornaments on portal posts and eight concrete flower boxes that line sidewalks on either side of the bridge.

The Vista Street Bridge is the linking by-pass from Portland's most prestigious residential area to the City Center. It is a standing monument to the rich early social and cultural history of Portland. Being located only 3 blocks from Washington Park, Portland's largest public recreational facility, Vista Bridge is an integral part of the scenic drive that connects these important tourist, educational, and recreational opportunities located in the proximity.

continue on back if necessary

Recorded by Kate Marx Date 9/1/83

Sources consulted (continue on back if necessary):

The History of Council Crest Park and Its Surrounding Areas, Paxton, Katherine, unpub.
Southwest Hills Residential League Inventory - Oregon Historical Society...

Please enclose map. Township N E
 S W Section Please see attached map.

SHPD 1162