



# GOVERNMENT BRIDGE

## ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL Installation



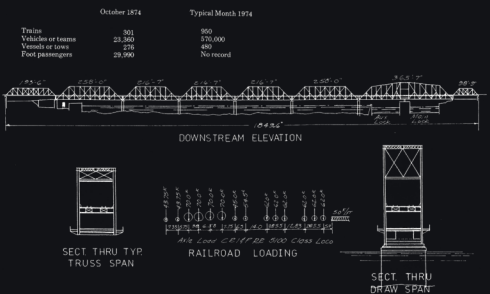
Following the establishment of Rock Island Arsenal, the railroad bridge that had crossed over the island was moved. Ten years after the arsenal's first construction began, MAJ Daniel Flagler opened the new bridge in its current location. The 1872 bridge was made of iron and was designed to have a wagon bridge underneath the rail bridge.

In the 1890s, this bridge was replaced due to the exceeding amounts of rail traffic it had seen. Ralph Modjeski was the designer of the new bridge that used the same piers as the original iron bridge. It was the first bridge he designed of his career. The new steel bridge was constructed using steel and was over-engineered to not have to be replaced. The swing span can rotate a full 360 degrees. Most of the replacement parts for the bridge are manufactured by the arsenal. In the over 120 years of operation, the bridge remains the most structurally sound bridge on the Mississippi River.



**LEARN  
MORE  
HISTORY**

Traffic Density Comparison:  
1874 versus 1974, per month.



Built on piers from 1872

Designed by Ralph Modjeski

Opened in 1896

Constructed with steel

Pratt & Baltimore Trusses

Swing span rotates 360 degrees

Only uses about 12% capacity

[www.aschq.army.mil](http://www.aschq.army.mil)

ON THE LINE

