

# HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM

Resource Address: <b>I- 290 Eisenhower Express Way Oak Park Illinois 60304 USA</b> (I-290 Eisenhower Expressway between Harlem and Austin)
County: Cook
Historic name: Congress Expressway
Present name: Eisenhower Expressway
Local place name:
Visible from public right of way: Yes
Ownership: Public
Owner/Address:
Land unit size:
Site/Setting:



Photo taken during construction, ca. 1959-60

Lat/Long: 41.8718030835873100, -87.7896630701446800 [WGS84]

UTM: Zone 16T, 434470.6539 mE, 4635844.2455 mN

Parcel No.

## Historical Information

Historic Function: Transportation: Road-Related (Vehicular)	Current Function: Transportation: Road-Related (Vehicular)
Construction Date: ca. 1950-1959 , 1960*	Architect:
Original or Significant Owners: Cook County, State of Illinois	Builder:
Significant Date/Period:	Developer:
Areas of Significance:	

## Architectural Information

Category: structure, Highway/buttress/ramp/road accessory	Style:	<input type="checkbox"/> Additions <input type="checkbox"/> Alterations <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Other Ancillary structures:
Structural:	Exterior Material(s):	
Stories: , Bays:	Roof Material:	
Form or Plan:	Roof Type:	
Foundation:	Windows:	
General condition:	Chimney(s):	
Basement:	Porch:	

## Historical Summary:

### Status (Current Listing or Designation)

National:  indiv.  district  landmrk.  
 State/Province:  indiv.  district  landmrk.  
 Local:  indiv.  district  landmrk.

### Evaluation (Preparer's Assessment of Eligibility)

#### Recommendation

Individually eligible  
 Eligible as contributing resource  
 Not eligible / non-contributing  
 Not determined

#### Level of potential eligibility

National  
 State  
 Local

#### Landmark potential

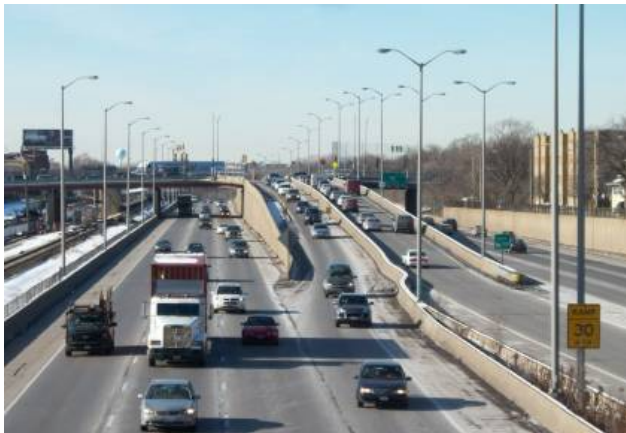
National  
 State  
 Local



view looking east



view looking west



Harlem Avenue exit looking west



Austin Blvd exit looking east

**Description/Remarks**

This structure is a highway/buttness/ramp/road accessory built in 1960. The Federal Highway system is exempt from Section 106 review under a programmatic agreement dating to 2005. In January 2010, Illinois National Register Coordinator Andrew Heckencamp stated that the center ramps at Austin and Harlem were "significant under Criterion C as rare structural examples of a planning and construction solution to minimize the adverse impact of the construction of the expressway on the Village of Oak Park" (see attached file). Researcher Diane Hansen contributed the following facts: Construction began in 1955, when a retaining wall was built and was completed in September, 1960 and opened officially on October 20, 1960 with an Oak Park celebration. The cost for construction in the Oak Park section alone, was \$10m in 1960. There are 5 overpasses, 2 ramps (Austin and Harlem), 1 pedestrian walk, and 2 train tracks (B&O and the EL) that run through the area. In 1955, 55 buildings and homes were razed to accommodate construction between Austin Blvd and Scoville Ave. 18 more parcels of land in Oak Park were also taken between the 800 block of S. Grove to the 800 block of S. Wenonah. A few were also either torn down or moved along Garfield and Harrison streets.

Date source: Oak Leaves 10-20-1960 p. 7 Other sources: Building permit records.

**Survey and Recorder**

Project: Historic Resources of Oak Park	Sequence/Key no.:	Survey Date: August 2011
Prepared By: Preservation Services and Technology Group 206 Orchard Drive Ste B Nicholasville, KY 40356	Report Title/Name: Survey and Planning	Previous Surveys:
Inventoried: 11/09/2011 10:49:00 am Last updated: 08/29/2016 1:46:28 pm by /	Level of Survey: <input type="checkbox"/> Reconnaissance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intensive	Additional Research Recommended? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No