

The First United States Prestressed Masonry Structures

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Abstract:

The first prestressed masonry structures constructed in the United States were completed in 1950. These structures were beams, rather than walls, with one being stadium bleachers and the other being a short span bridge. The first all prestressed building was completed in January, 1952. The early developments of prestressed masonry are reviewed, including the use of both bonded and unbonded strands. The durability of prestressed masonry is assessed by examining the condition of eleven existing prestressed masonry bridges in Tennessee. The superstructure of these bridges remain in good condition after over 50 years of service.

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