

Site 733

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

The second largest suspension bridge in the world. It spans the golden gate—a mile wide straight between the Pacific Ocean and the San Francisco Bay—and connects San Francisco with Marin County to the North. The bridge has a 4200 foot main span, second only to the Verranzo-Narrows Bridge in New York Harbor, and a total length of 8,981 feet. The \$35 million dollar structure was started in 1933 and opened in 1937. Joseph B. Strauss was the chief engineer and Othmar H. Amman (q.v.) was a consultant.

The two steel towers of the bridge, each 746 feet high, are the tallest bridge towers in the world. The towers, painted bright orange, support two cables, 36.5 inches in diameter, spaced 90 feet apart. The pier supporting the south tower is founded on bedrock 100 feet below the water surface. The pier, built 1125 ft from shore, is exposed to ocean storms and strong tidal currents. The bridge carries a roadway, 60 feet wide, divided into six lanes for vehicular traffic and there are plans to add a second lower deck. The view from the roadway about 250 ft above the water is spectacular.