

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

EIGHT MILE CREEK BRIDGE

HAER NO. AR-17

LOCATION: Spanning the Eight Mile Creek on State Highway 135, 3000 feet east of the junction of State Highway 49 and 135 in the town of Paragould, Greene County, Arkansas.

UTM: 15/3994130/726010

QUAD: Paragould East

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1929

STYLE: Single-span, pony Pratt steel truss bridge.

ENGINEER: The Eight Mile Creek Bridge was designed under the general supervision of Mr. C.S. Christian, Chief Bridge Engineer, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD).

BUILDER: Miller's Garage & Construction Company, St. Louis, Missouri, was awarded the construction contract.

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE: This bridge is in good condition and is in vehicular use.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Eight Mile Creek Bridge is an excellent example of a single-span pony Pratt steel truss bridge that historically was a very common bridge type in Arkansas. This bridge was constructed as part of a larger bridge improvement project that included sixteen bridges on the Paragould-Corning Road in Greene County from the Paragould city limits to the Clay County boundary, thirteen miles north. It clearly demonstrates the advancements made in steel truss design and engineering by the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department through the 1920s.

HISTORIAN: Michael Swanda
Survey Coordinator
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE: August 26, 1988.

STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS

The single main span uses steel Pratt trusses. The top chord is fabricated from channel bars, flanges turned outward, with a continuous plate on top and single lattice bars connecting the bottom. The bottom chord contains two channel bars, flanges turned outward, connected on top and bottom by batten plates. All verticals, diagonals, floor beams, and bottom laterals are constructed from either channels or angles. Verticals and diagonals are attached to the top and bottom chords with steel plates. Connections in the truss are made with 3/4 inch rivets. The two approach spans, one on either end of the main span, are reinforced concrete girders. The abutments and piers are cast reinforced concrete.

DIMENSIONS

The total length of the Eight Mile Creek Bridge is 132 feet. The main span measures 70 feet in length, with two 30-foot approach spans. The truss height measures 8'-8½" from the center of the bottom chord. This bridge has a 20-foot clear roadway.

SIGNIFICANT EXTERIOR FEATURES

There is a commemorative plaque on either end of the bridge that states "EIGHT MILE CREEK; Millers Garage & Cont. Co.; contractor.; Arkansas; State Highway Commission; Dwight H. Blackwood, Chairman.; C.S. Christian, Engineer.; 1929. Bridge No. ____."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Shop drawings for the Eight Mile Creek Bridge are filed at the AHTD; Drawing No. 1424, 1440, 1439, and Standard Drawing No. 1002, and 1092. AHTD Bridge No. 934, AHPP Resource No. GE0025.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Bridge Division Files, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, Little Rock.

Historic Bridge File, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock.

McClurkan, Burney B. Arkansas' Historic Bridge Inventory, Evaluation Procedures 1987 and Preservation Plan. Manuscript of file, Environmental Division, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, Little Rock.