

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

OSAGE CREEK BRIDGE

HAER NO. AR-30

LOCATION: Spanning Osage Creek on County Road No. 71 approximately 1.3 miles south of Healing Springs, Benton County, Arkansas.

UTM: 15/4011160/387380

QUAD: Robinson

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1911

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS: No alterations or additions noted.

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE: This bridge is in good condition and is currently used for vehicular traffic.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Commemorative bridge plaques, once located on opposite end posts, have been removed from the bridge.

STYLE: Single span, through Pratt steel truss bridge.

BUILDER: The engineer is unknown. It is assumed that the Osage Creek Bridge was constructed under the authority of Benton County officials by an unidentified bridge company.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Osage Creek is an excellent Arkansan example of a Pratt through truss bridge. Constructed by an unknown builder in the early twentieth century, its economy of materials and proven structural reliability made the Pratt design a popular choice for many Arkansas county officials. The Osage Creek Bridge is one of fifty-nine historic Pratt through truss bridges currently surviving in Arkansas. Its intact lattice guardrail is unique and rarely survives on other Arkansas examples.

HISTORIAN: Michael Swanda
Survey Coordinator
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE: August 26, 1988.

STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS

The Osage Creek Bridge contains Pratt steel trusses. The top chord and verticals are constructed of built-up members made from channels, continuous plates, and single lacing bars. The rigid connections are made with rivets. Diagonals, struts, laterals, portals bracing, floor beams, and stringers are made from angles, channels, I-beams, punched rectangular eyebars, and round rod with or without turnbuckles. Verticals, diagonals, and the bottom chord are pin connected. A latticed guardrail is made from angles and lacing bars riveted together. The bridge sits on reinforced concrete abutments with no approach spans. The road deck is covered with timber planking.

DIMENSIONS

The Osage Creek Bridge is 124 feet long. It has a minimum vertical clearance of 17 feet and a curb to curb deck width of 12 feet.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Benton County Multiple Resource Area National Register Nomination, Manuscript on file, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock.

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

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