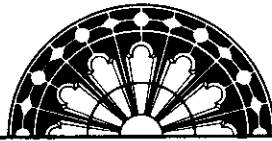


#02466



ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

April 13, 2000

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United State Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250  
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: Ben Laney Bridge—Camden, Ouachita County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above-referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford Slater  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:ab

Enclosures

1500 Tower Building • 323 Center • Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 • Phone (501) 324-9880  
Fax (501) 324-9184 • TDD (501) 324-9811  
A Division of the Department of Arkansas Heritage



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MAY 02 2000

ENVIRONMENTAL  
DIVISION

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Ben Laney Bridge  
other names/site number (OU0152)

### 2. Location

street & number U.S. Hwy 79B spanning Ouachita River  not for publication  
city or town Camden  vicinity  
state Arkansas code AR county Ouachita code 103 zip code 71701

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Cheryl A. Slater 4-27-00  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

		Contributing	Noncontributing	
				buildings
				sites
		1		structures
				objects
		1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Bridges of Arkansas

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/Road-Related

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/Road-Related

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Pratt pony truss

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls METAL

roof N/A

other

**Narrative Description**  
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Summary**

Located on U.S. Highway 79B (formerly Highway 79) at Camden and spanning the Ouachita River, the 1947 Ben Laney Bridge is comprised of three steel Pratt pony trusses with a maximum span length of 129 feet long, and a 548 feet long I-beam deck approach. Additionally, 21 feet of I-beam deck connects the two sections of the bridge and 46 feet of I-beam deck for an overall length of 1000 feet. The 548 feet long I-beam deck approach dates to 1934, however a pair of 3 feet wide sidewalks and steel handrails were added in 1947. All piers and abutments are reinforced concrete. The road width is 24 feet from curb-to-curb.

**Elaboration**

All three trusses include: five panels, a pair of inclined end posts, with double bracing in the center panel, and identical members and riveted connections throughout. The pony trusses are braced laterally below road level.

The Ben Laney Bridge is currently in good condition, retains its architectural integrity and is being maintained by the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Levels of Significance** (local, state, national)

Local

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Engineering

**Period of Significance**

1947

**Significant Dates**

1934 (date the I-beam approach was constructed)

1947 (completion of the bridge)

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

D. F. Jones Construction Company--Builder

Arkansas Highway and Transportation--Architect

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Significance**

Constructed in 1947, the Ben Laney Bridge spanning the Ouachita River in Camden is associated with the multiple property listing "Historic Bridges of Arkansas," and is of the steel truss type. Given its intact condition it retains sufficient integrity to remain associated with its historic period and thus locally eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

**Elaboration**

The U.S. Highway 79 bridge spanning the Ouachita River was dedicated to Governor Benjamin Travis Laney during opening day ceremonies on 16 April 1947. Not only was "Business Ben" acting governor at the time, but also a native of Camden. Growing up in Camden the son of farmers and businessmen, his family was made prosperous by the discovery of oil on the family farm. Laney served two terms as mayor of Camden from 1935 to 1938, before serving as governor of Arkansas from 1945 to 1949. During the bridge dedication ceremony in 1947, Harold Sadler, chairman of the Arkansas Highway Commission was among those who accompanied Governor Laney.

According to newspaper articles of the time, "the bridge was built to meet the demands of growing automobile traffic on U.S. Highway 79." R. N. Reynolds was sited as contractor and D.F. Jones Construction Company started work on the bridge 8 December 1945. Though, the bridge was to be completed January 1946, work was delayed because a shortage of steel. This delay caused extended use of a temporary timber bridge.

Though research did not uncover a specific description of the bridge that the Ben Laney Bridge replaced, newspapers did report that the Martin Bridge was significantly narrower and in disrepair. The Camden News reported that the pieces of the older bridge and the temporary wooden bridge would be turned over to the State Highway Department after the job was completed. One of the innovations of the 1947 bridge was the addition of sidewalks to the earlier 1934 I-beam approach to allow for safer pedestrian travel across the river.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. "OASIS INQUIRY—Structure Number 02466." (database), 2000.

Camden News, 26 May 1934.

Camden News, 5 April 1947.

Camden News, 17 April 1947.

Comp, Allan, and Donald Jackson. "Technical Leaflet 95: Bridge Truss Types: A Guide to Dating and Identifying." American Association of State and Local History, 1977.

Dougan, Michael B. Arkansas Odyssey: The Saga of Arkansas from Prehistoric Times to Present. Little Rock: Rose Publishing Company, 1993.

Hilts, H.E. (Deputy Commissioner Public Roads Administration), to H. G. Rix (Highway Section, Government Bureau War Production Board) 29 March 1945. Archives, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, Little Rock.

"The Laney's of Camden," Ouachita County Historical Quarterly. 3 (Spring 1991) 20-36.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property**     Approximately 1.38 acres.

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>516840</u>	<u>3717220</u>	3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary for the Ben Laney Bridge begins at a point approximately 1100 feet northeast of the intersection of U.S. Hwy 79B and the road leading to Sandy Beach Park, at the northeastern corner of the bridge's southern abutment, then proceeds northwest in a line approximately 60 feet to a point that corresponds to the northwestern corner of the bridge's southern abutment; then proceeds northeast along a line that runs parallel to the edge of the bridge across low lying land and the Ouachita River for a distance of approximately 1000 feet to a point formed by the southwestern corner of the bridge's northern abutment ; then runs southeast along said perpendicular line for a distance of approximately 60 feet to the point formed by the intersection of the line with the southeastern corner of the bridge's northern abutment, then proceed southwest along a line that runs parallel approximately 1000 feet to the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary includes the main spans, approach spans, piers and abutments that are historically associated with this property.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Amy Bennett/Survey Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 3/21/00

street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9880

city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

UTM Reference:  
15/516840/3717220

AMY 8 MI  
7451 III NE  
(HARMONY GROVE)

