

**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 Mulberry River Bridge
other names/site number FR0192/ AHTD #01789

2. Location

street & number Arkansas Highway 23 not for publication
city or town Turner's Bend vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Franklin code 047 zip code _____

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.)

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:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
 determined eligible for the
National Register.
 See continuation sheet
 determined not eligible for the
National Register.
 removed from the National
Register.
 other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Mulberry River Bridge
Name of Property

Franklin County, Arkansas
County and State

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	_____	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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related(vehicular)/bridge

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related(vehicular)/bridge

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other/ Parker Pony truss

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls _____

roof _____
other Steel

Narrative Description

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

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.** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- 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

Transportation

Period of Significance

1935-1957

Significant Dates

1935-1957

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

McEachin & McEachin, Inc.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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:

Arkansas State Highway & Transportation Department

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

Located on AR Highway 23 in Franklin County the Mulberry River Bridge crosses the Mulberry River on AR Highway 23 and is a classic example of a Parker Pony truss bridge. The bridge has three spans with the total length of 446 feet. It is located in the Turner's Bend vicinity.

Elaboration

Located north of Turner's Bend on Arkansas Highway 23, the Mulberry River Bridge is a steel Parker Pony truss that spans northwest to southeast. The Parker truss was first developed by C.H. Parker through designs that he submitted for patents from 1868 to 1871. It is basically a Pratt truss with an arched top chord. This gives the Parker more strength than the Pratt, and the ability to span greater distances.

Three steel pony trusses were needed to build the Mulberry River Bridge with the main span at 112 feet and the total length of the bridge at 446 feet. The deck has a total width of 20 feet. Each section of the deck rest on concrete piers.

Integrity

No structural alterations have been made to the bridge to compromise its integrity. Its location remains rural, and its setting remains pristine. The bridge still illustrates its original design and materials. In addition, the bridge is still in use for vehicular travel and it continues to serve Franklin County residents.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

The Mulberry River Bridge was built in 1935, and is a great example of a Parker Pony truss. For this reason it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C**; it is one of sixteen Parker pony truss spans left in Arkansas and one of only seven multi-span Parker pony truss spans left. The bridge has a total length of 446 feet, with three steel Parker pony truss spans each measuring 112 feet in length. The bridge is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its role with the development of automobile travel in Franklin County. It is also being nominated under the multiple properties listing "Historic Bridges of Arkansas" and under the associated historic context "Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department Era: 1923-1939."

Elaboration

Franklin County was the thirty-eighth county formed and was taken from territory from Crawford County in December of 1837. It was named for Benjamin Franklin. The first known white settlements were by French settlers and they settled along the Mulberry River.

In the early days lumbering and coal mining were the principal industries. Farming is a big industry in Franklin County. Ozark is the county seat in the northern part and Charleston is the county seat in the south.

The bridge is located to the northwest of Turner's Bend along Highway 23. Turner's Bend is located to the north of Paradise and these are all located in the Ozark National Forest. The crossing of the Mulberry River at Turner's Bend has been an important crossing for many years, and the current bridge had replaced an old Pratt through truss bridge. The current bridge was built by McEachin and McEachin of Little Rock in conjunction with the Arkansas Highway Commission in 1935. It took 210 days to complete and cost \$50,820.00.

Mulberry River Bridge

Name of Property

Franklin County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Since the completion of the Mulberry River Bridge in 1935, no structural alterations have been made to the bridge to compromise its integrity. Today, AR 23 remains an important highway in that part of Arkansas, connecting U.S. 71 and I-40 with Eureka Springs, and the Mulberry River Bridge has been a vital crossing on the road for the residents in the area for approximately 80 years. The Mulberry River Bridge remains an important transportation link in the area and a good example of an early twentieth-century Parker pony truss.

Statement of Significance

The Mulberry River Bridge along Arkansas 23, built in 1935, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as a good example of a multi-span Parker pony truss, and also for **Criterion A** for its role in early vehicular transportation in Franklin County. It is also being nominated under the multiple properties listing "Historic Bridges of Arkansas" and under the associated historic context "Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department Era: 1923-1939."

Mulberry River Bridge

Name of Property

Franklin County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

“2005 Steel Truss Reevaluation Section of the Arkansas Historic Bridge Inventory: Review and Evaluation Volume III.” Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. Copyright 2006. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwestern Arkansas. Chicago, Nashville, and St. Louis: The Goodspeed Publishing Co. 1890.

Canady, Virginia. *Altus, Arkansas: 100 years 1888-1988*. No Publisher. 1988.

Comp, T. Allan and Donald Jackson, “Bridge Truss Types: a Guide to Dating and Identifying.” *History News*. Vol. 32, No.5: May 1977.

Historic Bridges of the Midwest, 27 July 2005, <<http://bridges.midwestplaces.com/ar/franklin/mulberry-23/>>

Mulberry River Bridge
Name of Property

Franklin County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

From a point on the west side of Arkansas 23 10 feet southwest of the southwest corner of the Mulberry River Bridge, proceed northwesterly 475 feet, then proceed northeasterly 40 feet, then proceed southeasterly 475 feet, then proceed southwesterly 40 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes the Mulberry River Bridge and its immediate setting.