

**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 Solgohachia Bridge
other names/site number Bridge #17862, Site #CN0322

2. Location

street & number County Road 67 not for publication
city or town Solgohachia vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Conway code 029 zip code 72156

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

Solgohachia Bridge
Name of Property

Conway 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/Pratt thru-truss

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls N/A

roof N/A
other IRON

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)

State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Engineering

Transportation

Period of Significance

1890-1954

Significant Dates

1890

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Wrought Iron Bridge Company (Canton, Ohio), Builder

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 and Transportation Department

Solgohachia Bridge
Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>526077</u> Easting	<u>3902967</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> 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.)

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date November 24, 2003
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9787
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Conway County
street & number 117 South Moose Street telephone
city or town Morrilton state AR zip code 72110

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Solgehachia Bridge is located on County Road 67 at the crossing of the East Fork of Point Remove Creek. It is located approximately two miles northwest of Arkansas Highway 9 and the village of Solgehachia. Comprised of one span measuring 126 feet long, this pin-connected iron Pratt thru-truss has a total length of 131 feet.

ELABORATION

The iron, Pratt thru-truss is accessed from both the north and south. The Pratt truss was first developed by Thomas and Caleb Pratt in 1844, and contains diagonals in tension and verticals in compression. Since it is a thru-truss, the bridge carries its traffic load level with the bottom chords.

The Solgehachia Bridge consists of a single pin-connected Pratt thru-truss span measuring 126 feet, with a total structure length of 131 feet. The travel surface and overall width of the bridge is 16 feet. The deck surface is wood laid over an iron truss. The abutments are stone. Resting on top of the decking, a pair of side-by-side Pratt trusses run the entire length of the bridge on the east and west sides.

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.

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Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

Constructed in 1890, the Solgehachia Bridge is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **statewide significance** under **Criterion C** as the oldest in-service bridge in Arkansas, and the only known example of a bridge built by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, one of the largest manufacturers of iron truss bridges in the 1800s. The bridge is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its associations with the development of vehicular transportation in Conway County. This nomination is being submitted under the multiple property listing “Historic Bridges of Arkansas” and under associated historic context “Early Transportation Era.”

ELABORATION

The earliest settlement in what is today Conway County occurred early in the nineteenth-century. Although little is known about the early settlement of the county, the first people to explore and occupy the area were likely hunters and trappers. Most of the early settlement in the county occurred along the banks of the Arkansas River and along Cadron Creek.¹ Conway County was established by an act of the Territorial Legislature in October 1825.²

Although settlement began in other parts of the county at an early date, it does not appear that there was much settlement and development in the Solgehachia area until the mid-1800s. The community of Centreville, which was in the same part of the county as Solgehachia, had a post office from 1849 to 1851, and was still labeled on maps at least as late as 1864.³ Solgehachia was founded c. 1878, and was described in the *Historical Reminiscences and Biographical Memoirs of Conway County, Arkansas* as:

...a thrifty and growing village in Washington Township, nine miles north of Morrilton. The leading spirit in its development has been Mr. M. Crowell, who started the first store there about eleven years ago. It now has three general stores conducted by M. Crowell, A. B. Simmons and W. F. Kirkland; one drug store by Walsh & Presley; Walker & Nabors, blacksmiths and woodworkers. Three physicians – W. L. Presley, W. T. Morrow and Z. T. Kindred. W. L. Presley, Postmaster.⁴

¹ *Historical Reminiscences and Biographical Memoirs of Conway County, Arkansas*. Little Rock, AR: Arkansas Historical Publishing Company, 1890, p. 20.

² *Ibid*, p. 11.

³ Russell Pierce Baker. *From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory of Arkansas Post Offices, 1832-1971*. Hot Springs, AR: Arkansas Genealogical Society, 1988, p. 42, and Helmuth Holtz, *Map of Louisiana & Arkansas. Prepared under direction of 1st Lieut. Wm. Hoelcke, 39 U.S. Infy, acting Chief Engineer at hd. Qts. Dept. of La.* Unknown publisher, c.1864.

⁴ *Historical Reminiscences and Biographical Memoirs of Conway County, Arkansas*, p. 39.

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Although the post office was established in Solgehachia in 1878, it replaced the Point Remove post office, which had been established in 1831 and was located approximately two miles to the west.⁵ Even with the establishment of Solgehachia, the Point Remove Creek area remained sparsely settled. By 1890, the *Historical Reminiscences and Biographical Memoirs of Conway County, Arkansas*, stated that, "Although there is much land under cultivation along the valley of this beautiful stream, there are thousands of acres yet awaiting occupation."⁶

It is unknown exactly when this crossing of the East Fork of Point Remove Creek was established, but it is known that it was after 1864, since it does not appear on Helmuth Holtz's map of the area.⁷ By 1890, the crossing was in place, and was apparently busy enough to warrant the construction of the current bridge.

The Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, which was one of the largest manufacturers of iron truss bridges in the 1800s, was hired to build the Solgehachia Bridge. The company was organized in 1864 by David Hammond, and incorporated in 1871.⁸ Given the following information provided in an 1884 brochure published by the company, it is easy to see why the company was one of the largest at the time:

Experience.—During the past 18 years this firm have (sic.) erected nearly 4,300 spans, varying in length from 20 to 300 feet, and in width from 6 to 120 feet, aggregating over 50 miles in length, and having an aggregate floor surface of about 94 acres. ...

Facilities.—The works are the largest in extent, and are provided with the most complete machinery of any Highway Bridge Works in the country, as we shall be pleased to prove to anyone who will inspect them, so that our facilities for accurate (sic.) and reliable work are unrivaled. We have recently added to our outfit the latest improved forms of pneumatic riveting machinery, and have also increased our facilities for steam forging. ...

Rapid Construction.—Our extensive facilities for construction enable us to complete work in much shorter time than other Iron Highway Bridge firms. We have turned out a complete 60 foot Truss span from the iron as it came from the

⁵ Baker, p. 180.

⁶ *Historical Reminiscences and Biographical Memoirs of Conway County, Arkansas*, p. 17.

⁷ Helmuth Holtz, *Map of Louisiana & Arkansas. Prepared under direction of 1st Lieut. Wm. Hoelcke, 39 U.S. Infy, acting Chief Engineer at hd. Qts. Dept. of La.* Unknown publisher, c.1864.

⁸ Victor C. Darnell. *Directory of American Bridge-Building Companies, 1840-1900.* Washington, DC: Society for Industrial Archeology, 1984, p. 48.

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mills in 7 hours, and have completed 100 to 140 foot spans at points from 100 to 300 miles distant from our works in 8 to 15 days. ...⁹

Although the Wrought Iron Bridge Company was tremendously successful, it was absorbed in 1900 by the American Bridge Company, which is still in existence today.

The Solgohachia Bridge was built as a single-span Pratt thru-truss. The Pratt truss was invented in 1844 by Thomas and Caleb Pratt, and was a prevalent bridge type from the 1840s until the early 1900s. This was confirmed by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company in their brochure where they wrote, "This plan [single intersection Pratt truss] is designed for spans of 80 to 135 feet, being specially adapted to spans of 80 to 120 feet, of any ordinary width, and for 120 to 135 feet spans with 14 go 16 foot roadways. It is the design now almost universally adopted for both railway and highway bridges of moderate spans."¹⁰

Since the bridge opened to traffic in 1890, it has remained in continuous use, and today remains a vital transportation link in this rural part of Conway County. As the oldest remaining bridge in vehicular service in Arkansas, and the only known remaining bridge built by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company, one of the largest manufacturers of iron truss bridges in the 1800s, the Solgohachia Bridge is an important and rare example of a nineteenth-century iron bridge.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1890, the Solgohachia Bridge is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **statewide significance** under **Criterion C** as the oldest in-service bridge in Arkansas, and the only known example of a bridge built by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, one of the largest manufacturers of iron truss bridges in the 1800s. The bridge is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its associations with the development of vehicular transportation in Conway County. This nomination is being submitted under the multiple property listing "Historic Bridges of Arkansas" and under associated historic context "Early Transportation Era."

⁹ Wrought Iron Bridge Co. *Illustrated Pamphlet of Wrought Iron Bridges Built by Wrought Iron Bridge Company, Canton, Ohio.* Canton, OH: Wrought Iron Bridge CO., 1884, pp. 1-2. (From: <http://bridges.lib.lehigh.edu/books/books2371.html>)

¹⁰ Ibid, p. 6.

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Baker, Russell Pierce. *From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory of Arkansas Post Offices, 1832-1971*. Hot Springs, AR: Arkansas Genealogical Society, 1988.

Darnell, Victor C. *Directory of American Bridge-Building Companies, 1840-1900*. Washington, DC: Society for Industrial Archeology, 1984.

Historical Reminiscences and Biographical Memoirs of Conway County, Arkansas. Little Rock, AR: Arkansas Historical Publishing Company, 1890.

Holtz, Helmuth. *Map of Louisiana & Arkansas. Prepared under direction of 1st Lieut. Wm. Hoelcke, 39 U.S. Infy, acting Chief Engineer at hd. Qts. Dept. of La.* Unknown publisher, c.1864.

Wrought Iron Bridge Co. *Illustrated Pamphlet of Wrought Iron Bridges Built by Wrought Iron Bridge Company, Canton, Ohio*. Canton, OH: Wrought Iron Bridge Co., 1884. (From: <http://bridges.lib.lehigh.edu/books/books2371.html>)

Solgehachia Bridge

Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From a point on the west side of County Road 67 60 feet northwest of the northwest corner of the Solgehachia Bridge, proceed northeasterly 85 feet, then proceed southeasterly 250 feet, then proceed southwesterly 85 feet, then proceed northwesterly 250 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary includes the Solgehachia Bridge and its immediate setting.