

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received SEP 20 1985

date entered NOV 19 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic War Eagle Bridge

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Benton County Highway #98

N/A not for publication

city, town War Eagle

N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas

code 05

county Benton

code 007

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Benton County

street & number c/o Benton County Judge, Benton County Courthouse

city, town Bentonville

N/A vicinity of

state AR

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Benton County Courthouse

street & number Courtsquare

city, town Bentonville

state AR

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Benton County Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date May 22, 1984

federal state county local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

city, town Little Rock

state AR

7. Description

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Sited in the Ozark Mountain Plateau region, the War Eagle Bridge supplies an access across the War Eagle River on Benton County Highway #98 near the western edge of the small community of War Eagle. The headwaters of this river originate in the Boston Mountain region approximately 40 miles southeast from this location. The river valley in this area is relatively restricted, being less than one half a mile in width, and is subject to frequent flooding.

The War Eagle Bridge was constructed 30' north of the War Eagle Mill dam. It can be described as an impressive singlespan pinconnected Parker through truss steel bridge. The original layout drawings show that the main span measures 182' in length with a 40' approach span connected to its eastern entrance. The main span consists of nine 20' 2" panels. Each panel, except for the two end panels, contain vertical compression posts that are constructed of two heavy channel beams joined by riveted lattice bracing. The two end panels contain hip vertical tension members that are adjacent to the inclined end posts and are made of steel eyebars. The vertical compression posts are of different lengths and produce the arched top chord that is typical of all Parker truss bridges. This polygonal top chord reaches a maximum height of 30' above the lower floor beams. Simple portal lattice bracing is present above each entrance. Plain undecorated guard rails are located on both sides of the roadway. This 16' wide single lane roadway was originally floored with 2½" thick wood planks and is 28' above the river bed. The main span was originally supported by a range work stone pier under the east entrance along with a range work stone abutment located on the western bank of the river. In 1982, this abutment was replaced with a reinforced concrete abutment. Concrete pilings support the approach span at 10' intervals.

The War Eagle Bridge is currently being used for both automobile and pedestrian traffic.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1907 **Builder/Architect** Illinois Steel Bridge Company

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Summary

The War Eagle Bridge is 1 of 17 steel through truss bridges remaining in Arkansas that were built prior to 1910. This bridge is the only Parker through truss steel bridge so far identified in Northwest Arkansas. Significant information concerning its construction exists in the records of the Benton County Courthouse. These records consist of original layout drawings, a contract of agreement, and general correspondence. The location of the War Eagle Bridge is associated with 3 significant 19th century historic properties and is tied directly to the development of a local historic milling industry. This structure was the first and remains the only bridge to be constructed at this early 19th century river crossing.

Elaboration

Significant information concerning the construction of the War Eagle Bridge exists in the records of the Benton County Courthouse. Courthouse documents show that the War Eagle Bridge was built in 1907 by the Illinois Steel Bridge Company of Jacksonville, Illinois, with Mr. Thomas Boles acting as contracting engineer. It is stated in the contract of agreement dated May 18, 1907, that \$4,790.00 was appropriated by County Judge Lon Williams and County Commissioners C. L. Hart and F. P. Galbreath for construction costs. This cost was to be paid one half in cash on completion of the bridge with the balance in county script, redeemable on or before June 20, 1908. In addition, agreements were made with a Mr. Spohn to construct the stone range work pier and abutment and with a Mr. Denny of War Eagle to supply the lumber planks for the bridge roadway flooring.

The War Eagle Bridge is unique because it is only Parker through truss bridge so far identified in northwest Arkansas. The Parker bridge type is a variation of the more common Pratt bridge type which was first patented in the United States in 1844 by Thomas and Caleb Pratt. The War Eagle Bridge main span length of 182' falls within the middle range of span lengths that could be achieved with this bridge type.

The location of the War Eagle Bridge is historically associated with three significant historic properties that are closely related to the original settlement of War Eagle. First, this bridge is located at or near the original ford that was used to cross the river from the 1830's to the turn of the 20th century. The Sylvanus Blackburn Farmstead is located immediately north of the bridge on the west side of the river.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one

Quadrangle name War Eagle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	4	1	5	2	8	0	4	0	1	3	8	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification The War Eagle Bridge is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34, Township 19N, Range 28W, beginning with the steel approach span 40 feet east of the War Eagle River on Benton County Highway #98 to the end of the steel bridge 182 feet across the War Eagle River at its west end.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Zoe Caywood, Edited by Michael Swanda, AHPP Staff

organization N/A date September 11, 1985

street & number War Eagle Mill, Route 6 telephone 501/789-5343

city or town Rogers state Arkansas

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *William Stiles*

title Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer date 9-11-85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Aelores Byun Entered in the National Register date 11-19-85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received 9/30/85
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 6

Page 1

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department Road Inventory Log and Bridge Inventory Records, 1979. Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, Little Rock, Arkansas.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

This property is highlighted by the original two story log house built by Blackburn in 1832. The site of Blackburn's original grist mill is located on the east side of the river approximately 30' south of the War Eagle Bridge. An almost continuous series of mill operations have occupied this site from the 1830's to the present.

By the early 20th century, the community of War Eagle was developing into a local commercial center closely tied to both the timber and grist milling industries. It was during this time that the milling capacity of the War Eagle Mill was reaching 40 barrels of flour a day. For this reason the community was developing a real need for a bridge to supply a permanent access to local markets. Fording the river in this restricted river valley was impossible during times of frequent flooding. It was within this context that the War Eagle Bridge was built. It stands today as the first and only bridge to be constructed at this historic river crossing.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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For NPS use only

received

9/20/85

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Comp, Allen T. and Donald Jackson. 1977 "Bridge Truss Types: a guide to dating and identifying." American Associated for State and Local History Technical Leaflet 95, History News, Vol. 32, No. 5, May, 1977.

Goodspeed. 1889. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwestern Arkansas. Goodspeed Publishing Company, Chicago.

Rogers Champion, April 25, 1924.

Rogers Daily News, July 1, 1950.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

War Eagle Bridge
Benton County
ARKANSAS

SEP 20 1985

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 10/17/85 - 11/4/85

Action: ACCEPT

RETURN 10-2-85

REJECT _____

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name _____

2. Location _____

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property _____

5. Location of Legal Description _____

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	date _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

X **10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

X Verbal boundary description and justification *Please provide VBD as opposed to location of nominated area.*

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed *[Signature]* Date 10/2/85 Phone: _____

85003497

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

War Eagle Bridge
Benton County
ARKANSAS

Working No. 9/20/85

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87

Date Due: 12/14/85

Entered in 1985
National Register

Action: ACCEPT 11-19-85

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



WAR EAGLE BRIDGE

Benton County, Arkansas

Photographer: Jaci Carfagno

Date Photographed: August 1, 1985

View: To the Southwest



WAR EAGLE BRIDGE

Benton County, Arkansas

Photographer: Jaci Carfagno

Date Photographed: August 1, 1985

View: To the East



WAR EAGLE BRIDGE

Benton County, Arkansas

Photographer: Jaci Carfagno

Date Photographed: August 1, 1985

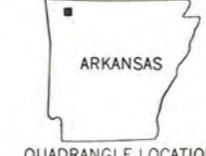
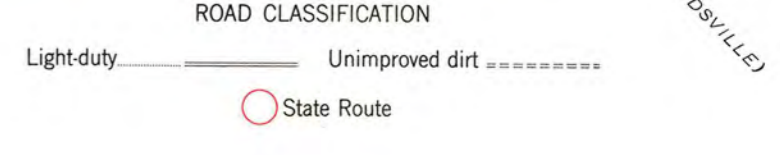
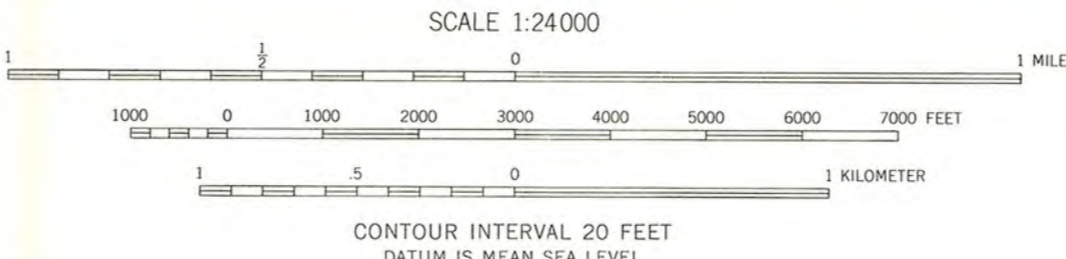
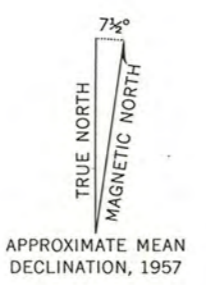
View: To the West



WAR EAGLE BRIDGE
War Eagle, Arkansas
Benton County
15/415280/4013810
War Eagle Quadrangle
1:24000

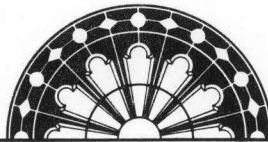
710 000
FEET
T. 19 N.
T. 18 N.
36°15'
94°00'

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography from aerial photographs by Kelsh plotter
Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1957
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

WAR EAGLE, ARK.
N 3615—W 9352.5/7.5
1957



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

September 12, 1985

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 "L" Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: War Eagle Bridge
War Eagle, AR
Benton County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination for the War Eagle Bridge. 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,

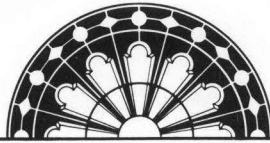
Wilson Stiles
State Historic Preservation Officer

WS/st

Enclosure/s



SEP 20 1985



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

October 23, 1985

Ms. Carol Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 "L" Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: War Eagle Bridge
War Eagle, Benton County

Dear Carol:

Enclosed please find the nomination for the above-referenced property,
which was returned to us for a technical correction.

As requested, the verbal boundary description has been rewritten.
Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Wilson Stiles
State Historic Preservation Officer

WS/JV/do

Enclosure



OCT 30 1985