



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

March 21, 2011

Notice to file:

This property has been automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This is due to the fact that the publication of our Federal Register Notice: "National Register of Historic Places: Pending Nominations and Other Actions" was delayed beyond our control to the point where the mandated 15 day public comment period ended after our required 45 day time frame to act on the nomination. If the 45<sup>th</sup> day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day. The nomination is technically adequate and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation, and thus, automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Edson Beall  
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National Register of Historic Places  
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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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Black Bayou Bridge

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  not for publication

city or town Glendora  vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Tallahatchie code 135 zip code 38928

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide X local

*[Signature]* / SHPD 1-25-2011  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register     determined eligible for the National Register

    determined not eligible for the National Register     removed from the National Register

    other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]* Edson W. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Black Bayou Bridge  
Name of Property

Tallahatchie, Mississippi  
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 the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		district
		site
1		structure
		object
1		<b>Total</b>

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

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

**6. Function or Use**

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

TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

NOT IN USE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

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

None  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE  
walls: \_\_\_\_\_  
roof: \_\_\_\_\_  
other: Steel  
\_\_\_\_\_

Black Bayou Bridge  
Name of Property

Tallahatchie, Mississippi  
County and State

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Black Bayou Bridge is a single lane, Warren pony truss bridge located on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street south of the Village of Glendora, Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. The bridge spans Black Bayou, a backwater of the Tallahatchie River. The bridge, now closed to traffic, ran from town to U. S. Highway 49, a major north-south roadway. The immediate area around the bridge is rural with verdant vegetation including water plants, hardwood and cypress trees.

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### Narrative Description

The Black Bayou Bridge is a one-lane bridge located at the south end of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, south of Glendora, Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. The road is closed just north of the bridge and the road bed that originally ran south to U.S. Highway 49 is no longer extant. The bridge spans Black Bayou.

The bridge is 152 feet in length. There are two 76 foot spans with eight foot high steel Warren pony trusses. The spans are supported by two large concrete piers. The top chords and end posts are constructed from three channel steel, while the bottom chords are fabricated from one piece of angle steel and one channel. The center diagonals, in a Warren truss configuration, are made from two pieces of angle steel while the endmost diagonals in both spans use four pieces of angle steel. The structural members are connected by rivets and bolts.

The roadbed is eighteen feet across. The roadbed is concrete with increasing encroachment of vegetation.

There is a plaque on the southern truss, about halfway across on the east side. The plaque identifies the builder as the W. T. Young Bridge Company of Nashville, Tennessee, and gives the date of construction as 1916. The names of the serving supervisors are listed: J. A. Shores, President, S. C. Barnes, R.W. Stevens, and S. M. Jones.

Black Bayou Bridge  
Name of Property

Tallahatchie, Mississippi  
County and State

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENGINEERING

**Period of Significance**

1916

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

W.T. Young Bridge Company

**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 a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The bridge was constructed in 1916.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

Black Bayou Bridge

Name of Property

Tallahatchie, Mississippi

County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Black Bayou Bridge, near Glendora, Tallahatchie County, Mississippi is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for association with Transportation. The bridge connected the community by road with U.S. Highway 49, a major north-south arterial highway. The Black Bayou Bridge is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C for association with Engineering as a good local example of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century Warren pony truss vehicular bridge.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Prior to 1916, Mississippi lacked any centralized authority for the planning and maintenance of roads, highways, and bridges. In March 1916, the legislature created the State Highway Commission. The act was partially in response to anticipated federal action, which came in July 1916 when the Congress passed the Federal Aid to Roads Law. The law authorized the Secretary of the Interior to expend federal funds to subsidize national post roads. In order to qualify for federal funds, the law required states to have a functioning state highway commission.<sup>i</sup>

Earlier Mississippi statutes placed responsibility for bridge construction on counties. Counties were required to construct bridges from timbers on adjoining lands. Often the timber used was green and unseasoned, which caused rot and deterioration to set in early. Because of this, many locally-constructed bridges "had a safe life expectancy of less than five to ten years. Usually they were officially regarded as basically unsafe from the outset."<sup>ii</sup>

However, due in part to the safe roads movement and advances in engineering and materials, Mississippi highways and bridges began to improve. When the Tallahatchie County Board of Supervisors decided to replace the bridge over Black Bayou near Glendora, they sought bids for a "steel or iron" bridge.<sup>iii</sup> The Board let the contract to the W.T. Young Bridge Company of Nashville, Tennessee in August 1916, with a completion date of October 1917.<sup>iv</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> Thomas D. Clark. "Changes in Transportation," in *A History of Mississippi*, ed. Richard Aubrey McLemore. (Jackson: University and College Press of Mississippi, 1973), 287-88.

<sup>ii</sup> Clark, 280.

<sup>iii</sup> *The Tallahatchie Herald*, July 6, 1916.

<sup>iv</sup> *The Tallahatchie Herald*, August 24, 1916.



Black Bayou Bridge

Name of Property

Tallahatchie, Mississippi

County and State

The Village of Glendora is located in southwest Tallahatchie County, near the border with Leflore County. Originally a sawmill site on the banks of Black Bayou, the center of town moved when the railroad came through in 1883 and built a station about two miles north. A post office and voting precinct was established in 1900.<sup>v</sup>

### Engineering

The late 1870s to the early 1900s was known as the era of the "American Standard" bridge.<sup>vi</sup> The standard bridge was constructed with wrought iron or steel members, connected by pins, in one of a variety of truss patterns. The system allowed for mass production of standard parts which could be assembled on-site by semi-skilled labor resulting in significant overall cost savings. The upper chord sections of the truss designs served to create bridge sections which were "as strong laterally as vertically to resist the tendency of these members to twist sideways when loaded."<sup>vii</sup>

One of the widely used truss designs was the Warren truss. Patented in 1848 by James Warren and Willoughby Theobald Monzani, the Warren truss employed longitudinal members joined by angled cross-members, creating alternately inverted equilateral triangles. The diagonal members carry both compression and tension while the vertical members provide bracing.<sup>viii</sup> The trusses can be placed under the roadbed, resulting in a deck truss; under and over the roadbed, a through truss, or above the roadbed but not connected, a pony truss. The builder of the Black Bayou Bridge, W.T. Young Bridge Company, used a Warren pony truss design.

The W.T. Young Bridge Company worked closely with the Nashville Bridge Company, sharing office space. Young became vice-president of the Nashville Bridge Company in 1921 and the companies may have merged at that time.<sup>ix</sup> In addition to the Black Bayou Bridge, the W.T. Young Bridge Company built several other bridges in Tallahatchie County in 1916. The Board of Supervisors accepted inspection committee reports for bridges built by the company over the Hubbard Creek Slough near Tandy, Sheely Lake Bayou and Hubbard Creek near Cowart in November 1916.<sup>x</sup> However, a statewide survey of bridges conducted in 1986 found that only the Black Bayou Bridge survived.

The Black Bayou Bridge was closed c. 1955, after a newer bridge was built north of Glendora.

The Black Bayou Bridge is a rare surviving local example of a Warren pony truss bridge built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in Tallahatchie County.

<sup>v</sup> The Village of Glendora, "Glendora's History," <http://glendorams.com/about/glendoras-history.htm>.

<sup>vi</sup> Eric DeLong. *Landmark American Bridges*. (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1993), 69.

<sup>vii</sup> DeLong, 72.

<sup>viii</sup> Historical American Engineering Record (1976). "Trusses: A Study by the American Engineering Record," (<http://www.nps.gov/history/hpd/samples/HAER/truss%poster.pdf>).

<sup>ix</sup> Martha Carver. *Tennessee's Survey Report for Historic Bridges*. Tennessee Department of Transportation, 2008. p. 200.

<sup>x</sup> *The Tallahatchie Herald*, November 9, 1916.

Black Bayou Bridge  
Name of Property

Tallahatchie, Mississippi  
County and State

**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Carver, Martha. *Tennessee's Survey Report for Historic Bridges*. Tennessee Department of Transportation, 2008.

Clark, Thomas D. "Changes in Transportation." In *A History of Mississippi*, edited by Richard A. McLemore. Jackson: University and College Press of Mississippi, 1994.

DeLong, Eric. *Landmark American Bridges*. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1993.

Historical American Engineering Record (1976). "Trusses: A Study by The American Engineering Record," <http://nps.gov/history/hpd/sample/HAER/truss%poster.pdf>.

*The Tallahatchie Herald*.

The Village of Glendora. "Glendora's History." <http://glendorams.com/about/glendorashistory.htm>.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 135-GLN-0001

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than One

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)



Black Bayou Bridge  
Name of Property

Tallahatchie, Mississippi  
County and State

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>50456</u>	<u>3745919</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>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

This structure is located in the northwest quarter of Section 34, Township 23 North, Range 1 West in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. It consists of a 152' x 18' bridge located at UTM coordinates 15 50456 3745919.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property consists only of the steel truss bridge itself, which is significant as a representative example of its type of bridge construction.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title William M. Gatlin  
organization MDAH date             
street & number P.O. Box 571 telephone 601-576-6951  
city or town Jackson state MS zip code 39205-0571  
e-mail bqatlin@mdah.state.ms.us

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Black Bayou Bridge  
Name of Property

Tallahatchie, Mississippi  
County and State

**Name of Property:** Black Bayou Bridge

**City or Vicinity:** Glendora

**County:** Tallahatchie

**State:** MS

**Photographer:** Jennifer Baughn

**Date Photographed:** October 22, 2008

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

- 0001 of 6. Bridge deck. Facing South.
- 0002 of 6. Plaque. Facing East.
- 0003 of 6. Bridge deck and superstructure. Facing South.
- 0004 of 6. Bridge superstructure and piers. Facing West.
- 0005 of 6. Bridge superstructure and piers. Facing West.
- 0006 of 6. Bridge superstructure and Black Bayou. Facing East.

**Property Owner:**

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

name Tallahatchie County  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Charleston state MS zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Black Bayou Bridge  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MISSISSIPPI, Tallahatchie

DATE RECEIVED: 2/02/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/09/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/24/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/20/11  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000112

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 3-21-11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



MS - Tallahatchie County - Black Bayou Bridge - 0001

Epson  
Professional Paper

Epson  
Professional Paper

EPSON



1916

W. T. YOUNG BRIDGE CO  
NASHVILLE TENN

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

J. A. SHORES PRES.

S. C. BARNES

R. W. STEVENS

S. M. JONES

MS - Tallahatchie County - Black Bayou Bridge - 0002



MS - Tallahatchie County - Black Bayou Bridge - 0003

EPSON

Epson  
Professional Paper







MS - Tallahatchie County - Black Bayou Bridge - 0004

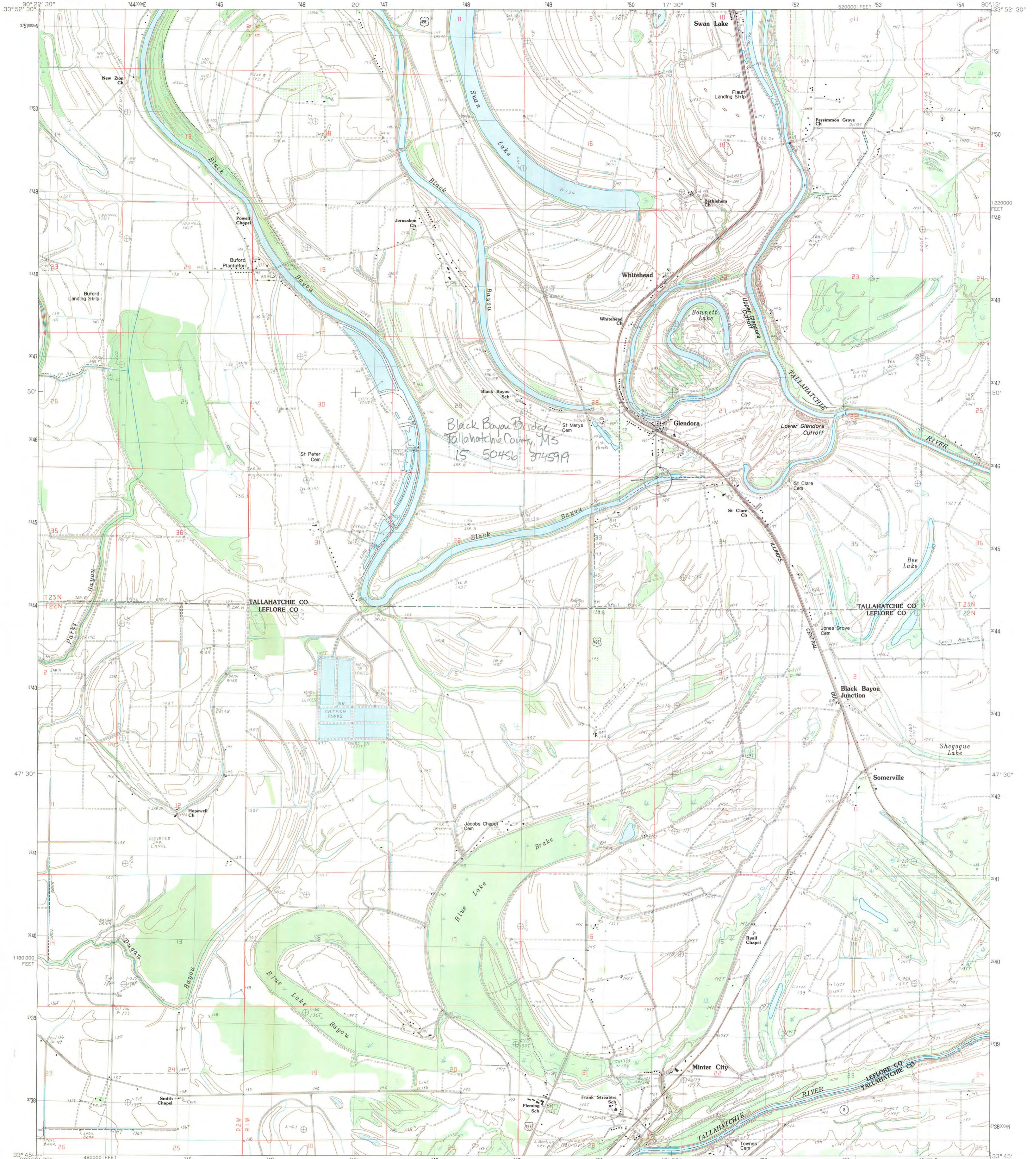


MS - Tallahatchie County - Black Bayou Bridge - 0005



MS - Tallahatchie County - Black Bayou Bridge - 0006

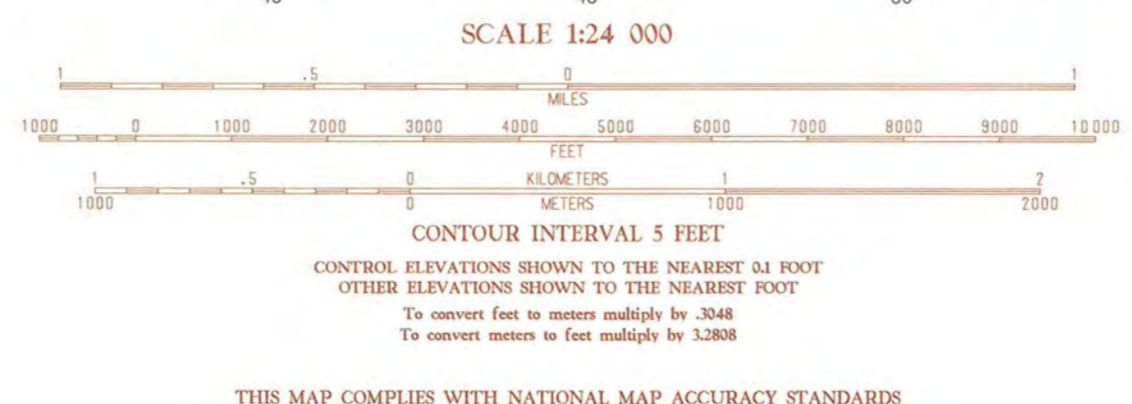




Black Bayou Bridge  
Tallahatchie County, MS  
15 50456 314591

PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
CONTROL BY . . . . . USGS AND NOW/NOAA  
COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN . . . . . 1980  
FIELD CHECKED . . . . . 1981 MAP EDITED . . . . . 1983  
PROJECTION . . . . . TRANSVERSE MERCATOR  
GRID . . . . . 100-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR . . . . . ZONE 15  
UTM . . . . . 1000-FOOT STATE GRID TICS . . . . . MISSISSIPPI WEST ZONE  
GRID DECLINATION . . . . . 1°30' EAST  
1983 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION . . . . . 3°30' EAST  
VERTICAL DATUM . . . . . NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
HORIZONTAL DATUM . . . . . 1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM  
To place on the predicted North American Datum of 1983,  
move the projection lines as shown by dashed corner ticks  
(10 meters south and 9 meters east)  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any  
Federal and State Reservations shown on this map

PROVISIONAL MAP  
Produced from original  
manuscript drawings. Infor-  
mation shown as of date of  
field check. 2



ROAD LEGEND

Improved Road . . . . .  
Unimproved Road . . . . .  
Trail . . . . .

Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	1 Range
			2 Wash
			3 Tippecanoe
4			4 Brazos
			5 Phillip
			6 Bartlesville Bayou
			7 Schlater
6	7	8	8 Money

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

GLENDORA, MISSISSIPPI  
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1983

33090-G3-TF-024



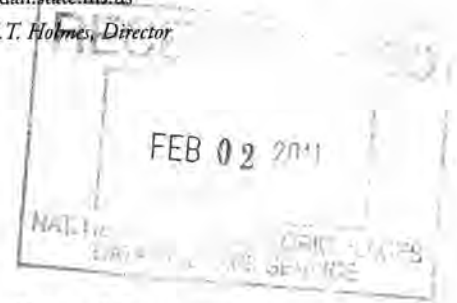


PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571

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[mdah.state.ms.us](http://mdah.state.ms.us)

*H.T. Holmes, Director*



January 31, 2011

Dr. Janet Snyder Matthews

Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places and Associate Director for Cultural Resources

National Park Service

1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)

Washington, D.C. 2005

Dear Dr. Matthews:

We are pleased to enclose the nomination form and supporting documents to nominate the following property to the National Register of Historic Places:

Black Bayou Bridge, Glendora, Tallahatchie County, Mississippi

The properties were approved for nomination by the Mississippi Historic Preservation Professional Review Board at its meeting on January 20, 2011.

We trust you will find the enclosed materials in order and will let us hear from you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William M. Gatlin".

Kenneth H. P'Pool

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

By: William M. Gatlin

National Register Coordinator