

## INDIVIDUAL DATA SHEET

MRA No. 133

DEC 14 1987

Property Name Illinois River Bridge Property Owner Benton County  
Location 6 miles east of Siloam Springs Address c/o A. E. Norwood  
Construction Date 1922 Survey No. AHTD #10593 Benton County Judge  
Benton County Courthouse  
Bentonville, AR 72712

## DESCRIPTION

The Illinois River Bridge is a solid filled concrete arch bridge located on Benton County Road #3 approximately 6 miles east of Siloam Springs, Arkansas. It crosses the Illinois River in a relatively narrow floodplain that measures approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile in width. The bridge has two main spans separated by a central pier. Each arched span is elliptical in appearance and measures 68 feet in length from the spring line for a total bridge length of 139 feet. The bridge deck is 11' 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and is flanked by solid reinforced concrete parapets 3'10" high and 6" thick. These parapets are decorated on the interior and exterior surfaces with a series of simple lined panels. The end panels on the west parapet contain commemorative plaques containing the names of the county bridge commissioners responsible for its construction and the name of the bridge company who built it. The remaining concrete surfaces of the bridge are undecorated and finished with a smooth surface. Reinforced concrete solid spandrel walls and both barreled arches support earth fill that serves as the decking surface for a single lane of traffic.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Criterion: C Area of significance: engineering

The Illinois River Bridge is an excellent example of a solid filled concrete arch bridge. This bridge type was widely constructed throughout the early 20th century in Arkansas in situations where bridges were needed to cross relatively short distances. There are currently 52 solid filled concrete arch bridges built prior to 1941 remaining in Arkansas, with the oldest example being built in 1914. As a group, they represent a 27 year period of Arkansas bridge history that saw the formation of the Arkansas Transportation and Highway Department (AHTD) in 1923 and the subsequent standardization that ensured greater uniformity in quality and design in bridge construction throughout the state. The popularity of this bridge type grew as the flexibility of design and durability of reinforced concrete became evident. 85% of the historic solid filled concrete arch bridges in the state were built after the formation of the AHTD. The Illinois River Bridge was built in 1922 by the Luten Bridge Company of Knoxville, Tennessee. This company specialized in concrete bridges and was prolific throughout

Acreage less than 1 acre

Verbal Boundary Description The Illinois River Bridge is located in the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 7,

Quadrangle Name Gallatin, Ark. Quadrangle Scale 1:24000

UTM Reference: Zone 15 Easting 371060 Northing 4003170

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Location \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Construction Date \_\_\_\_\_ Survey No. AHTD #10593 \_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIPTION

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION CONT.

Township 17N, Range 32W, beginning with the concrete approach span 20 feet north of the Illinois River on Benton County Road #3 to the end of the concrete bridge 139 feet across the Illinois River at its south end.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Criterion: \_\_\_\_\_ Area of significance: \_\_\_\_\_

the midwest United States. Its construction was authorized by the Benton County Bridge Commission whose members were County Judge Joe Beasley, Mr. Lon Williams, and Mr. J.R. Gamble. This bridge is significant as one of the last of its type built before the formation of the AHTD and their influence in bridge design. The Illinois River Bridge also rated in the top 10 of all historic solid filled arch bridges in the state using the criteria established during the Arkansas Historic Bridge Inventory Project conducted jointly by the AHTD and the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP).

Acreage \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal Boundary Description \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle Name \_\_\_\_\_ Quadrangle Scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM Reference: Zone \_\_\_\_\_ Easting \_\_\_\_\_ Northing \_\_\_\_\_



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

12/14/87

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Benton County MRA  
State Benton County, ARKANSAS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. Hagler--Cole Cabin

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melous Byers 1/28/88

Attest

42. Henry--Thompson House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melous Byers 1/28/88

Attest

43. Hiwassee Bank Building

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melous Byers 1/28/88

Attest

44. House at 305 E. Ashley

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melous Byers 1/28/88

Attest

45. Illinois River Bridge

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melous Byers 1/28/88

Attest

46. Jackson House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melous Byers 1/28/88

Attest

47. James House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melous Byers 1/28/88

Attest

48. Jones House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melous Byers 1/28/88

Attest

49. Kefauver House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melous Byers 1/28/88

Attest

50. Kindley House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melous Byers 1/28/88

Attest

87002420

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Illinois River Bridge (Benton County MRA)  
Benton County  
ARKANSAS

DEC 14 1987

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/7/89

Date Due: 1/14/88 - 1/28/88

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 1-28-88

☐ 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

- ☐ 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

- ☐ 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: \_\_\_\_\_





133

10593

10/86

No. 133

ILLINOIS RIVER BRIDGE

VIC. Siloam Springs

BENTON Co. MRA

PHOTO'D BY M. SWANDA

NEGATIVES on FILE at AHPP

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000022