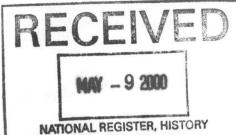
United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



633

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and determinations in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by parking "X" SEPA 105 propriate 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 Ben Laney Bridge	
other names/site number (OU0152)	
2. Location	
street & number U.S. Hwy 79B spanning Ouachita River not for publicate	ion
city or town Camden vicinity	
state Arkansas code AR county Ouachita code 103 zip code 717	01
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 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	
	of Action 9-00

Ben Laney Bridge Name of Property	Ouachita County, Arkansas County and State	
5. Classification		
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count.)	
□ private □ building(s) □ public-local □ district □ public-State □ site □ public-Federal □ structure	Contributing Noncontributing	_ buildings
public-redeful Structure object	1	structure objects
	1 0	Total
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	Number of Contributing resources previousl in the National Register	y listed
Historic Bridges of Arkansas	N/A	
6. Function or Use		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	
Transportation/Road-Related	Transportation/Road-Related	
		
	1	
7. Description		
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)	
Other: Pratt pony truss	foundation CONCRETE	
	walls METAL	
3	roof N/A	
	other	
Narrative Description		

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

Summary

Located on U.S. Highway 79B (formerly Highway 79) at Camden and spanning the Ouachita River, the 1947 Ben Laney Bridge is comprised of three steel Pratt pony trusses with a maximum span length of 129 feet long, and a 548 feet long I-beam deck approach. Additionally, 21 feet of I-beam deck connects the two sections of the bridge and 46 feet of I-beam deck for an overall length of 1000 feet. The 548 feet long I-beam deck approach dates to 1934, however a pair of 3 feet wide sidewalks and steel handrails were added in 1947. All piers and abutments are reinforced concrete. The road width is 24 feet from curb-to-curb.

Ben Laney Bridge	Ouachita County, Arkansas
Name of Property	County and State
Elaboration	
All three trusses include: five panels, a pair of inclined members and riveted connections throughout. The pony	end posts, with double bracing in the center panel, and identically trusses are braced laterally below road level.
The Ben Laney Bridge is currently in good condition, re Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department.	etains its architectural integrity and is being maintained by the
8. Statement of Significance	
o. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Levels of Significance (local, state, national) Local
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Engineering
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.	Period of Significance 1947
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.)	Significant Dates 1934 (date the I-beam approach was constructed)
Property is:	1947 (completion of the bridge)
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
B removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked) N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

D. F. Jones Construction Company--Builder Arkansas Highway and Transportation--Architect

Architect/Builder

 \square C moved from its original location.

☐ **F** a commemorative property

within the past 50 years.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance

D a cemetery.

County and State

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Significance

Constructed in 1947, the Ben Laney Bridge spanning the Ouachita River in Camden is associated with the multiple property listing "Historic Bridges of Arkansas," and is of the steel truss type. Given its intact condition it retains sufficient integrity to remain associated with its historic period and thus locally eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Elaboration

The U.S. Highway 79 bridge spanning the Ouachita River was dedicated to Governor Benjamin Travis Laney during opening day ceremonies on 16 April1947. Not only was "Business Ben" acting governor at the time, but also a native of Camden. Growing up in Camden the son of farmers and businessmen, his family was made prosperous by the discovery of oil on the family farm. Laney served two terms as mayor of Camden from 1935 to 1938, before serving as governor of Arkansas from 1945 to 1949. During the bridge dedication ceremony in 1947, Harold Sadler, chairman of the Arkansas Highway Commission was among those who accompanied Governor Laney.

According to newspaper articles of the time, "the bridge was built to meet the demands of growing automobile traffic on U.S. Highway 79." R. N. Reynolds was sited as contractor and D.F. Jones Construction Company started work on the bridge 8 December 1945. Though, the bridge was to be completed January 1946, work was delayed because a shortage of steel. This delay caused extended use of a temporary timber bridge.

Though research did not uncover a specific description of the bridge that the Ben Laney Bridge replaced, newspapers did report that the Martin Bridge was significantly narrower and in disrepair. The Camden News reported that the pieces of the older bridge and the temporary wooden bridge would be turned over to the State Highway Department after the job was completed. One of the innovations of the 1947 bridge was the addition of sidewalks to the earlier 1934 I-beam approach to allow for safer pedestrian travel across the river.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. "OASIS INQUIRY—Structure Number 02466." (database), 2000.

Camden News, 26 May 1934.

Camden News, 5 April 1947.

Camden News, 17 April 1947.

Comp, Allan, and Donald Jackson. "Technical Leaflet 95: Bridge Truss Types: A Guide to Dating and Identifying." American Association of State and Local History, 1977.

Dougan, Michael B. Arkansas Odyssey: The Saga of Arkansas from Prehistoric Times to Present. Little Rock: Rose Publishing Company, 1993.

Ben Laney Bridge Name of Property	Ouachita County, Arkansas County and State			
Hilts, H.E. (Deputy Commissioner Public Roads Admin	distration), to H. G. Rix (Highway Section, Government Bureau es, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, Little			
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:			
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property Approximately 1.38 acres. UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)				
1 15 516840 3717220 Zone Easting Northing 2	Zone Easting Northing See continuation sheet			
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) The boundary for the Ben Laney Bridge begins at a point approximately 1100 feet northeast of the intersection of U.S. Hwy 79B and the road leading to Sandy Beach Park, at the northeastern corner of the bridge's southern abutment, then proceeds northwest in a line approximately 60 feet to a point that corresponds to the northwestern corner of the bridge's southern abutment; then proceeds northeast along a line that runs parallel to the edge of the bridge across low lying land and the Ouachita River for a distance of approximately 1000 feet to a point formed by the southwestern corner of the bridge's northern abutment; then runs southeast along said perpendicular line for a distance of approximately 60 feet to the point formed by the intersection of the line with the southeastern corner of the bridge's northern abutment, then proceed southwest along a line that runs parallel approximately 1000 feet to the point of beginning. Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)				
	piers and abutments that are historically associated with this			
11. Form Prepared By				
name/title Amy Bennett/Survey Historian				
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	date 3/21/00			
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street	telephone (501) 324-9880			

state

AR

zip code

72201

Little Rock

city or town

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY Laney, Ben, Bridge NAME:
MULTIPLE Historic Bridges of Arkansas MPS NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Ouachita
DATE RECEIVED: 5/11/00 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/24/00 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/09/00 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/25/00 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:
REFERENCE NUMBER: 00000633
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:
COMMENT WAIVER: N
ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6.9.00 DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:
Entered in the National Register
RECOM./CRITERIA
REVIEWER DISCIPLINE
TELEPHONE DATE
DOCIMENTATION see attached comments V/N see attached SLR V/N



Ben Laney Bridge Ouachita Co., AR Amy Bennett October 1999 AHPP View of Plague on truss looking northeast



Ben Laney Bridge Ouachita Co., AR Amy Bennett October 1999 AHPP Viewof bridge looking south



Ben Laney Bridge Onachita Co., AR Amy Bennett October 1999 AHPP View of bridge, looking west



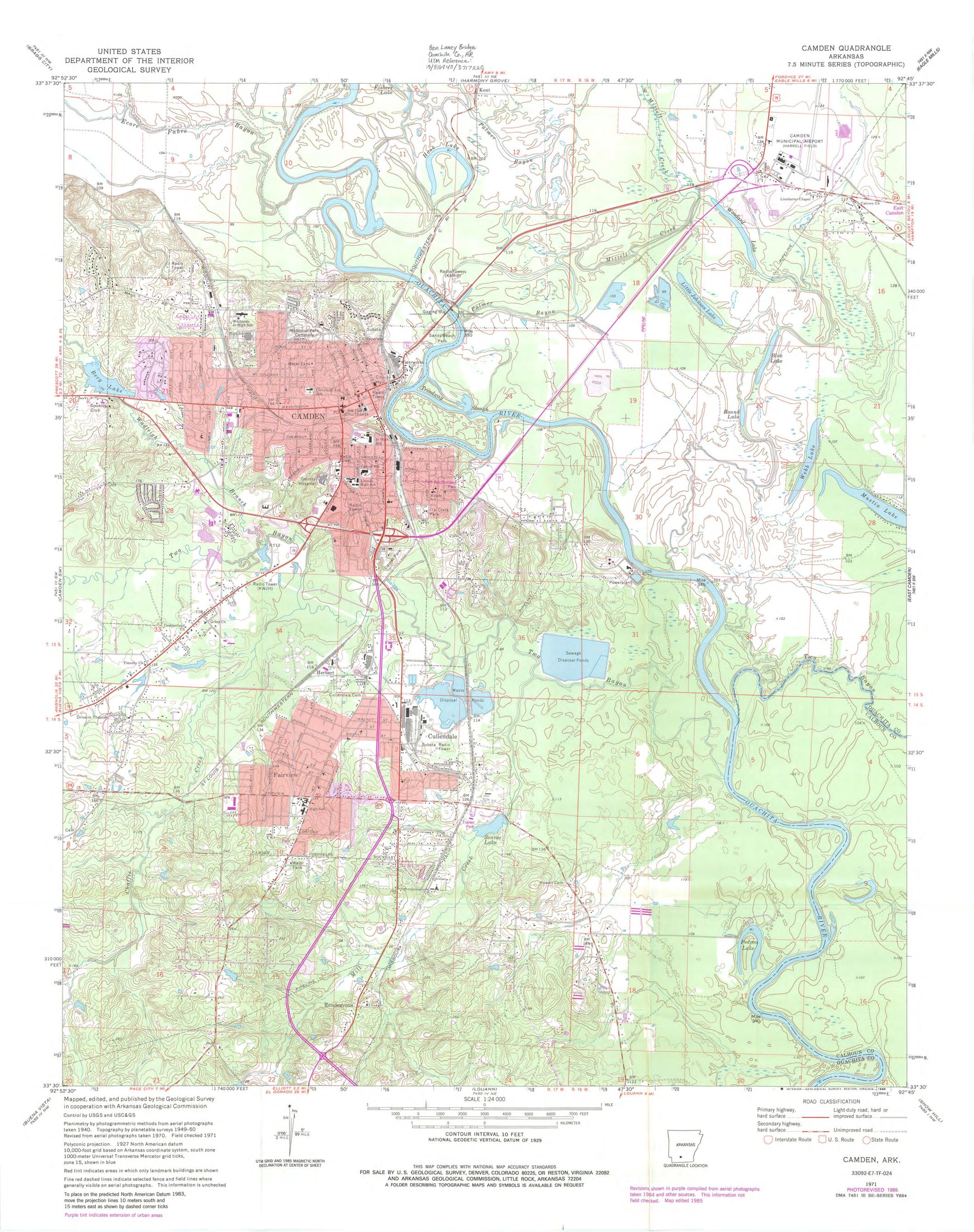
Ben Laney Bridge Ouachita Co., AR Amy Bennett October 1999 AHPP View of approach span looking north east



Ben Laney Bridge Ovachita Co., AR Amy Bennett October 1999 AHPP View of approach span and main bridge looking northeast



Benzaney Bridge Ouachita Co, AR Amy Bennett October 1999 AHPP View underneath bridge looking northeast





ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

April 13, 2000

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United State Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: Ben Laney Bridge—Camden, Ouachita County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above-referenced property. 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,

Cathy Buford Slater

State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:ab

Enclosures

