

# Caplinger Mill Bridge

CEDA07

## GENERAL DATA

structure no.:	095000.1	city/town:	6.7 miles north of Stockton
county:	Cedar	feature inters.:	Sac River
		cadastral grid:	S16, T35N, R26W
		highway route:	vacated county road
		highway distr.:	7
		current owner:	Cedar County

## STRUCTURAL DATA

**superstructure:** steel, 8-panel, pin-connected Pratt through truss; steel, 3-panel, pin-connected Pratt deck truss approach span; steel, 5- and 4-panel, pin-connected Pratt pony truss approach spans

**substructure:** stone abutments; concrete-filled steel cylinder piers; concrete pier between pony trusses

span number:	2	condition:	good
span length:	120.0'	alterations:	bridge closed
total length:	405.0'	floor/decking :	timber deck over steel stringers
roadway width:	~ 12.0'	other features:	upper chord and inclined end post: 2 channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 looped square eyebars, or 2 punched rectangular eyebars; vertical: 2 channels with lacing (2 round eyerods at the hip); diagonal: 2 looped square or round eyebars; counter: round eyerod with turnbuckle; lateral bracing: round rod with threaded ends; strut: 2 angles; portal strut: latticed A-frame with decorative cast-iron cresting; floor beam: I-beam, field-bolted to vertical; guardrail: 2 angles; portal builder's plate: 1895 / CHICAGO BRIDGE C°

## HISTORICAL DATA

**erection date:** 1894-95  
**erection cost:** \$3900.00  
**designer:** Horace E. Horton  
**fabricator :** Chicago Bridge and Iron Company, Chicago IL  
**contractor:** Chicago Bridge and Iron Company, Chicago IL

**references:** Missouri Highway and Transportation Department, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. 095000.1; Cedar County Court Record H: page 219 (12 May 1894), page 257 (8 June 1894), pages 284-85 (10 August 1894), page 447 (7 March 1895), page 455 (11 May 1895) - located at Cedar County Courthouse, Stockton MO; field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 3 June 1991.

**sign. rating:** 78  
**evaluation:** NRHP eligible (outstanding early, multiple-span truss bridge)

**inventoried by:** Clayton B. Fraser 27 January 1992

# HAER INVENTORY

Missouri Historic Bridge Inventory

**NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE**

Caplinger Mill Bridge (Sac River Bridge)  
MHTD: 095000.1

CEDA07

**DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION**

1894-95

**LOCATION**

vacated county road over Sac River; S16, T35N, R26W  
6.7 miles north of Stockton; Cedar County, Missouri

**USE (ORIGINAL / CURRENT)**

roadway bridge / abandoned

**RATING** NRHP eligible (score: 78)

**CONDITION**

good

**OWNER**

Cedar County

span number: 2  
span length: 120.0'  
total length: 405.0'  
roadway wdt.: 12.0'

superstructure: steel, 8-panel, pin-connected Pratt through truss; steel, 3-panel, pin-connected Pratt deck truss approach span; steel, 5- and 4-panel, pin-connected Pratt pony truss approach spans  
substructure: stone abutments; concrete-filled steel cylinder piers; concrete pier between pony trusses  
floor/decking: timber deck over steel stringers  
other features: upper chord and inclined end post: 2 channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 looped square eyebars, or 2 punched rectangular eyebars; vertical: 2 channels with lacing (2 round eyerods at the hip); diagonal: 2 looped square or round eyebars; counter: round eyerod with turnbuckle; lateral bracing: round rod with threaded ends; strut: 2 angles; portal strut: latticed A-frame with decorative cast-iron cresting; floor beam: I-beam, field-bolted to vertical; guardrail: 2 angles; portal builder's plate: 1895 / CHICAGO BRIDGE Co

Located in northern Cedar County, the Caplinger Mill was a local landmark and an important wagon crossing of the Sac River in the late 19th century. In May 1894 the county court directed county surveyor F.M. Hackleman to visit the mill to look for the "most practical point" to build a wagon bridge here. "A public bridge across said river at said point would be of great public utility to the citizens of Cedar County," Hackleman reported back in June. The county could build either a wire suspension bridge with a 370-foot span, he stated, or a series of simply supported steel trusses with an aggregate length between 250 and 300 feet, with "good and substantial approaches easy of ascent and decent [sic]." In August 1894 the county received proposals for the bridge from the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Ohio and the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company of Illinois. WIBCo bid \$3890.00 to build a suspension bridge, and Chicago B&I proposed to build a 405-foot iron truss bridge for only ten dollars more. These ridiculously low prices reflected the national depression occurring at that time. Chicago B&I was awarded the contract to fabricate and erect the trusses. Company president Horace E. Horton designed the multiple-span structure, which consisted of two 120-foot Pratt through trusses, two Pratt pony trusses and a Pratt deck truss, supported by steel cylinder piers. Completed in early May 1895, the Caplinger Mill Bridge carried regional traffic until its later supersedure by State Supplementary Route N. The bridge has since been closed to vehicular traffic and is now maintained by the county as a pedestrian crossing and fishing platform.

---

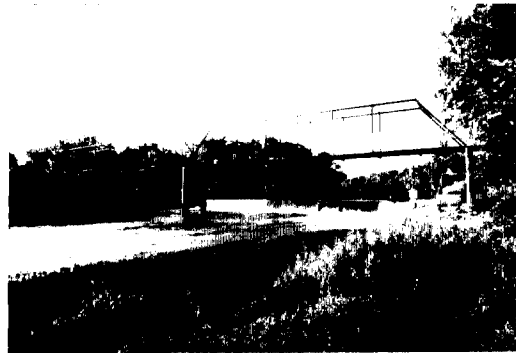
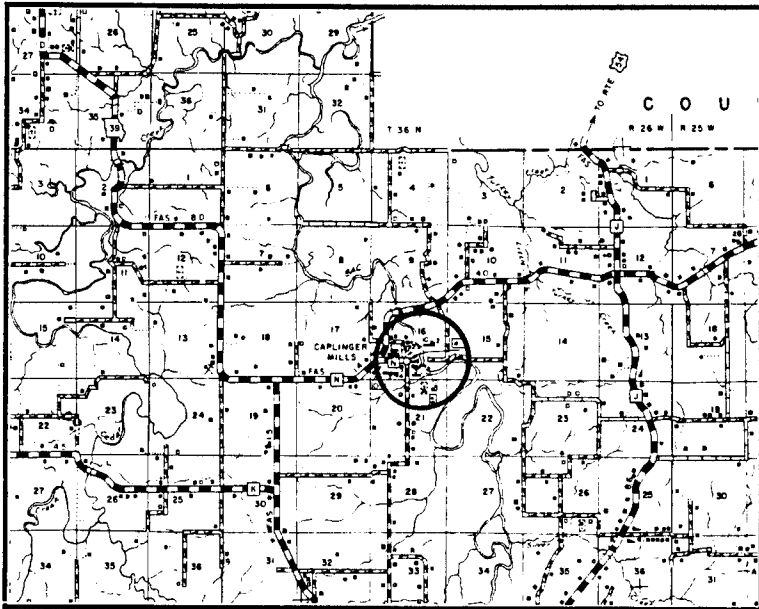
The oldest documented wagon bridge in Cedar County, the Caplinger Mill Bridge is historically significant as an intact remnant of early transportation. As a strategically placed crossing over a major river, the bridge has played an important role in the development of regional transportation networks. An outstanding, multiple-span truss, the Caplinger Mill Bridge typifies the proclivity among Missouri's counties in the late 19th century for pin-connected truss construction. The bridge is further distinguished technologically by its deck truss (the only one of its kind in the state), multiple pony and through truss spans, its long overall length and by its excellent state of preservation. The Caplinger Mill Bridge is one of Missouri's most important early trusses.

---

**NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE**

Caplinger Mill Bridge (Sac River Bridge)

**PHOTOS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION**



**LOCATION MAP**

TAKEN FROM MISSOURI HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT  
GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP

---

**SOURCES**

Missouri Highway and Transportation Department, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. 095000.1; Cedar County Court Record H: page 219 (12 May 1894), page 257 (8 June 1894), pages 284-85 (10 August 1894), page 447 (7 March 1895), page 455 (11 May 1895) - located at Cedar County Courthouse, Stockton MO; field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 3 June 1991.

---

**INVENTORIED BY**

Clayton B. Fraser

**AFFILIATION**

Fraserdesign, Loveland CO

**DATE**

24 January 1992

---