Poplar Bluff Viaduct

BUTL01

GENERAL DATA

structure no.: K 263R
county: Butler
city/town: Poplar Bluff
feature inters.: Black River and Missouri and Pacific Railroad
cadastral grid: S2, T24N, R6E
highway route: Missouri State Highway 60 (Business Route)
highway distr.: 10
current owner: Missouri Highway and Transportation Department

STRUCTURAL DATA

superstructure: steel, 6-panel, rigid-connected Warren deck truss with steel stringer approach spans
substructure: concrete abutments, wingwalls and piers

span number: 1
span length: 130.0'
total length: 399.0'
roadway width: 32.0'
condition: excellent
alterations: repairs in 1986
floor/decking : asphalt over concrete deck with steel stringers
other features: upper chord / end post: 2 channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 channels with batten plates; vertical: wide flange; diagonal: 2 channels with double lacing; lateral bracing: angle; stringer: transverse I-beams; concrete guardrail with open balustrade; 4 lampposts on north guardrail; bridge plate: **Missouri Highway Dept Bridge Nº K263 1934**

HISTORICAL DATA

erection date: 1934
erection cost: $58,650.41
designer: Missouri State Highway Department
fabricator : unknown
contractor: Regenhardt Construction Company

references: Missouri Highway and Transportation Department, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure Number K 263R; files on Primary System Bridges, located at the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department, Jefferson City, Missouri; **Ninth Biennial Report of the State Highway Commission of Missouri** (1933-34), pages 106, 183-191; field inspection by Richard Collier, 30 March 1992.

sign. rating: 63
evaluation: NRHP possibly eligible (well-preserved example of an uncommon structural type, used for an urban viaduct)

inventoried by: Clayton B. Fraser 17 April 1992

HAER INVENTORY
Missouri Historic Bridge Inventory

NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE
Poplar Bluff Viaduct BUTL01
MHTD: K 263R

DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION
1934

LOCATION
State Highway 60 over Black River and MoPac Railroad; S2, T24N, R6E
Poplar Bluff; Butler County, Missouri

USE (ORIGINAL / CURRENT)
urban viaduct / urban viaduct

RATING NRHP possibly eligible (score: 63)

CONDITION
excellent

OWNER
Missouri Highway and Transportation Department

span number: 1
span length: 130.0'
total length: 399.0'
roadway wdt.: 32.0'

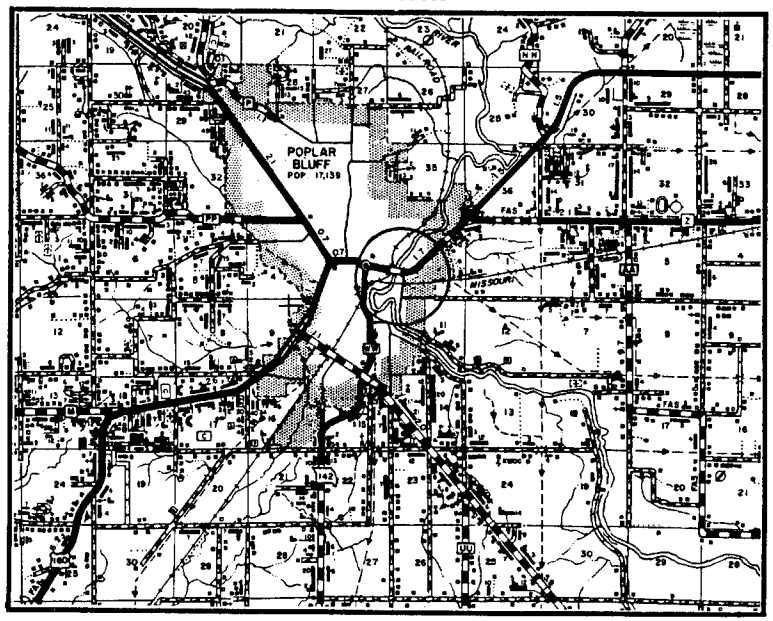
superstructure: steel, 6-panel, rigid-connected Warren deck truss with steel stringer approach spans
substructure: concrete abutments, wingwalls and piers
floor/decking: asphalt over concrete deck with steel stringers
other features: upper chord / end post: 2 channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 channels with batten plates; vertical: wide flange; diagonal: 2 channels with double lacing; lateral bracing: angle; stringer: transverse I-beams; concrete guardrail with open balustrade; 4 lampposts on north guardrail; bridge plate: **Missouri Highway Dept Bridge N° K263 1934**

As part of the effort to create jobs during the Depression, Congress in 1934 passed an act allowing federal monies to be used for road and bridge construction within municipalities. Taking advantage of the new legislation, the Missouri State Highway Commission undertook a number of urban road and bridge projects that year. Located on the eastern edge of Poplar Bluff on U.S. Business Route 60, the Black River Bridge was one such construction project. To span the river as well as two sets of tracks of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, the highway department engineered a 130-foot Warren deck truss, flanked on both sides by seven steel stringer approach spans. On June 16, 1934, a $58,650.41 contract for the structure's construction was awarded to the Regenhardt Construction Company. Completed later that year, the Poplar Bluff Viaduct has since carried increasingly heavy traffic loads on the principal highway leading into the city from the east. In recent years, the structure has carried only westbound U.S. 60 traffic, while a newer bridge (**Structure No. A 3266**) carries the highway's eastbound lanes.

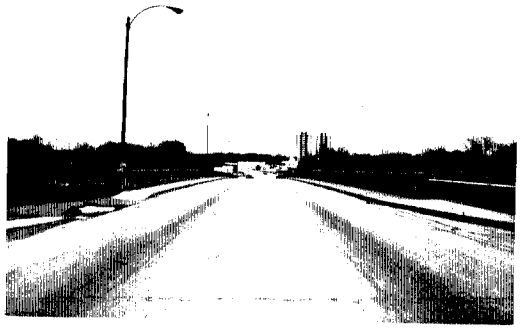
As an important crossing of the Black River and MoPac Railroad, the Poplar Bluff Viaduct has formed an integral part of the city's street system. The viaduct is also important as one of the railroad separation projects funded through the New Deal's Hayden-Cartwright Act. Federal relief programs of the 1930s broke with past practice by allowing federal funds to be used for urban, as well as rural highways. Grade separation was a major focus of the highway department during this period, requiring commitment of much staff time. The Poplar Bluff Viaduct is technologically distinguished as a rare example of its type. Steel deck trusses have never been common in Missouri (less than ten have been identified by the inventory), nor have multiple-span urban viaducts. The Poplar Bluff combines the two structural types. A well-preserved, regionally important example of these two bridge types, the structure is both technologically and historically significant.

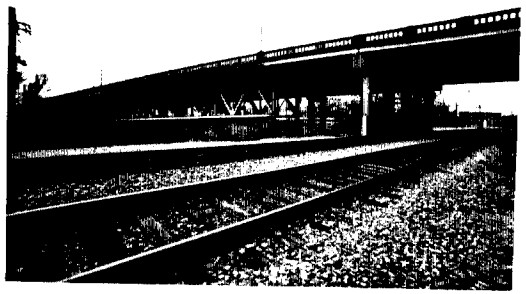
NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE
Poplar Bluff Viaduct

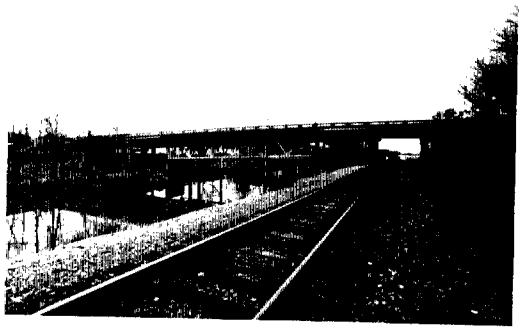
PHOTOS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



LOCATION MAP
TAKEN FROM MISSOURI HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP







SOURCES
Missouri Highway and Transportation Department, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure Number K 263R; files on Primary System Bridges, located at the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department, Jefferson City, Missouri; **Ninth Biennial Report of the State Highway Commission of Missouri** (1933-34), pages 106, 183-191; field inspection by Richard Collier, 30 March 1992.

INVENTORIED BY
Clayton B. Fraser

AFFILIATION
Fraserdesign, Loveland CO

DATE
17 April 1992