Riverside Bridge Investigation:

Truss Bridge Decline and Current Status In Christian County, Missouri: January 21, 2010


Including the Riverside Bridge, there are five truss bridges remaining in Christian County. Only one bridge other than the Riverside Bridge is a pin-connected through truss, and this other bridge is a single span structure instead of two spans. In 1992, there were nine metal truss bridges remaining in Christian County. Four of those have been demolished. In addition, BridgeHunter.com lists an additional truss bridge that was demolished in 1990, before the historic bridge inventory was conducted. This is a significant decline in truss bridges. Of those remaining, only one is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, while another one is listed as “possibly” eligible.

HistoricBridges.org believes that the Riverside Bridge should be re-evaluated and found eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. As a result of the demolition of other truss bridges in the county, the Riverside Bridge is today distinguished as the oldest metal truss bridge in Christian County, and the only multi-span pin-connected through truss. Of all the surviving truss bridges found ineligible for listing, the Riverside Bridge was given the highest historic significance rating. This suggests that if any one additional bridge in the county should be considered eligible, then the Riverside Bridge should be the one.


**McCracken Street Bridge** – Two span Five panel Baltimore through truss with riveted connections. Built 1922 by Pioneer Construction Company. Total length: 204 feet. NRHP Determined Eligible. (Rare example of MSHD truss experimentation) Significance Rating: 73. Status: Extant.
