



Study Conducted By:
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Riverside Bridge Investigation:

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

Derived From Findings In 1992 Missouri Historic Bridge Inventory and www.bridgehunter.com.

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.

Riverside Bridge – Two-span six panel pin-connected Pratt through truss with steel stringer approach spans built 1909 by Canton Bridge Company. Total length: 274 feet. NRHP Determined Non Eligible. (Typical example of common bridge type) Significance Rating: 45. Status: Extant, Replacement Planned.

Riverdale Bridge – Two-span five panel pin-connected Pratt through truss built 1906 by Canton Bridge Company. Total length: 175 feet. NRHP Determined Non Eligible. (Typically configured example of common structural type) Significance Rating: 45. Status: Demolished 2003.

Reed Ford Bridge – Eight panel pin-connected Pratt through truss with steel stringer approach spans. Built c. 1920 by Pioneer Construction Company. Total length: 250 feet. NRHP Determined Non Eligible. (Partially documented typical example of common bridge type) Significance Rating: 32. Status: Demolished 1996.

Jenkins Ford Bridge – Six panel pin-connected Pratt through truss with steel stringer approach spans. Built 1914 by Canton Bridge Company. Total length: 200 feet. NRHP Determined Non Eligible. (Typical example, with substructural alterations) Significance Rating: 39. Status: Demolished 2006.

Roberts Ford Bridge – Two span Five panel pin-connected Pratt pony truss. Built 1919 by Pioneer Construction Company. Total length: 160 feet. NRHP Determined Non Eligible. (Typical example of common bridge type) Significance Rating: 42. Status: Demolished 2000.

Red Bridge – Nine panel pin-connected Pratt pony truss with stringer approach spans. Built 1920 by Pioneer Construction Company. Total length: 337 feet. Note: Demolition Pre-Dates Historic Bridge Inventory. Status: Demolished 1990.

Green Bridge – Seven panel pin-connected Pratt through truss with steel girder approach span. Built 1912 by Canton Bridge Company. Total length: 280 feet. NRHP Determined Non Eligible. (Typical example with poor physical integrity) Significance Rating: 39. Status: Extant.

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.

Hawkins Ford Bridge – Two span Five panel pin-connected Pratt pony truss. Built 1915 by Canton Bridge Company. Total length: 160 feet. NRHP Determined Non Eligible. (common bridge type, moved) Significance Rating: 32. Status: Extant.

Red Bridge – Three span three panel pin-connected Pratt pony truss. Built 1915 by Canton Bridge Company. Total length: 255 feet. NRHP Determined Possibly Eligible. (Uncommon multiple-span example of common truss type) Significance Rating: 52. Status: Extant.