

Washington Bridge

WARR01

GENERAL DATA

structure no.:	K 969	city/town:	Washington
county:	Warren	feature inters.:	Missouri River
		cadastral grid:	Survey 1647, T44N, R1W
		highway route:	State Highway 47
		highway distr.:	3
		current owner:	Missouri Highway and Transportation Department

STRUCTURAL DATA

superstructure: steel, rigid-connected, cantilever Warren through truss
substructure: concrete abutments and piers with Moderne detailing

span number:	5	condition:	good
span length:	475.0'	alterations:	none
total length:	2562.0'	floor/decking :	concrete deck over steel stringers
roadway width:	22.0'	other features:	upper chord and inclined end post: 2 built-up channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 built-up channels with batten plates; vertical: 2 angles with lacing; diagonal: 2 channels with lacing or batten plates; lateral bracing: 2 angles with lacing; floor beam: I-beam, field-bolted to vertical; guardrail: 2 steel channels

HISTORICAL DATA

erection date: 1934-36
erection cost: \$802,000.00
designer: Sverdrup and Parcel, St. Louis MO
fabricator : Stupp Brothers Bridge and Iron Company, St. Louis MO
contractor : Stupp Brothers Bridge and Iron Company, St. Louis MO (superstructure)
Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Co., Leavenworth KS (substructure)

references: Missouri Highway and Transportation Department, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. K 969; Primary System Bridge Record, located at the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department, Jefferson City MO; "Building Bridge Major Event for City," **The (Washington) Missourian**, 24 May 1989, page 10; Ralph Gregory, **A History of Washington, Missouri**, pages 81-82, 88-89; Mari-Anne Messmann, "Desire, Determination Bridge the Missouri," **Washington Missourian**, 6 February 1975; "Washington Bridge Was 38 Years Old Monday," **Washington Missourian**, 30 May 1974; "Building of Bridge Major Event for City," **Washington Missourian**, 24 May 1989; "Work on Washington Bridge to Begin Soon," **Hermann Advertiser-Courier**, 15 March 1929; field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 29 June 1994.

Washington Bridge

sign. rating: 72

evaluation: NRHP determined eligible (superlative example of large-scale truss bridge construction on an important crossing of the Missouri River)

inventoried by: Clayton Fraser and Michelle Crow-Dolby 22 February 1993

HAER INVENTORY

Missouri Historic Bridge Inventory

NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

Washington Bridge
MHTD: K 969

WARR01

DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION

1934-36

LOCATION

State Highway 47 over Missouri River; Survey 1647, T44N, R1W
Washington; Warren County, Missouri

USE (ORIGINAL / CURRENT)

highway bridge / highway bridge

RATING NRHP determined eligible (score: 72)

CONDITION

good

OWNER

Missouri Highway and Transportation Department

span number: 5
span length: 475.0'
total length: 2562.0'
roadway wdt.: 22.0'

superstructure: steel, rigid-connected, cantilever Warren through truss
substructure: concrete abutments and piers with Moderne detailing
floor/decking: concrete deck over steel stringers
other features: upper chord and inclined end post: 2 built-up channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 built-up channels with batten plates; vertical: 2 angles with lacing; diagonal: 2 channels with lacing or batten plates; lateral bracing: 2 angles with lacing; floor beam: I-beam, field-bolted to vertical; guardrail: 2 steel channels

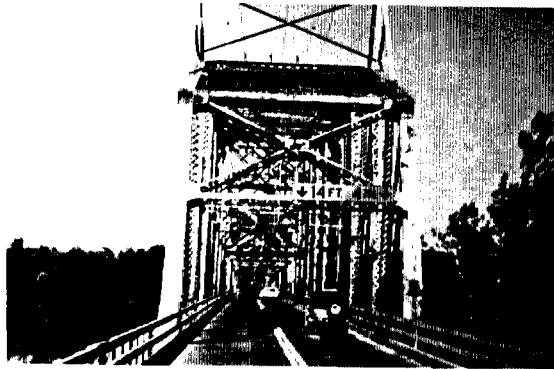
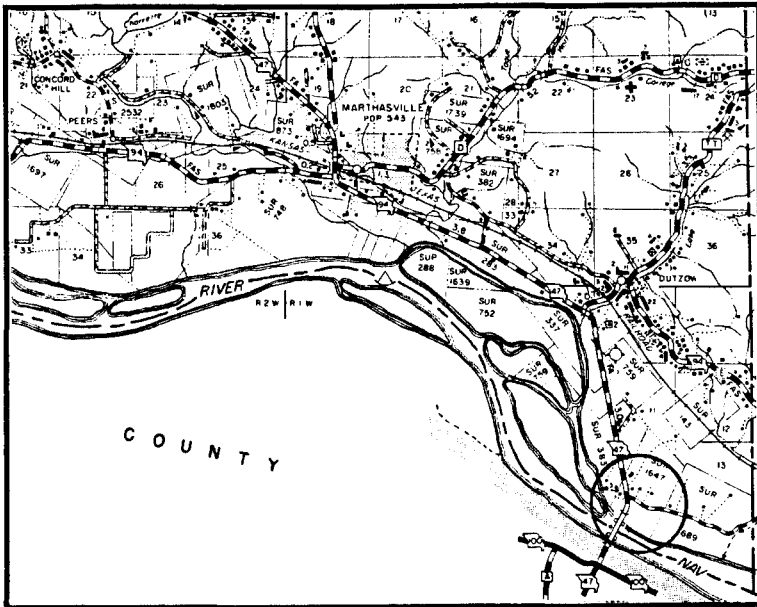
Local citizens and elected officials had been lobbying off-and-on for years for a highway bridge over the Missouri River at Washington. In 1930 the Washington Bridge Committee was formed, and three years later Congress authorized the bridge's construction. Sverdrup and Parcel of St. Louis were hired to engineer the structure, which was to be funded through a combination of federal aid grants, state highway department monies and locally raised loan proceeds. Construction bids let in the spring of 1934 elicited proposals from eleven firms; that summer contracts were awarded to the Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Company for the substructure and Stupp Brothers Bridge and Iron Company for the superstructure. Work got underway in October 1934, and by late November a hundred workers were employed setting the structure's foundations. Construction of the impressive bridge was carried out over the course of the next eighteen months. The bridge was opened to traffic on April 8, 1936; on May 28th a formal dedication ceremony was held. Attended by a host of regionally important dignitaries, the event featured bridge designer L.J. Sverdrup as the guest of honor. The bridge operated as a toll crossing until the fall of 1951, when its indebtedness was finally retired. During the 1930s and 1940s, the standard toll charge was 45 cents for one-way, or 75 cents for a round-trip crossing. The Washington Bridge today appears largely as originally built, having only been subjected to minor, maintenance related repairs.

Fourteen vehicular steel truss bridges over the Missouri River are included in Missouri's statewide historic bridge inventory. As a group, these bridges comprise some of the state's longest examples of truss bridge construction. Undertaken during the depth of the Great Depression, the Washington Bridge was one of a series of great river bridges built in Missouri during the 1920s and 1930s. It has formed a regionally important crossing of the Missouri River: the only span between Hermann and St. Charles. Featuring a cantilevered design, the Washington Bridge ranks among Missouri's most monumental examples of steel truss construction. With a span length of 475 feet and an overall length of 2562 feet, the multiple-span structure clearly ranks as a superlative example of its type. Its distinctive curved

profile distinguished it among several great river bridges undertaken in the state by prominent St. Louis civil engineers Sverdrup and Parcel. Similarly configured structures undertaken by Sverdrup and Parcel include the Mark Twain Bridge in Hannibal, the Hermann Bridge and the Miami Bridge. As an important river crossing and a well-preserved example of large-scale bridge construction, the Washington Bridge is one of Missouri's more noteworthy highway trusses.

NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

Washington 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. K 969; Primary System Bridge Record, located at the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department, Jefferson City MO; "Building Bridge Major Event for City," *The (Washington) Missourian*, 24 May 1989, page 10; Ralph Gregory, *A History of Washington, Missouri*, pages 81-82, 88-89; Mari-Anne Messmann, "Desire, Determination Bridge the Missouri," *Washington Missourian*, 6 February 1975; "Washington Bridge Was 38 Years Old Monday," *Washington Missourian*, 30 May 1974; "Building of Bridge Major Event for City," *Washington Missourian*, 24 May 1989; "Work on Washington Bridge to Begin Soon," *Hermann Advertiser-Courier*, 15 March 1929; field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 29 June 1994.

INVENTORIED BY

Clayton B. Fraser

AFFILIATION

Fraserdesign, Loveland CO

DATE3 February 1992
