

## 340 HISTORIC BRIDGES

(#1) 19-E0224-00.07: Old Stone Bridge spanning Mankers Creek in Goodlettsville on the Davidson Sumner County line

(#2) 74-NonHighway-1: Cheek Stand Bridge spanning the Red River in northeast Robertson County

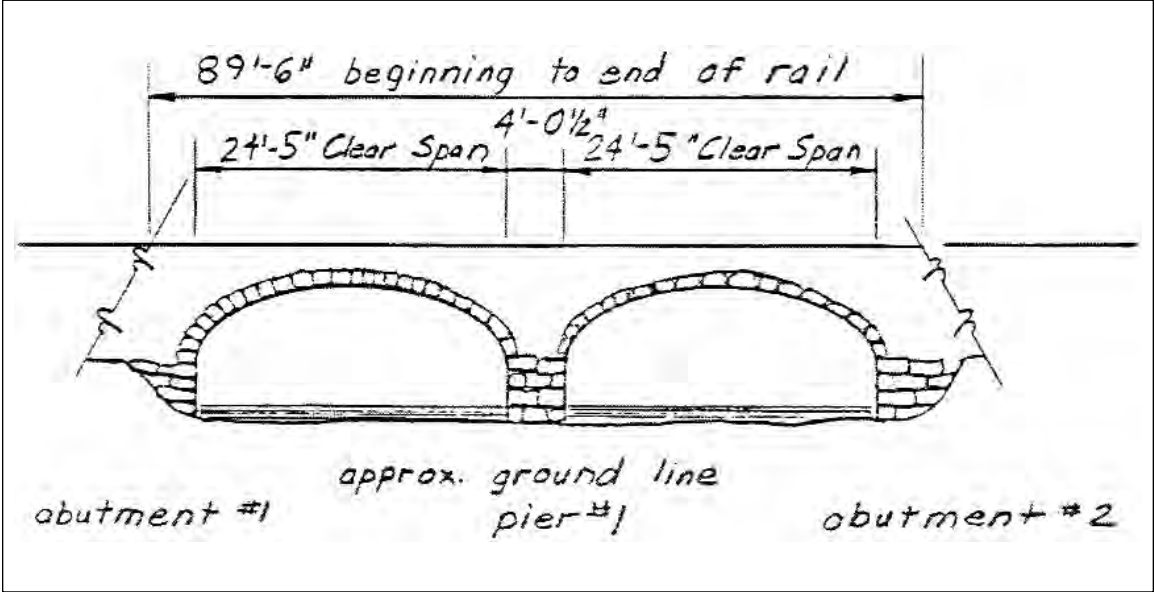
(#3) 83-A0884-00.35: Turnpike Bridge spanning Slaters Creek in Goodlettsville, Sumner County

Significant under Criterion A for their associations with the turnpike era and under Criterion C as rare early masonry arch bridges

These three masonry arch bridges are located on the original route of the old Louisville to Nashville Turnpike. Although not incorporated as a turnpike until the 1830s, this route followed old, animal and Indian trails that had become a wagon road at least by the 1790s. This turnpike was quite prosperous until the 1850s when the completion of the Louisville to Nashville Railroad provided an alternative transportation corridor. However, portions of it continued as a turnpike until about 1900, and the road has continued to be a major overland transportation route. The state designated much of the route as State Route 41/U.S. 31W in the 1920s. As the state improved these systems in the 1920s and 1930s, the state built a new route that bypassed many of the older sections. This realignment saved these bridges; one remains open today on a little used city road, and two are located on farm roads.

The erection dates of these bridges are unknown, but local historians have estimated they were built between 1825 and 1850. Oral interviews of local residents along the turnpike in 1934 indicated that a mason named Johnson built them in 1841 (Dorsey 1935; Henderson 1982; Henderson and Durrett 1979, Tretter 1986). Since all three bridges are relatively alike, it is assumed the same mason built them at about the same time. An interesting feature is that all three are laid without mortar.

(#1) 19-E0224-00.07: Old Stone Bridge spanning Mankers Creek in Goodlettsville on the Davidson Sumner County line (Goodlettsville Quad, 310 SW).



The Old Stone Bridge (19-E0224-00.07) contains two arch spans formed of cut stone laid in a coursed pattern. Each arch is 24.4 feet in length, and the total length is 89.5 feet. The curb to curb width is 19.5 feet, and the out to out width is 24.5 feet. A row of cut stones follows the line of the elliptical arches to the spring line. The stone walls rest above the arches to form the bridge railing that runs the length of the bridge and flares out at each end. A single row of large rectangular stones tops the railing.