

**General Bridge Information:**

*TXDOT District: Waco*  
*County: Falls*  
*Structure ID: 090740AA0236001*  
*Facility Carried: CR 179*  
*Feature Crossed: Big Elm Creek*  
*Bridge Owner: County Highway Agency*

**Statement of Eligibility:**

This evaluation does not reflect potential significance under Criterion A. Criterion A evaluations must be conducted at the local level of significance in the area of Transportation, per the registration requirements established in the "Historic Road Infrastructure of Texas" MPS. This evaluation would typically be conducted in conjunction with project planning for future projects prior to Section 106 consultation.

Bridge 090740AA0236001 carries CR 179 over Big Elm Creek #19 in Falls County. TxDOT bridge inspection records incorrectly list the bridge's construction date as 1900. However, according to the Multiple Property Documentation Form, Historic Road Infrastructure of Texas 1866-1965, the bridge was built in 1884 by the King Iron Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio. It is a single-span bowstring truss with a riveted tubular-arch top chord connected with threaded rods in a configuration typical of work by the King Iron Bridge Company. It has a main span length of 68 feet and an overall structure length of 71 feet. It is significant as one of two remaining examples and is a rare survivor of a once-common type in Texas, the bowstring truss. It is also significant for its use of the tubular arch top chord as a patented feature of the King Bridge Company, combined with its use of threaded-rod connections, a connection type largely limited to bowstring truss bridges. It is also significant for its use of both wrought and cast iron members.

The bridge remains in its original location and therefore retains integrity of location. A number of rods have been repaired with welds and a cable and pier have been added for support, but this change does not affect overall integrity and the bridge retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association.

Based on the registration requirements established in the "Historic Road Infrastructure of Texas" MPS, Bridge 090740AA0236001 possesses significance as a rare survivor of a once-common type with unusual patented features and for its use of cast and wrought iron. The bridge retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance and is recommended eligible for National Register of Historic Places listing under Criterion C in the area of Engineering.

In addition, per a policy decision by the Texas SHPO, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission in 2014, all metal trusses constructed before 1946 are significant at the local level as embodying distinctive characteristics of a type. Determination as to whether this particular metal truss bridge possesses sufficient integrity to warrant eligibility for listing in the NRHP requires consultation with the Texas SHPO.

# Statewide Vehicular Truss Bridge Reevaluation

## GENERAL BRIDGE INFORMATION

<b>District:</b>	Waco	<b>Structure ID:</b>	090740AA0236001
<b>County:</b>	Falls	<b>Location:</b>	0.10 MI W OF LIMESTNE CL
<b>Feature Crossed:</b>	BIG ELM CRK #19	<b>Facility Carried:</b>	CR 179
<b>Bridge Owner:</b>	County Highway Agency		
<b>Latitude:</b>	31.42029226	<b>Longitude:</b>	-96.73495796

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Photo 1: South elevation, facing north, showing the bowstring truss with tubular arch top chord, a rare survivor of a once-common type



Photo 2: Deck view of east portal, facing west

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**Bridge Owner:** County Highway Agency  
**Latitude:** 31.42029226

**Structure ID:** 090740AA0236001  
**Location:** 0.10 MI W OF LIMESTNE CL  
**Facility Carried:** CR 179  
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**Photo 3: Detail of tubular arch top chord showing tubular construction, threaded-rod connections, and iron castings**



**Photo 4: Detail of lower chord connection with floor beam**

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Photo 5: Detail of lower chord end-to-end pinned connection



Photo 6: Detail of underside of truss, facing west

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# Bridge NRHP Eligibility Report

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**Structure ID:** 090740AA0236001      **Disposition:** In Service      **Year Built:** 1884      **Year Rcnst:** 0000

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<b>District:</b>	Waco	<b>Span Type:</b>	Simple Span
<b>County:</b>	Falls	<b>Roadway Type:</b>	Part Through
<b>Location:</b>	0.10 MI W OF LIMESTNE CL	<b>Member Type:</b>	Bowstring Truss, Polygonal Top
<b>Facility Carried:</b>	CR 179	<b>Main Span Length:</b>	0068
<b>Feature Crossed:</b>	BIG ELM CRK      #19	<b>Structure Length:</b>	000071
<b>NRHP Det. Date:</b>	07/31/1995	<b>Evaluator:</b>	CRM Staff

**Historical Significance:** 2 NR Eligible

**NRHP Eligibility Determination Statement:**

In accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act the bridge was evaluated to establish its historical significance during a statewide inventory of metal truss bridges in 1995.

During the inventory the bridge was found to exhibit sufficient structural integrity and engineering complexity when compared with other similar bridge types and was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Engineering at the state level of significance. The bridge is an excellent example of a riveted/pin-connected, bow string bridge in the state of Texas.