

WILSON COUNTY CAMELBACK BRIDGE  
Texas Historic Bridges Recording Project  
Spanning San Antonio River at Old County Route 117  
Calaveras Vicinity  
Wilson County  
Texas

HAER No. TX-68

HAER  
TEX  
247-CALAV.V.  
1-

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C St., NW  
Washington, DC 20240

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Location: Spanning San Antonio River at old County Route 117, Calaveras vicinity, Wilson County, Texas.  
UTM: 14/571850/3231880  
USGS: Sasпамco, Texas, quadrangle (1973).

Date of Construction: Circa 1885.

Designer: Unknown.

Builder: Unknown.

Present Owner: Wilson County.

Present Use: Out of service.

Significance: This 487'-0"-long bridge includes a 180'-0" camelback through truss with subdivided panels and a Warren pony truss with a polygonal top chord. The subdivided-panel camelback is one of only two of its type remaining in Texas. The bridge was built originally to carry horse and buggy traffic over the San Antonio River on a local route linking the rural towns of Fairview, Cano Verde, and Calaveras. The construction of the bridge coincided with the arrival of the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad to Calaveras around 1886. The bridge was used frequently to transport goods, particularly bricks, from the area's thriving brick manufacturing industries to the Calaveras station. Transportation officials closed the bridge to traffic because of structural damage.  
Source: Texas Historic Bridge Inventory form, Bridge No. AA01-17-001, June 16, 1987 (Texas Department of Transportation, Environmental Affairs Division, Austin, Texas).

Historian: J. Philip Gruen, August 1996.

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Project Information:

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