

General Bridge Information:

TXDOT District: Fort Worth
County: Tarrant
Structure ID: 022200ZL1380001
Facility Carried: W Lancaster Ave
Feature Crossed: Trinity River/Forest Park
Bridge Owner: City or Municipal 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 022200ZL1380001 carries West Lancaster Avenue over the Clear Fork of the Trinity River/Forest Park, in Fort Worth. It is a riveted continuous Warren deck truss with variable-depth bottom chord, main span length of 133 feet, and overall structure length of 2,976 feet. There is one main span, 20 major approach spans, and 25 minor approach spans. The main span is continuous with the two adjacent approach spans. The truss spans have three lines of trusses instead of the usual two lines. The bridge was built in 1938 by Russ Mitchell, Inc., contractors for the Texas Highway Department. It is significant as a rare type, the Warren variable-depth continuous deck truss, the only known example in the state. It is also significant for its ornamental concrete sidewalk bench and color bas-relief sculpture and other architectural details on the substantial concrete pier that provides a transition between the major and minor approach spans.

The bridge remains in its original location and therefore retains integrity of location. The deck has been replaced, 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 022200ZL1380001 possesses significance as an example of a rare type and for its decorative detailing. The bridge retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance 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

District: Fort Worth
County: Tarrant
Feature Crossed: CLEAR FORK TRIN/FOREST PARK
Bridge Owner: City or Municipal Highway Agency
Latitude: 32.74689834

Structure ID: 022200ZL1380001
Location: BETWEEN 2600 AND 1600 BLK
Facility Carried: W LANCASTER AVE
Longitude: -97.35000381



Photo 1: South elevation, facing north, showing the continuous Warren deck truss with variable-depth bottom chord, a rare type



Photo 2: Deck view, facing east

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Photo 3: Detail of a bottom chord connection at a pier, showing the continuous design of adjacent spans



Photo 4: View of underside of truss spans, showing the three lines of trusses

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Photo 5: Transitional pier structure between major and minor approach spans, facing northeast, showing architectural detailing



Photo 6: View from deck of ornamental and sculptural treatment of roadway elevation of transitional pier structure

Bridge NRHP Eligibility Report

Structure ID: 022200ZL1380001 **Disposition:** Rehabilitated **Year Built:** 1938 **Year Rcnst:** 1999

District:	Fort Worth	Span Type:	Continuous
County:	Tarrant	Roadway Type:	Deck
Location:	CL FRK TRN & N FOREST PK	Member Type:	Continuous Truss
Facility Carried:	W LANCASTER AVE	Main Span Length:	0133
Feature Crossed:	N. FOREST PK BLVD.	Structure Length:	002976
NRHP Det. Date:	03/04/1998	Evaluator:	Richard E. Mitchell

Historical Significance: 2 NR Eligible

NRHP Eligibility Determination Statement:

The Trinity River Bridge was a \$675,000 project erected by the Texas Highway Department with federal grade crossing elimination funds. It connected west Fort Worth with the central business district as part of a cross-town artery planned for East and West Lancaster. Julian Montgomery was the highway engineer in charge of the project, and Russ Mitchell, Inc. from Houston was the contracting firm which erected the bridge. The 3,000' long span was opened to the public on June 15, 1939. Massive concrete piers supporting the bridge are treated at the pedestrian walkway level as benches flanked by colorful terra cotta panels depicting Texas longhorns. The Highway Department apparently feared that the contractor responsible for the terra cotta work might have trouble depicting a longhorn accurately. Their specifications state: "The modeler's attention is called to the fact that a longhorn steer's head is quite different from heads of ordinary dairy cattle. A warning is hereby conveyed against the use of red.... A water color sketch or other suitable color drawing shall be submitted to the Austin office as a truthful illustration of the colors obtainable for the finished product." The bridge, as it crosses Trinity Park and the Trinity River, is a very successful attempt to provide a scenic route in and out of downtown. The Trinity River Bridge retains sufficient integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, feeling, and association to meet National Register eligibility under Criterion C, Engineering, at the state level of significance.