

General Bridge Information:

TXDOT District: Yoakum
County: Fayette
Structure ID: 130760AA0189001
Facility Carried: Piano Bridge Rd
Feature Crossed: East Navidad River
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 130760AA0189001, known as the Piano Bridge, carries Piano Bridge Road over the East Navidad River in Fayette County. TxDOT bridge inspection records incorrectly list the bridge's construction date as 1900. However, the bridge was built in 1885 by the King Iron Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio. It is a single-span, pin-connected, Pratt through truss with parallel top chord. The overall structure length of 122 feet includes the 79-foot main span and two approach spans. The bridge is significant as one of 18 remaining examples of Pratt through truss bridges originally designed as vehicular bridges in Texas. It is significant for its use of wrought iron members and pinned connections earlier than 1900. It possesses high artistic value for deliberate ornamentation in its use of iron latticework in the portals and railings, and retains the original ornamental builder's plates mounted atop both portals. Although not denoting significance, a notable design feature is the floor system that incorporates riveted, built-up, fish-belly floor beams, which have U-bolt or bolt-and-plate connections to the verticals.

The historic truss span is in its historic location and, therefore, retains integrity of location. In 2012 the bridge was rehabilitated according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, which included the replacement of the timber-plank deck, approach spans, abutments, and approach railings. The historic truss retains its original substructure. These alterations as part of the rehabilitation do not diminish the qualities that define the bridge's overall historic character and do not diminish its ability to convey engineering significance under National Register Criterion C. Therefore, it retains integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. Furthermore, the bridge retains integrity of setting, feeling, and association.

Based on the registration requirements established in the "Historic Road Infrastructure of Texas" MPS, Bridge 130760AA0189001 possesses significance as a rare survivor of a once common truss type in Texas and for high artistic value. The bridge retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance and is recommended eligible for the National Register of Historic Places 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: Yoakum
County: Fayette
Feature Crossed: EAST NAVIDAD RIVER
Bridge Owner: County Highway Agency
Latitude: 29.72718185

Structure ID: 130760AA0189001
Location: 1.15 MI E OF END FM 615
Facility Carried: PIANO BRIDGE RD
Longitude: -96.84543436



Photo 1: Oblique view of west elevation; view facing northeast



Photo 2: Deck; view facing southwest

Statewide Vehicular Truss Bridge Reevaluation

GENERAL BRIDGE INFORMATION

District:	Yoakum	Structure ID:	130760AA0189001
County:	Fayette	Location:	1.15 MI E OF END FM 615
Feature Crossed:	EAST NAVIDAD RIVER	Facility Carried:	PIANO BRIDGE RD
Bridge Owner:	County Highway Agency		
Latitude:	29.72718185	Longitude:	-96.84543436



Photo 3: Detail of lower chord pin and floor beam U-bolt connections



Photo 4: Detail of floor system and fish-belly beams; view facing southwest

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Photo 5: Detail of truss panel and decorative portal; view facing northeast



Photo 6: Overview of setting and replace approach span; view facing north