

General Bridge Information:

TXDOT District: Yoakum
County: Gonzales
Structure ID: 130900AA0232002
Facility Carried: CR 232
Feature Crossed: San Marcos 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 130900AA0232002 carries County Road 232 over the San Marcos River in Gonzales County. With an overall structure length of 275 feet, the bridge is comprised of a one-span, pin-connected Pratt through truss main span, a pin-connected Pratt half-hip pony truss approach span, a shop-riveted and field-bolted Warren pony truss with parallel top chord approach span, and steel I-beam approach spans. The use of U-bolts to connect the floor beams at the bottom chord is a notable fabrication detail. The main span features decorative portals with intricate cresting, curved knee bracing, and the words "GONZALES COUNTY" punched into the bracing. TxDOT bridge inspection records incorrectly list the bridge's construction date as 1900. However, the main span was constructed in 1898 and the Pratt pony truss was constructed in 1907, according to the Texas Department of Transportation Historic Bridge File. The date of construction for the Warren pony truss is unknown.

The bridge is significant as one of 18 remaining examples of Pratt through truss bridges originally designed as vehicular bridges in Texas. It is also significant as an early example of a pin-connected truss, constructed before 1900; for the use of three truss spans to cross the San Marcos River; and for high artistic value as exhibited in the decorative portal and knee bracing.

The bridge retains integrity of location as it remains in its historic location. The visible alterations to the main span are minimal. The railing posts have been replaced. The decorative cresting has been removed from the south portal, and the plaques have been removed from both portals. There have been minor alterations to the floor system on the entire bridge. With the exception of the missing cresting, the alterations have not impacted the bridge's character-defining features and do not constitute a loss of integrity. The bridge has experienced a minor loss of materials integrity due to the missing cresting. Otherwise, the bridge retains integrity of design, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association.

Based on the registration requirements established in the "Historic Road Infrastructure of Texas" MPS, Bridge 130900AA0232002 possesses significance as a rare surviving example of a once-common type, the Pratt through truss, in the state, and as an early example of pin connections constructed prior to 1900. It is also significant for the use of three truss spans to cross the San Marcos River, and for high artistic value. 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

District: Yoakum
County: Gonzales
Feature Crossed: SAN MARCOS RIVER
Bridge Owner: County Highway Agency
Latitude: 29.56359711

Structure ID: 130900AA0232002
Location: 1.50 MI NE OF FM 2091
Facility Carried: COUNTY ROAD 232
Longitude: -97.54343528



Photo 1: Overview of bridge comprised of a one-span, pin-connected Pratt through truss, which is a rare survivor of a once-common type, one-span Pratt pony truss, and one-span Warren pony truss; view facing northeast



Photo 2: Detail of primary pin connection and the U-bolt at the bottom chord

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Photo 3: Overview of truss panel on main span; view facing northeast



Photo 4: View of main pin-connected Pratt through truss span; view facing east

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Photo 5: Elevation of bridge, primarily the Warren pony truss span; view facing southwest



Photo 6: Detail of decorative portal, cresting, and knee bracing on the Pratt through truss main span

Bridge NRHP Eligibility Report

Structure ID: 130900AA0232002 **Disposition:** In Service **Year Built:** 1915 **Year Rcnst:** 0000

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|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| District: | Yoakum | Span Type: | Simple Span |
| County: | Gonzales | Roadway Type: | Through |
| Location: | 1.50 MI NE OF FM 2091 | Member Type: | Pratt Truss, Parallel Chord |
| Facility Carried: | CO RD 232 | Main Span Length: | 0098 |
| Feature Crossed: | SAN MARCOS RIVER | Structure Length: | 000275 |
| NRHP Det. Date: | 07/31/1995 | Evaluator: | CRM Staff |

Historical Significance: 2 NR Eligible

NRHP Eligibility Determination Statement:

Bridge consists of 1 pinned Pratt through truss, 1 Pratt half-hip pony truss of average length, and 1 4-panel riveted Warren pony truss.

Pratt through constructed by E.P. Alsbury & Son (Houston, Texas) -- agent for N.J. Steel and Iron Co. in 1898. Rebuilt by Ottumwa Bridge Co. in 1907. The dates for the pratt half-hip pony & warren pony trusses are uncertain. (Building the Lone Star, pp. 238-239.)

Special Features: Pratt Through truss -- Perforated county name in portal; Ornamentation over portal; Laced vertical web members. Pratt Half-hip Pony truss -- laced end posts and vertical web members.