

General Bridge Information:

TXDOT District: Brownwood
County: Mills
Structure ID: 231670028903040
Facility Carried: SH 16
Feature Crossed: Colorado River
Bridge Owner: State 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 231670028903040 carries State Highway 16 over the Colorado River in Mills County. Constructed in 1939, the structure is comprised of two, 150-foot-long, riveted Parker through trusses and 18 steel I-beam approach spans for an overall structure length of 1,205 feet. The bridge is significant as one of 20 remaining examples of a once-common truss type in the state, the Parker through truss.

The bridge retains integrity of location as it remains in its historic location. The only visible alterations to the bridge are minor impact damage to the lower, horizontal members of the portal and sway bracing on both trusses and impact damage to the railing on one of the approach spans. While the portal and sway bracing are elements of a Parker through truss’s character-defining features, the impact damage is very minor and does not diminish the bridge’s ability to convey its engineering significance. The bridge railing is of a standard design that does not possess high artistic value, and is not a character-defining feature of the structure. The impact damage to the railing on the approach span also does not diminish the bridge’s ability to convey its engineering significance. As such, the bridge retains integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. It also retains integrity of setting, feeling, and association.

Based on the registration requirements established in the “Historic Road Infrastructure of Texas” MPS, Bridge 231670028903040 possesses significance as rare surviving example of a once-common type, the Parker through truss. The bridge retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance and is recommended eligible for listing in 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:	Brownwood	Structure ID:	231670028903040
County:	Mills	Location:	0.00 MI N OF SAN SABA CL
Feature Crossed:	COLORADO RIVER	Facility Carried:	SH 16
Bridge Owner:	State Highway Agency		
Latitude:	31.35382776	Longitude:	-98.67200452



Photo 1: West elevation of structure comprised of two Parker through trusses, a rare survivor of a once-common truss type; view facing southeast



Photo 2: Detail of primary truss connection type at endpost and top chord of south truss span; view facing east

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Photo 3: Overview of deck and approach; view facing north



Photo 4: Detail of impact damage on portal and sway bracing; view facing north

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Photo 5: Detail of impact damage on approach span railing; view facing north



Photo 6: Underside of north truss span and south pier; view facing south