

General Bridge Information:

TXDOT District: Brownwood
County: Coleman
Structure ID: 230420AA0294001
Facility Carried: CR 220
Feature Crossed: Colorado 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 230420AA00294001 carries County Road 220 over the Colorado River in Coleman County. The bridge is comprised of six Pratt through truss spans. The main span is a 170-foot long, pin-connected truss, each of the five approach spans is 105 feet, and the overall structure length is 698 feet. According to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Historic Bridge File, the bridge was erected in 1911 to replace the previous structure that was washed out in 1906. After another wash out in 1936, an 1893 pin-connected Pratt through truss was moved from McCullough County to the site to serve as the main span. The five approach spans were repaired. 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, and for the use of more than three truss spans to cross the Colorado River.

Since the relocation of the main span to this site occurred in the historic period, the bridge retains integrity of location. In 1937, when the main span was relocated to this site and the approach spans were repaired, there were a number of alterations to the bridge. There was scattered replacement or repairs of structural connections that were inconsistent with the original connections, such as bolts replacing rivets and welding. Additionally, the main span was shortened by having the two middle panels combined into one panel. Diagonal eyebars in the middle panels were overlapped and welded.

In 2010, TxDOT undertook a rehabilitation project on the bridge. The work included cleaning and painting the truss members, installing a new wood deck and wheel guards, and building new concrete parapets at the approaches. This work was completed in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. While the 2010 rehabilitation work does not affect the bridge's integrity, the work in 1937 to reconstruct the bridge after the flood has resulted in a minor loss of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship due to the changes in connections and the reconfiguration of truss panels on the main span to shorten its length. The bridge fully retains integrity of setting, feeling, and association.

Based on the registration requirements established in the "Historic Road Infrastructure of Texas" MPS, Bridge 230420AA00294001 possess significance as a rare surviving example of a once-common type, the Pratt through truss, in the state; as a pin-connected structure constructed prior to 1900; and for the use of three or more truss spans. 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: Brownwood
County: Coleman
Feature Crossed: COLORADO RIVER
Bridge Owner: County Highway Agency
Latitude: 31.46272597

Structure ID: 230420AA0294001
Location: 3.60 MI SW OF US 283
Facility Carried: COUNTY ROAD 220
Longitude: -99.42222828



Photo 1: Deck view of the six-span, pin-connected Pratt through truss bridge, a rare survivor of a once common truss type; view facing south



Photo 2: View of pin-connected Pratt through truss spans, view facing southwest

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Photo 3: Detail of primary connection at top chord and end post



Photo 4: Detail of primary connection at bottom chord

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Photo 5: Detail of main span panels where two panels were combined into one to shorten span length



Photo 6: Underside of approach span