

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ben Laney Bridge

other names/site number (OU0152)

2. Location

street & number U.S. Hwy 79B spanning Ouachita River

not for publication

city or town Camden

vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county Ouachita

code 103

zip code 71701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

nationally statewide locally (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Calvin H. Slater
Signature of certifying official/Title

4-27-08
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the
National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the
National Register.

removed from the National
Register.

other, (explain:)

Ben Laney Bridge

Name of Property

Ouachita County, Arkansas

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 1, 0.

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Bridges of Arkansas

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/Road-Related

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/Road-Related

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Pratt pony truss

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls METAL

roof N/A

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Summary

Located on U.S. Highway 79B (formerly Highway 79) at Camden and spanning the Ouachita River, the 1947 Ben Laney Bridge is comprised of three steel Pratt pony trusses with a maximum span length of 129 feet long, and a 548 feet long I-beam deck approach. Additionally, 21 feet of I-beam deck connects the two sections of the bridge and 46 feet of I-beam deck for an overall length of 1000 feet. The 548 feet long I-beam deck approach dates to 1934, however a pair of 3 feet wide sidewalks and steel handrails were added in 1947. All piers and abutments are reinforced concrete. The road width is 24 feet from curb-to-curb.

Elaboration

All three trusses include: five panels, a pair of inclined end posts, with double bracing in the center panel, and identical members and riveted connections throughout. The pony trusses are braced laterally below road level.

The Ben Laney Bridge is currently in good condition, retains its architectural integrity and is being maintained by the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, C, and D with checkboxes. C is checked.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes. A, B, C, D, E, and F are checked.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Engineering

Period of Significance

1947

Significant Dates

1934 (date the I-beam approach was constructed)

1947 (completion of the bridge)

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

D. F. Jones Construction Company--Builder

Arkansas Highway and Transportation--Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Significance

Constructed in 1947, the Ben Laney Bridge spanning the Ouachita River in Camden is associated with the multiple property listing "Historic Bridges of Arkansas," and is of the steel truss type. Given its intact condition it retains sufficient integrity to remain associated with its historic period and thus locally eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Elaboration

The U.S. Highway 79 bridge spanning the Ouachita River was dedicated to Governor Benjamin Travis Laney during opening day ceremonies on 16 April 1947. Not only was "Business Ben" acting governor at the time, but also a native of Camden. Growing up in Camden the son of farmers and businessmen, his family was made prosperous by the discovery of oil on the family farm. Laney served two terms as mayor of Camden from 1935 to 1938, before serving as governor of Arkansas from 1945 to 1949. During the bridge dedication ceremony in 1947, Harold Sadler, chairman of the Arkansas Highway Commission was among those who accompanied Governor Laney.

According to newspaper articles of the time, "the bridge was built to meet the demands of growing automobile traffic on U.S. Highway 79." R. N. Reynolds was sited as contractor and D.F. Jones Construction Company started work on the bridge 8 December 1945. Though, the bridge was to be completed January 1946, work was delayed because a shortage of steel. This delay caused extended use of a temporary timber bridge.

Though research did not uncover a specific description of the bridge that the Ben Laney Bridge replaced, newspapers did report that the Martin Bridge was significantly narrower and in disrepair. The Camden News reported that the pieces of the older bridge and the temporary wooden bridge would be turned over to the State Highway Department after the job was completed. One of the innovations of the 1947 bridge was the addition of sidewalks to the earlier 1934 I-beam approach to allow for safer pedestrian travel across the river.

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. "OASIS INQUIRY—Structure Number 02466." (database), 2000.

Camden News, 26 May 1934.

Camden News, 5 April 1947.

Camden News, 17 April 1947.

Comp, Allan, and Donald Jackson. "Technical Leaflet 95: Bridge Truss Types: A Guide to Dating and Identifying." American Association of State and Local History, 1977.

Dougan, Michael B. Arkansas Odyssey: The Saga of Arkansas from Prehistoric Times to Present. Little Rock: Rose Publishing Company, 1993.

Hilts, H.E. (Deputy Commissioner Public Roads Administration), to H. G. Rix (Highway Section, Government Bureau War Production Board) 29 March 1945. Archives, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, Little Rock.

"The Laney's of Camden," Ouachita County Historical Quarterly. 3 (Spring 1991) 20-36.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
Previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Approximately 1.38 acres.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Table with 6 columns: Reference number, Zone, Easting, Northing, Reference number, Zone, Easting, Northing. Contains entries 1 and 2.

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary for the Ben Laney Bridge begins at a point approximately 1100 feet northeast of the intersection of U.S. Hwy 79B and the road leading to Sandy Beach Park, at the northeastern corner of the bridge's southern abutment, then proceeds northwest in a line approximately 60 feet to a point that corresponds to the northwestern corner of the bridge's southern abutment; then proceeds northeast along a line that runs parallel to the edge of the bridge across low lying land and the Ouachita River for a distance of approximately 1000 feet to a point formed by the southwestern corner of the bridge's northern abutment ; then runs southeast along said perpendicular line for a distance of approximately 60 feet to the point formed by the intersection of the line with the southeastern corner of the bridge's northern abutment, then proceed southwest along a line that runs parallel approximately 1000 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary includes the main spans, approach spans, piers and abutments that are historically associated with this property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Amy Bennett/Survey Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 3/21/00
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9880
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

UTM Reference:
15/516940/3717220

AMY 8 MI.
7451 III NE
(HARMONY GROVE)

R. 17 W. R. 16 W. 47'30"



BEN LANEY
BRIDGE

DEDICATED
APRIL 10, 1947













