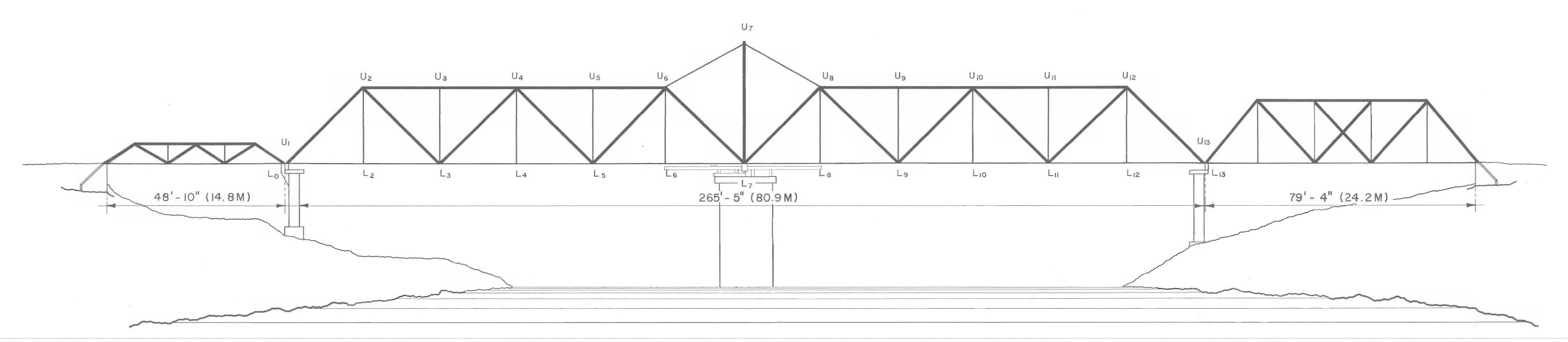
JUDSONIA BRIDGE · 1923

JUDSONIA, ARKANSAS



SCALE IN FEET: /16" = 1' - 0"

0 2 4 6 8 10 12

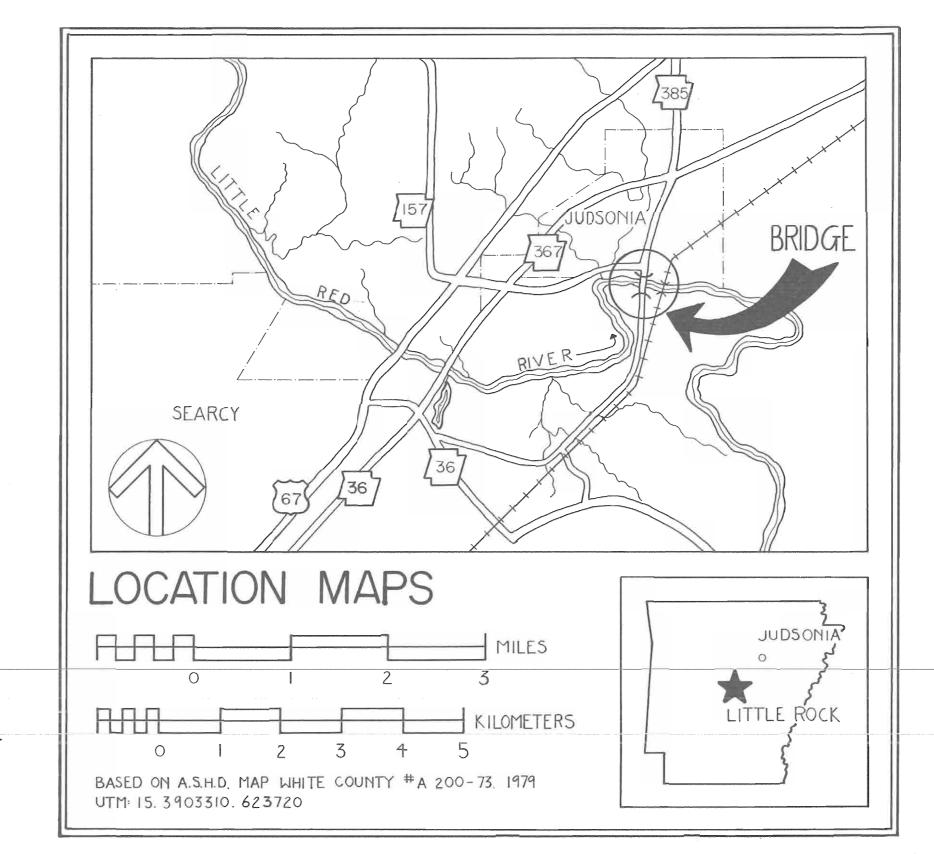
THE JUDSONIA BRIDGE, COMPLETED IN 1924, IS SIGNIFICANT AS THE ONLY KNOWN CENTER-BEARING SWING BRIDGE IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS THE R.L. GASTER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY OF LITTLE ROCK ERECTED THE 265-FOOT MAIN SPAN, WHILE THE PESIDENTS OF JUDSONIA DISPLAYED COMMUNITY SPIRIT IN DONATING TIME AND MONEY TO THE APPROACHES.

THE BRIDGE WAS CONSTRUCTED AS PART OF A NATIONAL MODERNIZING MOVEMENT TO IMPROVE ROADS, GIVING THE TOWN OF JUDSONIA ACCESS TO OUTLYING REGIONS ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE RIVER.

AS STEAMBOATS CAME UP THE LITTLE RED RIVER, THE BRIDGE'S TURN MECHANISM WAS OPERATED BY ONE PERSON IN THE CENTER OF THE BRIDGE USING A KEY OR LEVER THAT FIT DIRECTLY INTO THE GEARS. THE PEAK AT THE TOP OF THE BRIDGE STRUCTURALLY AIDED IN CENTERING THE WEIGHT OVER THE CENTER PIVOT AND IN SUPPORTING THE ENDS WHEN THE BRIDGE WAS OPEN,

THE BRIDGE CEASED TO TURN IN THE LATE 1920'S AS NAVIGATION ON THE LITTLE RED RIVER DIMINISHED

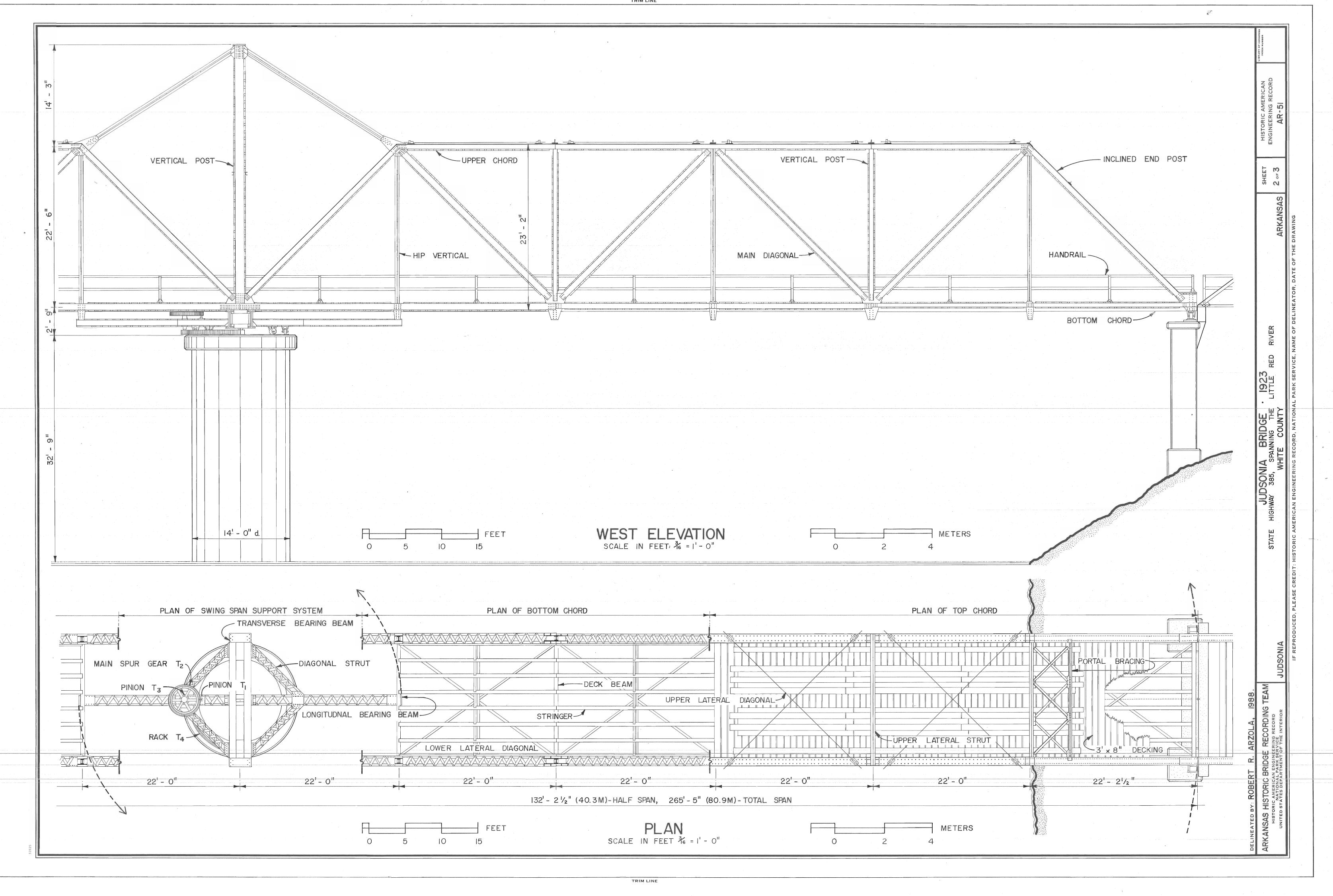
THE JUDSONIA BRIDGE WAS DOCUMENTED DURING THE SUMMER OF 1988, AS PART OF THE ARKANSAS HISTORIC BRIDGE RECORDING



PROJECT, BY THE HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD (H.A.E.R.), A LONG RANGE PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO DOCUMENT HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURES IN THE UNITED STATES. THE ARKANSAS HISTORIC BRIDGE RECORDING PROJECT WAS CO-SPONSORED BY THE ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM AND THE ARKANSAS HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.

THE FIELD WORK, MEASURED DRAWINGS, HISIORICAL REPORTS, AND PHOTOGRAPHS WERE PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ROBERT J. KAPSCH, CHIEF, HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY / HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD, AND ERIC N. DE LONY CHIEF OF HAER. MICHAEL SWANDA, SURVEY COORDINATOR ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, AND BURNEY B. Mc.CLURKAN, ARCHALOEOGIST-HISTORIAN ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION, ARKANSAS HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT SERVED AS PROJECT ADVISORS.

THE RECORDING TEAM CONSISTED OF: LOLA BENNETT (UNIVER-SITY OF VERMONT), PROJECT HISTORIAN; KATHRYN STEEN (LUTHER COLLEGE) AND SEAN O'REILLY (THE IRISH ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVE, DUBLIN, IRELAND), HISTORIANS; ROBERT ARZOLA (TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY), AND FINBAR GARVEY (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN, IRELAND), ARCHITECTURAL DELINEATORS; CORINNE SMITH (CORNELL UNIVERSITY), ENGINEER; AND LOUISE TAFT (LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS), PHOTOGRAPHER.



TRIM LINE