

Arkansas State Highway and  
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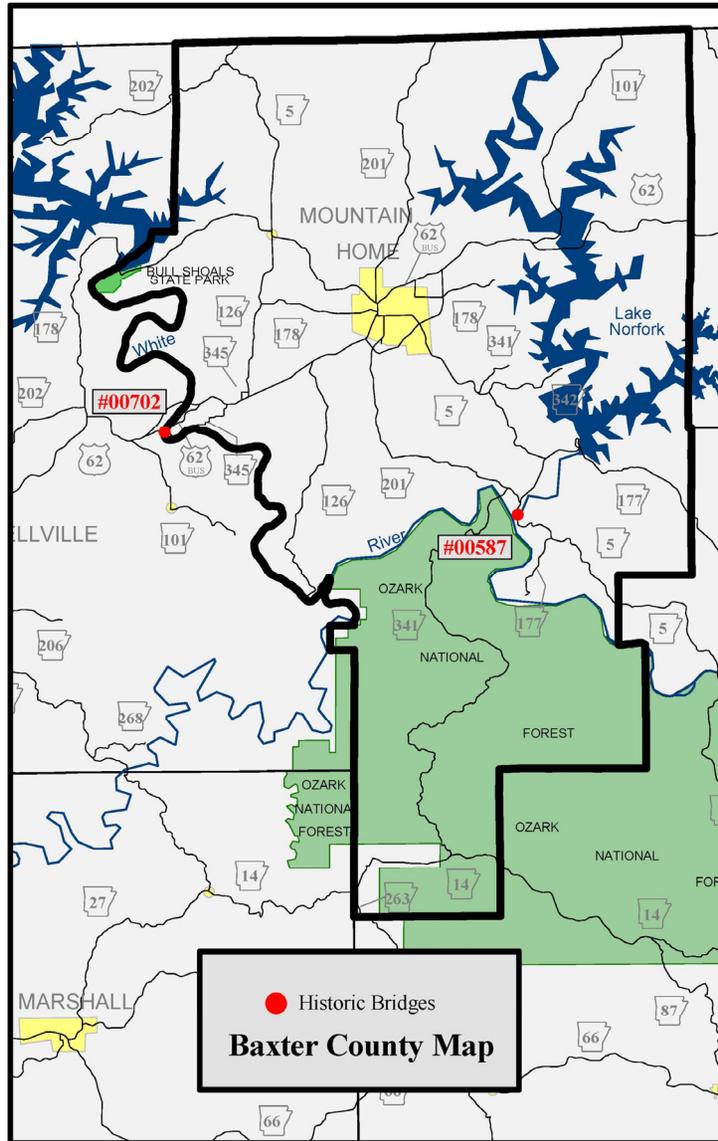


Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

# HISTORIC BRIDGES IN BAXTER COUNTY

*Bridges Listed on the National Register of Historic  
Places in Baxter County*





### Cotter Bridge #00702



The Cotter Bridge was constructed by the Marsh Engineering Company in 1930. The bridge is the only known example of a through concrete deck arch bridge designed and engineered by the Marsh Engineering Company in Arkansas. The bridge is among the largest the Marsh Company ever designed; it is also an excellent example of the company's patented Marsh Rainbow Arch design. A unique feature of the bridge is that it was constructed by means of a cableway, suspended across the river, over which all materials were transported. The bridge became Arkansas' first National Civil Engineering Landmark in 1986. The Cotter Bridge is located on U.S. Highway 62B where it crosses the White River at the town of Cotter.



## North Fork Bridge #00587



The North Fork Bridge was constructed by the Vincennes Steel Corporation in 1937. The bridge is an excellent example of a steel deck truss. The bridge was designed by AHTD as a result of the unexpected costs involved in the erection of a proposed concrete deck arch bridge. The North Fork Bridge is an early example of the modern steel deck truss bridge, where economy prevailed over a more architectural concrete design, and is unique because the deck truss narrows at each end span. The bridge is located on State Highway 5 where it crosses the North Fork River at the town of Norfork.



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## *Introduction*

This pamphlet was created by the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) to inform local governments and the general public of the Historic Bridges located in their County.

The AHTD Historic Bridge Program is designed to balance historic preservation needs with the traffic and safety needs of the public. This program was begun in 1987 by the enactment of the Surface Transportation & Uniform Relocation Assistance Act . This requires Departments of Transportation to inventory all bridges in their state for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places and encourages states to preserve, rehabilitate or reuse historic bridges.

To comply with this law, AHTD conducts historic bridge surveys every five years and will periodically reevaluate previous surveys. This means that the inventory of historic bridges will periodically change with new additions and deletions. This pamphlet contains all historic bridges currently located in this county.

When a bridge no longer meets the requirements for safety and engineering, it is programmed for replacement by AHTD and a review of alternatives to the demolition of the bridge is conducted. These alternatives can include leaving the bridge in place in a non-vehicular capacity with a new bridge constructed next to it, making the bridge a one-way couplet, or the bridge could be rehabilitated for either vehicular, pedestrian or bicycle traffic use. If an appropriate alternative cannot be found, the bridge may be marketed. Marketing is aimed at finding an agency or individual willing to assume responsibility for the bridge, whether the bridge remains in place or is moved to a new location.

In the past some historic bridges have been rehabilitated by the county in which it resides or by the city it serves. When this happens the funding used for these projects has come from Transportation Enhancement Funds distributed by AHTD for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

For more information on the Historic Bridge Program contact Robert Scoggin at 501-569-2077 or email [Robert.Scoggin@ahtd.state.ar.us](mailto:Robert.Scoggin@ahtd.state.ar.us).