

Arkansas State Highway and
Transportation Department

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Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

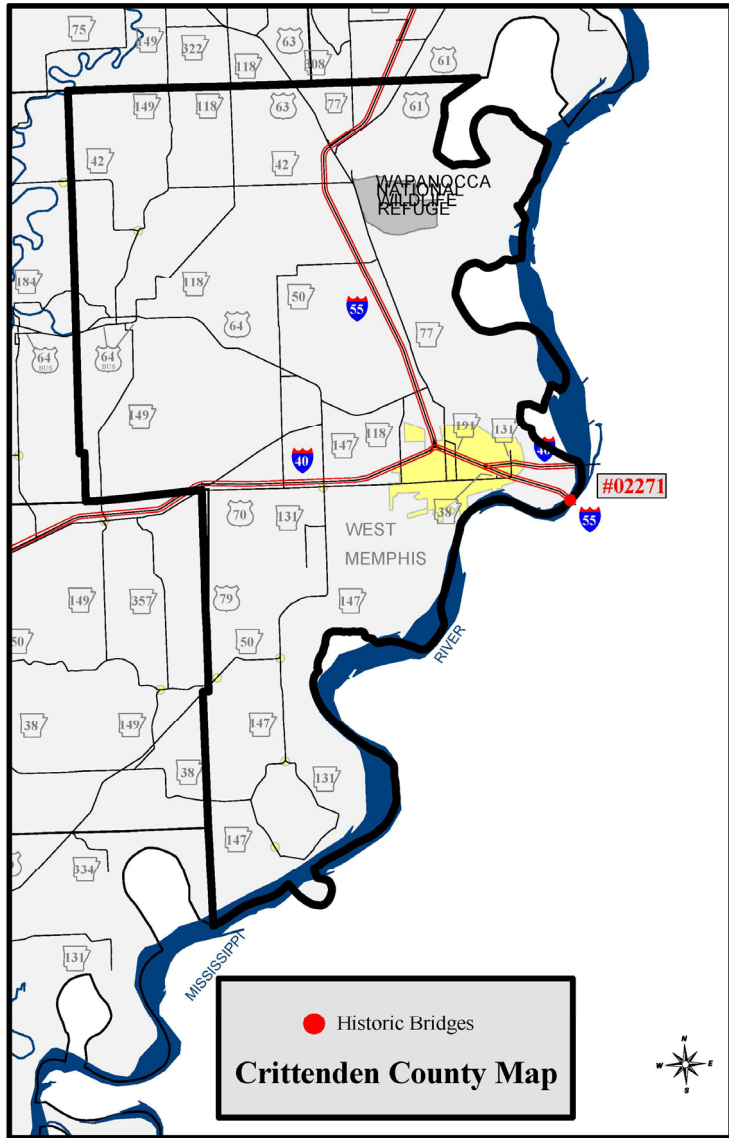
HISTORIC BRIDGES IN CRITTENDEN COUNTY

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



2004

Notes



Interstate 55 Bridge #02271



The Interstate 55 Bridge was constructed by the Merritt-Chapman and Scott Corp., Harris Structural Steel Co. and Virginia Bridge Company in 1949. The bridge is a Warren through steel truss bridge, with five spans and is 5,222 feet in length. The idea to construct the bridge was begun in 1939, but was tabled due to the entry of the United States into World War II. After World War II the idea to construct the bridge was again raised and a consultant was selected and bids were sent out. Between 1945 and 1948 bids were advertised for construction of the bridge. Due to the scarcity of necessary construction materials, as a direct result of World War II, many of the bids had to be re-advertised several times because of high cost estimates submitted by contractors. The Interstate 55 Bridge is located over the Mississippi River where Interstate 55 enters Memphis.



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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.