

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name: Chunky River Bridge
other names/site number:

2. Location

street & number: Adams Street
city or town: Chunky
state: Mississippi code: MS county: Newton code: 101 zip code: 39323

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Paul

Signature of certifying official

FEBRUARY 9, 2004

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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 commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
✓ 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):

Edson H. Ball
Signature of the Keeper

3/22/04
Date of Action

Chunky River Bridge

Chunky, Newton County, Mississippi

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:

Public-local

Number of Resources within Property:

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Category of Property:

Structure

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

Historic Bridges of Mississippi

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)

Current Functions:

TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)

7. Description

Architectural Classification(s):

N/A

Materials:

foundation:

roof:

walls:

other: steel truss
wood deck

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- x **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance
ENGINEERING**Period of Significance**
1911**Significant Dates**
1911**Criteria Considerations:**

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation(s)

N/A

Architect/BuilderNashville Bridge Company,
Nashville, Tenn.

Narrative Statement of Significance: see continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

Bridge Inventory, Office of State Aid Road Construction, Mississippi Department of Transportation

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

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References:	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
	16	318160	3577490

11. Form Prepared By

name/title:	Jack D. Elliott, Jr., Historical Archaeologist	date:	July 18, 2002
organization:	Mississippi Department of Archives and History	telephone:	601-359-6940
street & number:	Box 571	zip code:	39205
city or town:	Jackson	state:	Mississippi

revised by Richard J. Cawthon, Chief Architectural Historian, MDAH

revised: August 12, 2003

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner(s)

name:	Newton County Board of Supervisors	telephone:	601-635-4150
street & number:	P.O. Box 340	zip code:	38327
city or town:	Decatur	state:	Mississippi

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 7, 8, 10 Page: 1

Chunky River Bridge
Chunky, Newton County, Mississippi

Narrative Description:

The Chunky River Bridge is located on a narrow road on the southern edge of the small town of Chunky in Newton County, about a third of a mile south of U.S. Highway 80.

Built in 1911, by the Nashville Bridge Company of Nashville, Tennessee, it is a one-lane, single-span Pratt through-truss bridge of steel construction, 100.6 feet in length and 14 feet in width, with a deck surfaced in wooden planking. It is approached at both the north and south ends by elevated roadways with wooden plank decking and low wooden railings.

The top chords of the structural truss consist of two channels and one plate connected underneath by small rectangular plates. The end posts are constructed in the same manner. The intermediate posts consist of two channels latticed together, and the hip verticals have two angles. The bottom chords consist of two rectilinear I-bars. The diagonal members consist of two rectilinear I-bars, and the counters consist of single rectilinear I-bars. The metal truss span is supported beneath by concrete-filled metal caissons.

Although not regularly maintained, it is in fairly good condition and has not been altered. It has, however, suffered from rust.

Narrative Statement of Significance:

The Chunky River Bridge, built in 1911, is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Engineering, because it is one of the most intact surviving examples in Mississippi of a one-lane Pratt through truss bridge. Bridges of this type were commonly built on rural roads throughout Mississippi from around 1900 through the 1930s, but surviving examples are now becoming very rare.

A comprehensive survey of all known truss bridges in the state of Mississippi pre-dating 1953, conducted in 1986, revealed 35 surviving examples of the single-span Pratt through truss type, the oldest being the Tibbee Bridge in Clay County, built in 1896 (listed on the National Register in 1988). By the time these bridges were re-surveyed in 2002, eleven had been demolished, and another six had been abandoned. The continued survival of many others is problematic.

The Chunky River Bridge is an intact surviving example of this increasingly rare type of bridge, and it is now the only surviving through truss vehicular bridge in Newton County. (There is also a Pratt through truss railroad bridge at Chunky, that crosses the Chunky River about a half mile to the northeast.)

Verbal Boundary Description

This structure is located in the northeast quarter of Section 35, Township 6 North, Range 13 East, in the town of Chunky, Newton County, Mississippi. It consists of a 14-foot by 100.6-foot truss bridge located at UTM coordinates 16-318160-3577490.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property consists only of the steel truss bridge itself, which is significant as a representative example of its type of bridge construction.



Chunky River Bridge

Chunky, Newton County, MS

Photo by Jack Elliott, Feb. 1986

Field checked May 2002

Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

Oblique view of the bridge, view to north

Photo 1 of 4



Chunky River Bridge

Chunky, Newton County, MS

Photo by Jack Elliott, Feb 1986

Field checked May 2002

Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

View of bridge on roadway, view to northeast
deck

photo 2 of 4



Chunky River Bridge

Chunky, Newton County, MS

Photo by Jack Elliott, Feb. 1986

Field checked May 2002

Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

detail of bridge truss structure
view to east from bridge deck

photo 3 of 4

1911
BUILT BY
NASHVILLE BRIDGE CO.
NASHVILLE, TENN.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

J. M. KEITH

M. W. CARP

C. A. H. C.

J. M. RIVER

T. B. PAC

Chunky River Bridge

Chunky, Newton County, MS

Photo by Jack Elliott, Feb. 1986

Field checked May 2002

Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

The date plaque on the bridge

photo 4 of 4