

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Black Bayou Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2nd Street not for publication

city or town Glendora vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Tallahatchie code 135 zip code 38928

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

R. H. Lewis / SHPD 1-25-2011
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Black Bayou Bridge
Name of Property

Tallahatchie, Mississippi
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 the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		district
		site
1		structure
		object
1		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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

None

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls:

roof:

other: Steel

Black Bayou Bridge
Name of Property

Tallahatchie, Mississippi
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Black Bayou Bridge is a single lane, Warren pony truss bridge located on 2nd Street south of the Village of Glendora, Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. The bridge spans Black Bayou, a backwater of the Tallahatchie River. The bridge, now closed to traffic, ran from town to U. S. Highway 49, a major north-south roadway. The immediate area around the bridge is rural with verdant vegetation including water plants, hardwood and cypress trees.

Narrative Description

The Black Bayou Bridge is a one-lane bridge located at the south end of 2nd Street, south of Glendora, Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. The road is closed just north of the bridge and the road bed that originally ran south to U.S. Highway 49 is no longer extant. The bridge spans Black Bayou.

The bridge is 152 feet in length. There are two 76 foot spans with eight foot high steel Warren pony trusses. The spans are supported by two large concrete piers. The top chords and end posts are constructed from three channel steel, while the bottom chords are fabricated from one piece of angle steel and one channel. The center diagonals, in a Warren truss configuration, are made from two pieces of angle steel while the endmost diagonals in both spans use four pieces of angle steel. The structural members are connected by rivets and bolts.

The roadbed is eighteen feet across. The roadbed is concrete with increasing encroachment of vegetation.

There is a plaque on the southern truss, about halfway across on the east side. The plaque identifies the builder as the W. T. Young Bridge Company of Nashville, Tennessee, and gives the date of construction as 1916. The names of the serving supervisors are listed: J. A. Shores, President, S. C. Barnes, R.W. Stevens, and S. M. Jones.

Black Bayou Bridge
Name of Property

Tallahatchie, Mississippi
County and State

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.)

- 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.
- 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

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENGINEERING

Period of Significance

1916

Significant Dates

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

W.T. Young Bridge Company

Period of Significance (justification)

The bridge was constructed in 1916.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Black Bayou Bridge
Name of Property

Tallahatchie, Mississippi
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Black Bayou Bridge, near Glendora, Tallahatchie County, Mississippi is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for association with Transportation. The bridge connected the community by road with U.S. Highway 49, a major north-south arterial highway. The Black Bayou Bridge is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C for association with Engineering as a good local example of an early 20th century Warren pony truss vehicular bridge.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Prior to 1916, Mississippi lacked any centralized authority for the planning and maintenance of roads, highways, and bridges. In March 1916, the legislature created the State Highway Commission. The act was partially in response to anticipated federal action, which came in July 1916 when the Congress passed the Federal Aid to Roads Law. The law authorized the Secretary of the Interior to expend federal funds to subsidize national post roads. In order to qualify for federal funds, the law required states to have a functioning state highway commission.ⁱ

Earlier Mississippi statutes placed responsibility for bridge construction on counties. Counties were required to construct bridges from timbers on adjoining lands. Often the timber used was green and unseasoned, which caused rot and deterioration to set in early. Because of this, many locally-constructed bridges "had a safe life expectancy of less than five to ten years. Usually they were officially regarded as basically unsafe from the outset."ⁱⁱ

However, due in part to the safe roads movement and advances in engineering and materials, Mississippi highways and bridges began to improve. When the Tallahatchie County Board of Supervisors decided to replace the bridge over Black Bayou near Glendora, they sought bids for a "steel or iron" bridge.ⁱⁱⁱ The Board let the contract to the W.T. Young Bridge Company of Nashville, Tennessee in August 1916, with a completion date of October 1917.^{iv}

ⁱ Thomas D. Clark. "Changes in Transportation," in *A History of Mississippi*, ed. Richard Aubrey McLemore. (Jackson: University and College Press of Mississippi, 1973), 287-88.

ⁱⁱ Clark, 280.

ⁱⁱⁱ *The Tallahatchie Herald*, July 6, 1916.

^{iv} *The Tallahatchie Herald*, August 24, 1916.

Black Bayou Bridge

Name of Property

Tallahatchie, Mississippi

County and State

The Village of Glendora is located in southwest Tallahatchie County, near the border with Leflore County. Originally a sawmill site on the banks of Black Bayou, the center of town moved when the railroad came through in 1883 and built a station about two miles north. A post office and voting precinct was established in 1900.^v

Engineering

The late 1870s to the early 1900s was known as the era of the "American Standard" bridge.^{vi} The standard bridge was constructed with wrought iron or steel members, connected by pins, in one of a variety of truss patterns. The system allowed for mass production of standard parts which could be assembled on-site by semi-skilled labor resulting in significant overall cost savings. The upper chord sections of the truss designs served to create bridge sections which were "as strong laterally as vertically to resist the tendency of these members to twist sideways when loaded."^{vii}

One of the widely used truss designs was the Warren truss. Patented in 1848 by James Warren and Willoughby Theobald Monzani, the Warren truss employed longitudinal members joined by angled cross-members, creating alternately inverted equilateral triangles. The diagonal members carry both compression and tension while the vertical members provide bracing.^{viii} The trusses can be placed under the roadbed, resulting in a deck truss; under and over the roadbed, a through truss, or above the roadbed but not connected, a pony truss. The builder of the Black Bayou Bridge, W.T. Young Bridge Company, used a Warren pony truss design.

The W.T. Young Bridge Company worked closely with the Nashville Bridge Company, sharing office space. Young became vice-president of the Nashville Bridge Company in 1921 and the companies may have merged at that time.^{ix} In addition to the Black Bayou Bridge, the W.T. Young Bridge Company built several other bridges in Tallahatchie County in 1916. The Board of Supervisors accepted inspection committee reports for bridges built by the company over the Hubbard Creek Slough near Tandy, Sheely Lake Bayou and Hubbard Creek near Cowart in November 1916.^x However, a statewide survey of bridges conducted in 1986 found that only the Black Bayou Bridge survived.

The Black Bayou Bridge was closed c. 1955, after a newer bridge was built north of Glendora.

The Black Bayou Bridge is a rare surviving local example of a Warren pony truss bridge built in the early 20th century in Tallahatchie County.

^v The Village of Glendora, "Glendora's History," <http://glendorams.com/about/glendoras-history.htm>.

^{vi} Eric DeLong. *Landmark American Bridges*. (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1993), 69.

^{vii} DeLong, 72.

^{viii} Historical American Engineering Record (1976). "Trusses: A Study by the American Engineering Record," (<http://www.nps.gov/history/hpd/samples/HAER/truss%poster.pdf>).

^{ix} Martha Carver. *Tennessee's Survey Report for Historic Bridges*. Tennessee Department of Transportation, 2008. p. 200.

^x *The Tallahatchie Herald*, November 9, 1916.

Black Bayou Bridge
Name of Property

Tallahatchie, Mississippi
County and State

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Carver, Martha. *Tennessee's Survey Report for Historic Bridges*. Tennessee Department of Transportation, 2008.

Clark, Thomas D. "Changes in Transportation." In *A History of Mississippi*, edited by Richard A. McLemore. Jackson: University and College Press of Mississippi, 1994.

DeLong, Eric. *Landmark American Bridges*. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1993.

Historical American Engineering Record (1976). "Trusses: A Study by The American Engineering Record," <http://nps.gov/history/hpd/sample/HAER/truss%poster.pdf>.

The Tallahatchie Herald.

The Village of Glendora. "Glendora's History." <http://glendorams.com/about/glendorashistory.htm>.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 135-GLN-0001

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than One _____

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Black Bayou Bridge
Name of Property

Tallahatchie, Mississippi
County and State

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>50456</u> Easting	<u>3745919</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing	4	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

This structure is located in the northwest quarter of Section 34, Township 23 North, Range 1 West in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi. It consists of a 152' x 18' bridge located at UTM coordinates 15 50456 3745919.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William M. Gatlin
organization MDAH date
street & number P.O. Box 571 telephone 601-576-6951
city or town Jackson state MS zip code 39205-0571
e-mail bgatlin@mdah.state.ms.us

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Black Bayou Bridge
Name of Property

Tallahatchie, Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property: Black Bayou Bridge

City or Vicinity: Glendora

County: Tallahatchie

State: MS

Photographer: Jennifer Baughn

Date Photographed: October 22, 2008

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 0001 of 6. Bridge deck. Facing South.
- 0002 of 6. Plaque. Facing East.
- 0003 of 6. Bridge deck and superstructure. Facing South.
- 0004 of 6. Bridge superstructure and piers. Facing West.
- 0005 of 6. Bridge superstructure and piers. Facing West.
- 0006 of 6. Bridge superstructure and Black Bayou. Facing East.

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Tallahatchie County
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town Charleston state MS zip code _____

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. 460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Black Bayou Bridge
Tallahatche County, MS
15 50456 3145919



MS - Tallahassee County - Black Boyon Bridge - 0001

1916

W. T. YOUNG BRIDGE CO
NASHVILLE TENN

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

J. A. SHORES PRES.

S. C. BARNES

R. W. STEVENS

S. M. JONES

MS Tallahatchie County - Black Bridge - 0002



MS - Tallahatchie Bridge - Black Bayou Bridge. 0003



MS. Tallapoosa County - Black Bayou Bridge - 0004



MS - Tallahatchie County - Black Bayou Bridge - 0005



MS - Tallahassee County - Black Bayou Bridge - 0006