

PH0691674

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 15 1977
DATE ENTERED DEC 20 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC BLUFF DALE SUSPENSION BRIDGE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Berry's Creek Road

CITY, TOWN

Bluff Dale

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
17

STATE

Texas

VICINITY OF

CODE
048

COUNTY
Erath

CODE
143

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME County of Erath

STREET & NUMBER

Erath County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Stephenville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Erath County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Stephenville

STATE

Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Texas Historic Engineering Site Inventory

DATE

1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS History of Engineering Program, C.E. Dept., Tx. Tech. Univ.

CITY, TOWN

Lubbock

STATE

Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1934</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bluff Dale Suspension Bridge crosses the Paluxy River on Berry Creek Road, a dirt, country road, on the outskirts of the little community of Bluff Dale in the northeast section of Erath County. Built ca. 1895, the structure was originally located across the Paluxy River on an old dirt road that later became SH10. When SH10 became US 377, a new and wider bridge was needed and in 1933 a new bridge accommodated the Highway 377 traffic across the River. The precinct moved the unused suspension bridge in 1934 to a point 1½ miles upstream to provide a long-needed crossing for the farmers and ranchers of the area.

Despite the move, the structure's historical integrity remains intact. The bridge was moved because its function at its original location had ceased and a site a mile and a half upstream badly needed a bridge. Rather than tearing down the old narrow suspension bridge, the precinct chose to expand the bridge's length and reuse the old structure on the less traveled country road.

In 1934 Lee Lewis of Bluff Dale contracted to move the structure and 25-foot extensions were added to each end in order to compensate for the difference in the river's width at this location. However, the only alterations to the old bridge have been the occasional replacement of runners by the county.

The Bluff Dale bridge measures approximately 11 by 225 feet. The bridge has seven 1-inch cables running the length of each side. The primary structure of the bridge is composed of 9-inch iron pipes and 4 by 8-inch steel girders. The roadway consists primarily of 2 by 12-inch lengths of lumber. The bridge has two runners, approximately 3 feet wide (each), for automobile tires which run the length of the bridge.

The Bluff Dale Suspension Bridge is presently in a state of deterioration due to lack of maintenance by the county. Portions of the roadway are in need of replacement for adequate safety in crossing the bridge.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bluff Dale Suspension Bridge is Erath County's earliest recorded bridge and an example of one of Texas' few remaining suspension bridges.

Built ca. 1895 across the Paluxy River on the present US 377, the Bluff Dale Bridge provided a primary crossing for the people of Erath County en route to Fort Worth. Founded in the 1870's, Bluff Dale's population increased with the establishment of the Fort Worth and Rio Grande Railroad line in 1889. The growing community felt an acute need for an all-weather road crossing the Paluxy River. The Bluff Dale Suspension Bridge was the community's first permanent bridge.

When the old SH 10 became US 377, a new and wider bridge was needed and in 1933 a new bridge was constructed across the Paluxy River. The old suspension bridge was left in its original place until 1934. In that year the precinct decided to move the old bridge to a crossing 1½ miles upstream from the original site to provide an all-weather bridge over the well-used ford in the river. The bridge is presently located on Berry Creek Road about 500 yards off US 377 in the west edge of Bluff Dale.

Today, the bridge is still in use. A nearby low-water bridge was erected four years ago for trucks with heavy loads and for people who do not trust the old bridge's construction.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Correspondence from Cathey Y. Sims, 4237 Southwestern Blvd., Dallas, Tx. 75225 about the Bluff Dale Suspension Bridge. On file with the History of Engineering Program, Tx. Tech. Univ., Lubbock, Tx.

Interview with Garnell A. Baker, Engineering Department, Santa Fe Railway Co., Ft. Worth, Texas

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1,4 | 5,9,1,6,8,0 | 3,5,7,9,2,0 |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | 1,4 | 5,9,1,6,8,0 | 3,5,7,9,2,0 |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Acreeage covers only the bridge.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul D. Hutchison, Research Assistant; Marie Landon, Editor

ORGANIZATION

History of Engineering Program

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 4089, Texas Tech University

CITY OR TOWN

DATE

12/7/76

TELEPHONE

(806) 742-3593

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 5/31/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles...
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST: Charles...
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/20/77
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE 12-16-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Measurements provided by Paul D. Hutchison, Research Assistant, History of Engineering Program, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas.

Telephone interview with Verna Harris, P.O. Box 57, Bluff Dale, Texas by Deborah Nixon about the Bluff Dale Suspension Bridge on December 1, 1976.

Property

Bluff Dale Suspension Bridge

State

Texas

Working Number

6.15.77.951

E. Rath
77001440

TECHNICAL

Photos

4

Maps

1

CONTROL

OK *pl*
6.16.77

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

It is a "moved" structure; will agree with HAER regarding engineering value.

H. Gibb
9/27/77.

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

accept
Bravham
11.28.77

HAER

What an incredible little structure! This is an unusual sample of a stay suspension bridge what I would call a vernacular, stay-suspended bridge.

Inventory

Review

Accept Eng
10/3

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Bridge moved in 1934 to new location where it continues to function as originally intended

Accepted
LEBOURNE
12/15/77

BRANCH CHIEF

Thurman
12.16.77

KEEPER

Wing
12/20/77

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

DEC 20 1977

Federal Register Entry

2.7.78

Re-submit

INT:2106-74



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bluff Dale Suspension Bridge
Bluff Dale, Erath Co., Texas

History of Engineering Program, Nov. 1975
C. E. Dept., Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas

Looking west to a general view of the
suspension bridge.

DEC 20 1977

JUN 15 1977

#1 84



DEC 20 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bluff Dale Suspension Bridge
Bluff Dale, Erath Co., Texas

History of Engineering Program, Nov. 1975
C. E. Dept., Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Tx

Looking north across the top of the bridge.
(Note extensions at left and right of
photograph).

JUN 15 1977

#2 84



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DEC 20 1977

Bluff Dale Suspension Bridge
Bluff Dale, Erath Co.

History of Engineering Program, Nov. 1975
C. E. Dept.
Texas Tech Univ.
Lubbock, Tx

JUN 15 1977

A view of one of the cable supports.

#3 34



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DEC 20 1977

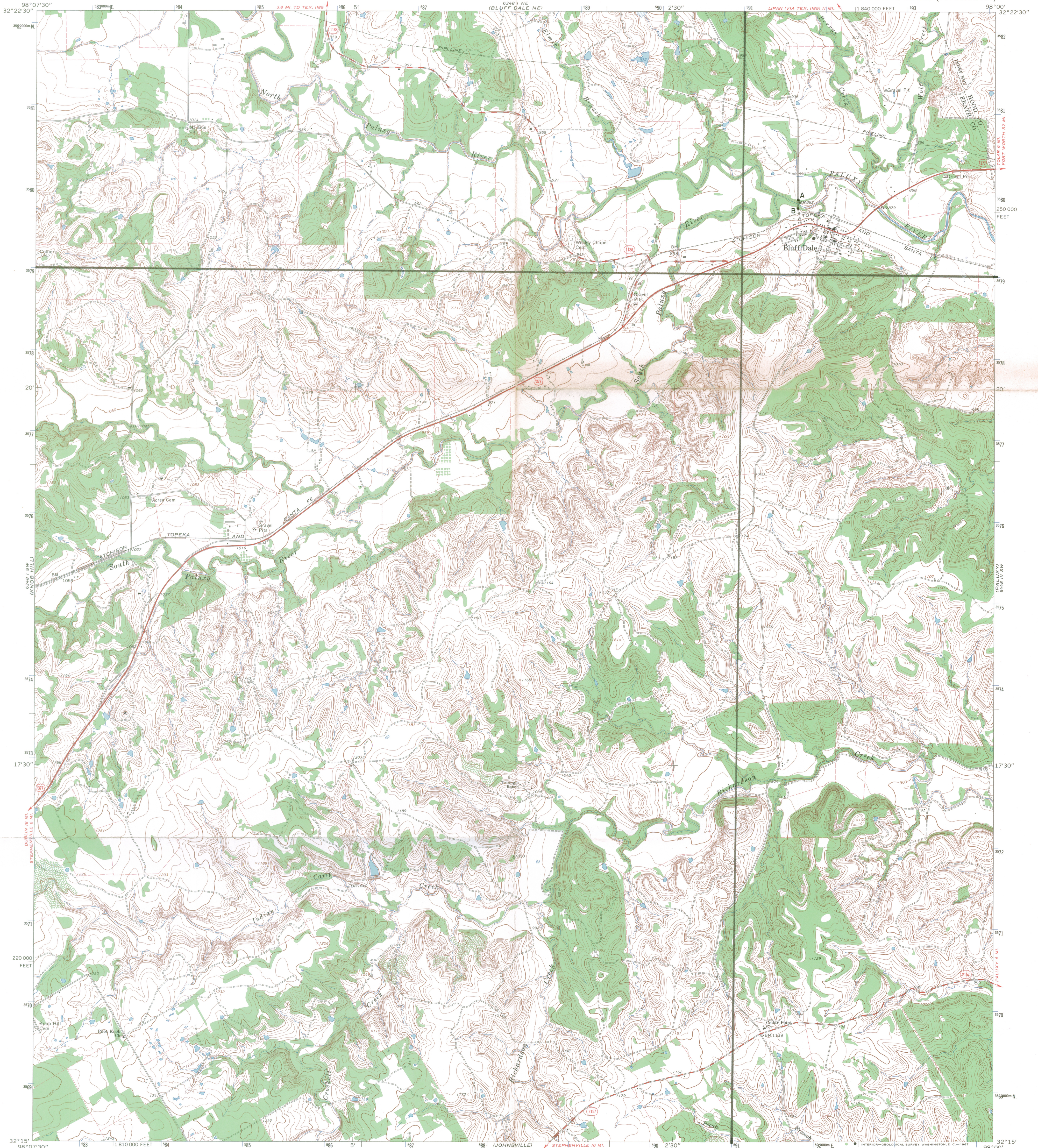
Bluff Dale Suspension Bridge
Bluff Dale, Erath Co., Texas

History of Engineering Program, Nov. 1975
C. E. Dept.
Texas Tech Univ., Lubbock, Tx

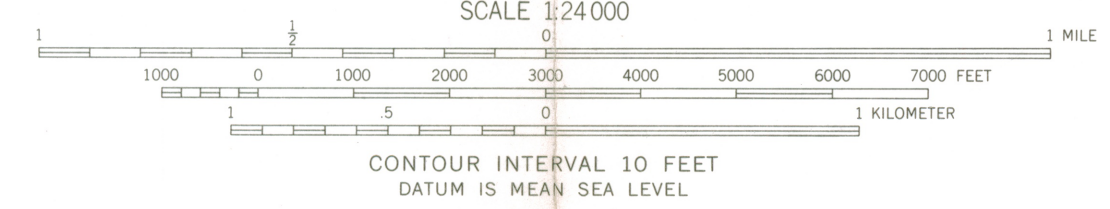
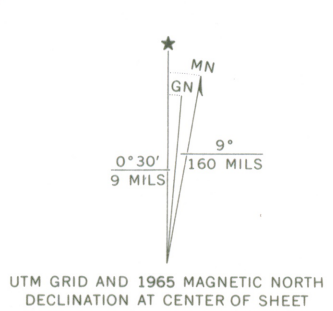
A view showing the bottom portion of the roadbed

JUN 15 1977

#4 034



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1965
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
north central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



BLUFF DALE, TEX.
N3215-W9800/7.5
1965

DEC 20 1977 AMS 6348 1 SE-SERIES V882

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered DEC 20 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Milam County Courthouse and Jail	Cameron Milam County
Bluff Dale Suspension Bridge	Bluff Dale Erath County
Denton County Courthouse	Denton Denton County
Presidio County Courthouse	Marfa Presidio County

Also Notified

Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen
Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. W. R. Poage
Hon. Omar Burleson
Hon. Ray Roberts
Hon. Richard C. White

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Regional Director, Southwest Region

12/23/77

Mott/js

830

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register:
 Bluff Dale Suspension Bridge

2 OTHER NAMES:

3 date of entry: DEC 20 1977

4 county code: 143

5 LOCATION street & number Berry's Creek Rd.

city / town Bluff Dale

vicinity of

state TX

county Erath

6 NPS REGION: SW

7 OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name)

8 ADMINISTRATOR:

9 EXISTING SURVEYS HABS HAER NHL

10 FUNDED? YES NO

11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT 17th

12 SOURCE of NOMINATION STATE FEDERAL

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES, NAME NO

14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES, NAME NO

15 ACREAGE

LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

16 CONDITION

excellent deteriorated altered original site

good ruins unaltered moved

fair unexposed reconstructed unknown

unexcavated excavated

17 features:

SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3

NOT INTACT-0 NOT INTACT-0 NOT INTACT-0

UNKNOWN-4 UNKNOWN-5 UNKNOWN-6

NOT APPLICABLE-7 NOT APPLICABLE-8 NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS YES-Restricted YES-Unrestricted No Access Unknown

19 ADAPTIVE USE YES NO

20 SAVED? YES

IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE :

ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 COMMERCE-6 ENTERTAINMENT-26 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 LAW-16 POLITICS/GOVT.-21 RECREATION-28

ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 COMMUNICATIONS-7 EXPLORATION-12 LITERATURE-17 RELIGION-22 SETTLEMENT-29

AGRICULTURE-3 CONSERVATION-8 HEALTH-27 MILITARY-18 SCIENCE-23 URBAN PLANING-31

ARCHITECTURE-4 ECONOMICS-9 INDUSTRY-13 MUSIC-19 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 OTHER (SPECIFY)

ART-5 EDUCATION-10 INVENTION-14 PHILOSOPHY-20 TRANSPORTATION-25

22 CLAIMS: explain

'first'

'oldest'

'only'

23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:

24 dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:

25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

26 architectural style(s):

27 architect:

28 master builder:

29 engineer:

30 landscape architect / garden designer:

31 interior decorator:

32 artist:

33 artisan:

34 builder/contractor:

35 NAMES give role & date

PERSONAL:

EVENTS:

INSTITUTIONAL:

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP