

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic name: Texas and New Orleans Railroad Bridge

Other name/site number: Site No. 618

2. LOCATION

Street & number: 1/4 mile west of U.S. Highway 59, near Bell Street

Not for publication: N/A

City/town: Wharton

State: TX *County:* Wharton

Code: 481 *Zip Code:* 77488

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Structure

Number of Resources within Property: *Contributing* *Noncontributing*

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <u> 0 </u> | <u> 0 </u> | <i>buildings</i> |
| <u> 0 </u> | <u> 0 </u> | <i>sites</i> |
| <u> 1 </u> | <u> 0 </u> | <i>structures</i> |
| <u> 0 </u> | <u> 0 </u> | <i>objects</i> |
| <u> 1 </u> | <u> 0 </u> | <i>Total</i> |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Wharton, Wharton County, Texas

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

 See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

27 Jan. 1993

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

 See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the
National Register

Delores Byers

3/18/93

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: TRANSPORTATION: Rail-related

Current: TRANSPORTATION: Rail-related

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: OTHER: Camelback Through/Pratt Through Truss

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| <i>Materials: foundation</i> | Stone |
| <i>walls</i> | N/A |
| <i>roof</i> | N/A |
| <i>other</i> | Steel |

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

 x *See continuation sheet.*

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Transportation

Period(s) of Significance: 1903-1942

Significant Dates: 1903

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

 x *See continuation sheet.*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Texas and New Orleans RR Bridge
Wharton, Wharton County, Texas

Description:

The Texas and New Orleans Railroad Bridge is a 3-part, steel truss railroad bridge crossing the Colorado River on a northwest-southeast axis. It consists of a combination of 7-part Camelback-through truss section connected on the north and south ends with single 6-panel Pratt-through truss sections. Large rusticated limestone blocks form the pylons supporting each span. The northwest approach crosses relatively flat terrain and is constructed of braced timber piers supporting single railroad tracks.

The Texas and New Orleans Railroad Bridge is a 3-part, steel truss railroad bridge crossing the Colorado River on a northwest-southeast axis. The northern section of the bridge is approached along a roughly 100 foot approach on braced timber piers. This section crosses rolling river bottom land now used for agricultural purposes. The southern section goes directly onto the opposite river bank. The bridge is roughly 1/4 mile south of the Texas and New Orleans Railroad Depot in Wharton (Site No. 614) and 1/4 mile west of U.S. Highway 59.

The bridge consists of a combination of 7-part Camelback-through truss section connected on the north and south ends with single 6-panel Pratt-through truss sections. Large rusticated limestone blocks form the pylons supporting each span. The date of "1903" is found on the upper steel trusses on the main section.

The bridge is now in poor condition and rarely used. It is heavily scarred with rust and evidence of weatherization.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Texas and New Orleans RR Bridge
Wharton, Wharton County, Texas

Statement of Significance:

The Texas and New Orleans (T. & N.O.) Railroad Bridge (1903) is one of two historic bridges crossing the Colorado River in Wharton. It is an excellent example of the development of bridge technology that allowed Wharton to be connected to other parts of the country by rail. This connection, in turn, provided the economic boost to the local economy that allowed the community to prosper in the early 20th century. The bridge is nominated under Criterion A and associated with the context: *Community Development in Wharton, Texas, 1875-1942.*

The Texas and New Orleans Railroad Bridge (1903) exemplifies the technological development in bridges that allowed the Colorado River to be spanned and thus open up Wharton to additional economic development. With this technology and construction of the bridge, Wharton was able to expand agricultural markets as well as receive goods from other areas of the country. Lumber, bricks, feed, and even early automobiles may have reached the Wharton market in the first few decades of the 20th century by rail. Moreover, this bridge allowed the T. & N.O. Railroad Company (later purchased by the Southern Pacific Railroad Company) to expand its service to South Texas from Houston and thereby reach the livestock ranches in that area.

Despite its poor condition, the structure retains its integrity and is one of two remaining local resources from the railroad era evidence of the rail contribution to the community. It is also one of two historic bridges crossing the Colorado River at Wharton.

Rail service was discontinued to Wharton around 1990.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See bibliography of historic context statement.

 x See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

 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:

 x State historic preservation office (Texas Historical Commission)

 Other state agency

 Federal agency

 Local government

 University

 Other -- Specify Repository:

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 14 781060 3245340 B

C D

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: The width of the right-of-way of Southern Pacific Railroad, including the bridge structure and its approaches.

Boundary Justification: The property includes all areas historically associated with the structure as built.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (assisted by Dwayne Jones, Preservation Planner, THC staff)

Name/Title: Ed Galloway and Ralph Newlan

Organization: Hardy-Heck-Moore

Date: July 1989

January 1992

Street & Number: 2112 Rio Grande

Telephone: 512-478-8014

City or Town: Austin

State: TX Zip: 78705

2/1/93

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Wharton MPS

Wharton County, TEXAS

Date Listed

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------|
| 21. House at 401 North Richmond | Entered in the National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 22. House at 512 North Resident | Entered in the National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 23. Linn Street Historic District | Substantive Review | 3/18/93 |
| 24. Merrill--Roten House | Entered in the National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 25. Moran--Moore House | Entered in the National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 26. Speaker, J. H., House | Entered in the National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 27. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church | Entered in the National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 28. Texas and New Orleans Railroad Depot | Entered in the National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 29. Texas and New Orleans Railroad Bridge | Entered in the National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 30. West Milam Street Mercantile Historic District | Entered in the National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 31. Worthing, Louis F., House | Entered in the National Register | 3/18/93 |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Texas and New Orleans Railroad Bridge

MULTIPLE NAME: Wharton MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Wharton

DATE RECEIVED: 2/01/93

DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/16/93

DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/04/93

DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/18/93

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 93000123

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/18/93 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



TEXAS & NEW ORLEANS RR BRIDGE
SITE No. 618
WHARTON Co., TEXAS
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Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500657