

NR Listed 1/28/05

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Illinois River Bridge  
other names/site number Bridge #10631, Site #BE3600

2. Location

street & number County Road 196 (Kincheloe Road) approximately 1/4 mile south of old Hwy 68  not for publication  
city or town Pedro  vicinity  
state Arkansas code AR county Benton code 007 zip code 72761

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Cathie Matlock 11/30/04  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
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 certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Illinois River Bridge  
Name of Property

Benton County, Arkansas  
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 count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

Historic Bridges of Arkansas

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

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)/bridge

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Pratt thru-truss

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls N/A

roof N/A

other STEEL

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.

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 birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
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.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION

ENGINEERING

Period of Significance

1922-1954

Significant Dates

1922-1954

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:

Arkansas State Highway & Transportation Department

Illinois River Bridge  
Name of Property

Benton County, Arkansas  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property Less than one

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>374824</u>	<u>4004338</u>	5	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
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2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date June 16, 2004  
street & number 1600 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9787  
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

**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**

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

name Benton County  
street & number 215 East Central telephone 870-271-1000  
city or town Bentonville state AR zip code 72712

**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 listing. 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 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 20303.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUMMARY

The Illinois River Bridge is located at the only point where County Road 196 (also known as Kincheloe Road) crosses the Illinois River. It is located approximately one mile northeast of the town of Pedro, approximately 1000 feet south of Old US Highway 412, and approximately 1500 feet north of the current US Highway 412. Comprised of one span measuring 126 feet long, this pin-connected steel Pratt thru-truss has a total length of 206 feet.

### ELABORATION

The Pratt truss was first developed by Thomas and Caleb Pratt in 1844, and contains diagonals in tension and verticals in compression. Since it is a thru-truss, the bridge carries its traffic load with the bottom chords.

The Illinois River Bridge consists of a single pin-connected Pratt thru-truss span measuring 126 feet, with a total structure length of 206 feet. The bridge is accessed from both the northeast and southwest. The vertical clearance inside the truss portal is 13.5 feet, however, a steel cross member has been placed at both ends of the bridge so that only vehicles with a clearance of 10 feet, 6 inches are allowed to pass over the bridge. The travel surface and overall width of the bridge is 16 feet. The deck surface is wood laid over a steel truss. The abutments are concrete. A pair of side-by-side Pratt trusses runs the entire length of the span on the northwest and southeast sides. A pair of side-by-side steel guardrails runs the entire length of the structure on the northwest and southeast sides.

### INTEGRITY

No structural alterations have been made to the bridge to compromise its integrity. Its location remains rural, and its setting remains pristine. The bridge still illustrates its original design and materials. The bridge was closed by order of the Benton County judge in 2004, and is no longer in use for vehicular travel.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUMMARY

Constructed in 1922, the Illinois River Bridge is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as the best example of a Pratt thru-truss bridge in the Pedro vicinity. The bridge is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its associations with the development of vehicular transportation in Benton County. This nomination is being submitted under the multiple-property listing "Historic Bridges of Arkansas."

### ELABORATION

Benton County and the county seat of Bentonville were named in honor of Thomas Hart Benton, a U.S. Senator from Missouri. Benton played a key role in persuading Congress to admit Arkansas to the Union. The county and its seat were organized in 1836, with the county being 886 square miles in size. The landscape of Benton County is dominated by the gently rolling hills of the Ozark Mountains. The county is located in the far northwestern corner of the state, giving it the nickname "The Cornerstone of Arkansas."

During its existence, Benton County has played host to several notable events in American history. In 1837, the Cherokee Indians were forced to migrate through Benton County to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). The route that they traveled has become known as part of the "Trail of Tears." In 1862, one of the decisive battles of the American Civil War was fought at Pea Ridge. At the Battle of Pea Ridge, also known as the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern, outnumbered Union troops prevented the Confederacy from entering and taking control of Missouri.

A century later, a milestone in American commerce occurred. In 1962, Sam Walton opened the first of many Wal-Mart stores in Rogers. Then, in 1972, the Buffalo River, which runs through Benton County, was designated a National River "because it is a pure, free-flowing stream which has not been significantly altered by industry or man, (and) it is considered to be one of the country's last significant natural rivers."

Benton County has also been the home of many well-known Americans, including Sam Walton, founder of Wal-Mart, Inc.; Betty Rogers, the wife of actor Will Rogers; William Hope 'Coin' Harvey, a famed financial writer, local political theorist, and the first man from Arkansas ever to run for president; Louise Thadden, the first female pilot to win the Bendix Transcontinental Air Race; and Tom Morgan, a writer for the Saturday Evening Post and Life Magazine.

The establishment of a formal system of roads in Benton County is a direct result of early work done by one of the county's aforementioned famous residents, William Hope 'Coin' Harvey. The story of Harvey's rise to prominence has as many twists as the mountain roads he helped to map.

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Before he came to Benton County, Harvey was involved in several less-than-successful business ventures in other states. He was an economic advisor to William Jennings Bryan, who (unsuccessfully) sought the presidency in the 1896 election. His first real success came following the election with the opening of his Coin Publishing Company in Chicago, and the publication of *Coin's Financial School*, a book in which he espoused his own economic theories, which were radical for the time. The book sold over 1.5 million copies.

Harvey had visited Benton County during the election of 1896, and grew to love the area because it reminded him of his native West Virginia. He returned to Rogers in 1900 and used money made from his publishing company to purchase 320 acres in an area known as Silver Springs. This land was to house his next project, the Monte Ne Resort.

The Monte Ne Resort was intended to be a health resort that not only would cure the ills of the body, but the ills of mankind, as Harvey deemed them. However, as the resort was buried deep in the Ozark Mountains, finding an easy way to bring guests to the resort became a priority for Harvey. To solve this problem, Harvey constructed a short line railroad that connected Monte Ne to the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad in nearby Lowell. At the height of the resort's popularity, special trains ran from St. Louis and other cities to bring vacationers to Monte Ne.

The popularity of the resort began to wane around 1910 because guests felt Harvey was too strict of a host. He had started requiring all the guests to go to bed at 9:00pm, among other unpopular rules, in order to enforce his own code of character. Also, as the popularity of the automobile began to grow, fewer people used trains as a primary means of transportation. And there were few, if any, roads that would allow a car to travel deep in to the Ozarks to reach Monte Ne.

After the decline of the resort business, Harvey turned his attention to the development of an integrated highway system that he called the "Ozark Trail." Harvey founded the Ozark Trails Association at Monte Ne in 1913, during a meeting of good road enthusiasts from neighboring states. The Association adopted the initials "O.T." as the official emblem, and painted them on telephone poles, fences and trees to mark good roadways. The emblem soon became familiar in Arkansas and the surrounding states, and as far west as New Mexico and Colorado.

Harvey's map of the Ozark Trails system, published in 1915, may have been the nation's first road map. As automobiles became more numerous, the state undertook the building of highways and the Ozark Trails system was discarded. However, Harvey's idea of naming or numbering roads remains until this day.

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Pedro, a rural community approximately 9 miles east of Siloam Springs, is the town closest to the Illinois River Bridge. A post office was established at Pedro in 1906, and was closed in 1918. There is little other history about Pedro available, but the town may have been established because of its location near the Illinois River and because of its location in a relatively flat area between two mountainous areas. For early settlers traveling through this part of Benton County, perhaps on the way to Siloam Springs, this corridor would have made for the easiest trip. As a present testament to this theory, sections of the old and current US Highway 412 travel through this corridor, to the north and south of Pedro, respectively.

Pedro is located in an area of this valley that is approximately one half mile wide (north to south). The Illinois River traverses the entire width of the valley just east of Pedro. By the 1920s, a bridge was needed to handle increased traffic through the valley.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1922, the Illinois River Bridge is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as the best example of a Pratt thru-truss bridge in the Pedro vicinity. The bridge is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its associations with the development of vehicular transportation in Benton County. This nomination is being submitted under the multiple-property listing "Historic Bridges of Arkansas."



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Baker, Russell Pierce, *From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory of Arkansas Post Offices 1832-1971*. Hot Springs, AR: Arkansas Genealogical Society, 1988.

Benton County Heritage Committee, *Benton County History*. Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1991.

Information on Benton County from  
<http://www.uark.edu/depts/globmark/bchsark/>

Information on Benton County from  
<http://www.co.benton.ar.us/History/CountyHistory.htm>

Information on William Harvey and Monte Ne from  
<http://users.aristotle.net/~russjohn/history/montene.html>

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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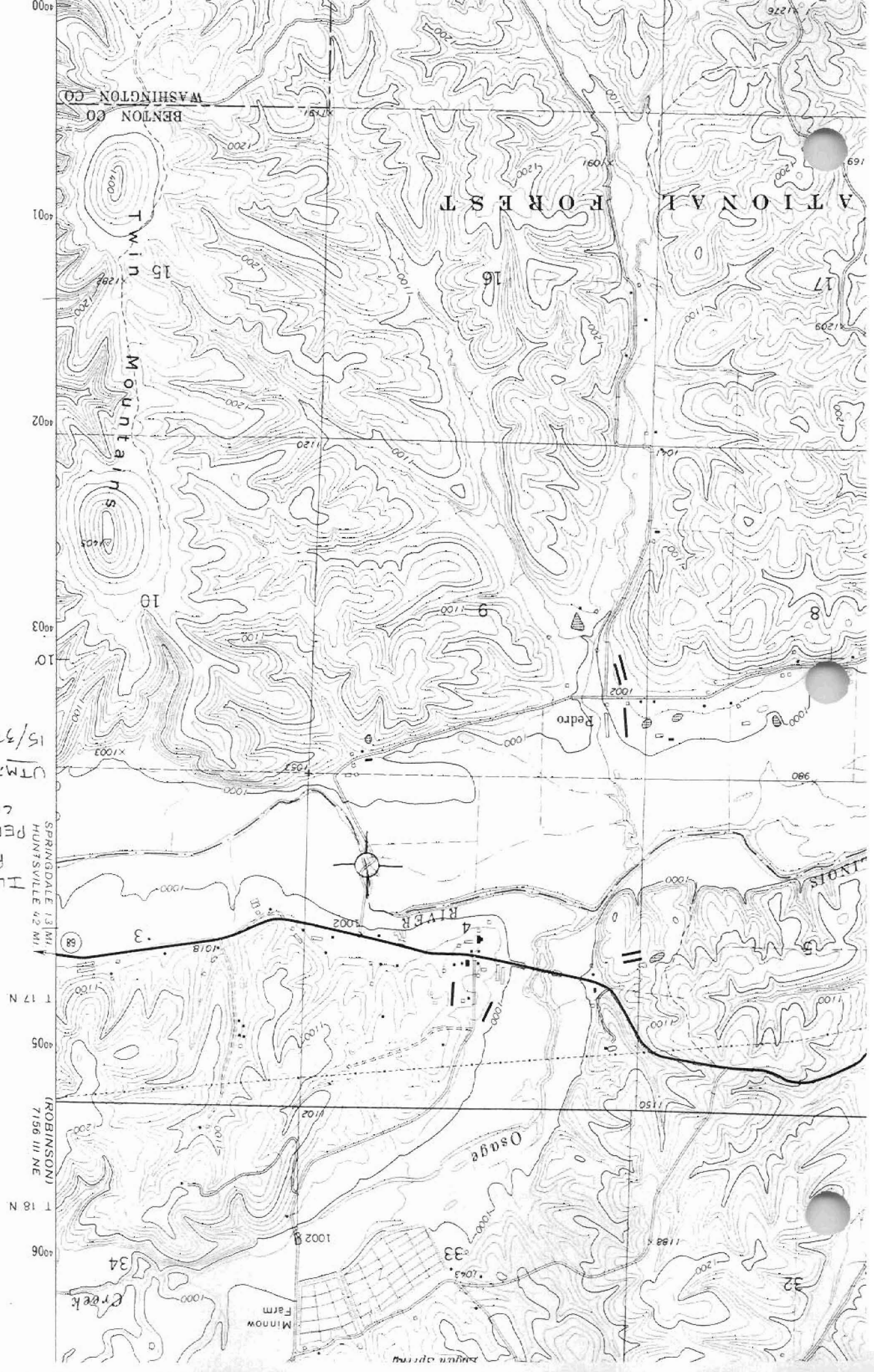
### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

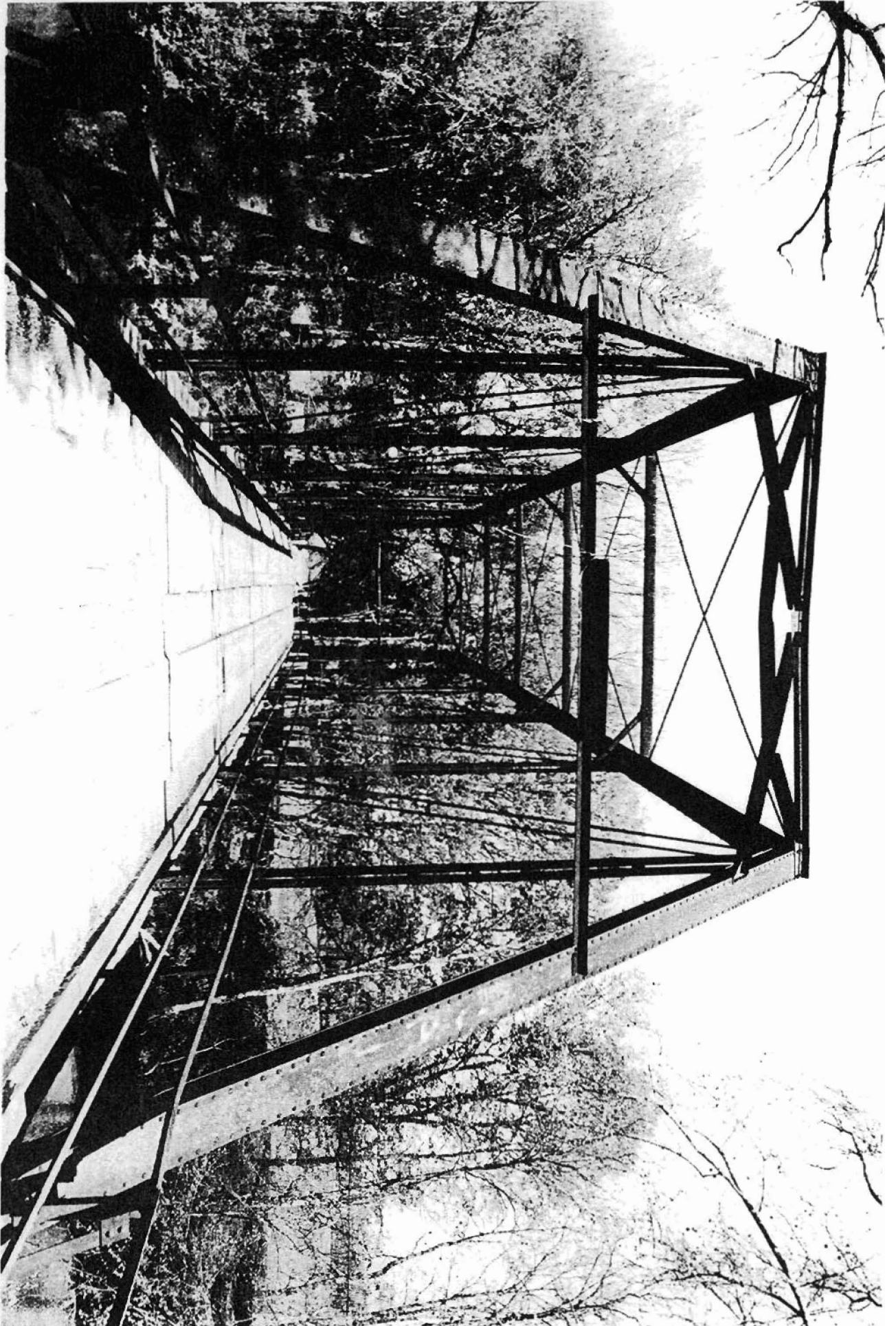
From a point 37.5 feet south of the southwestern corner of the bridge, proceed northeast 225 feet, then proceed northwest 75 feet, then proceed southwest 225 feet, then proceed southeast 75 to the point of beginning.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary includes the Illinois River Bridge and its immediate setting.

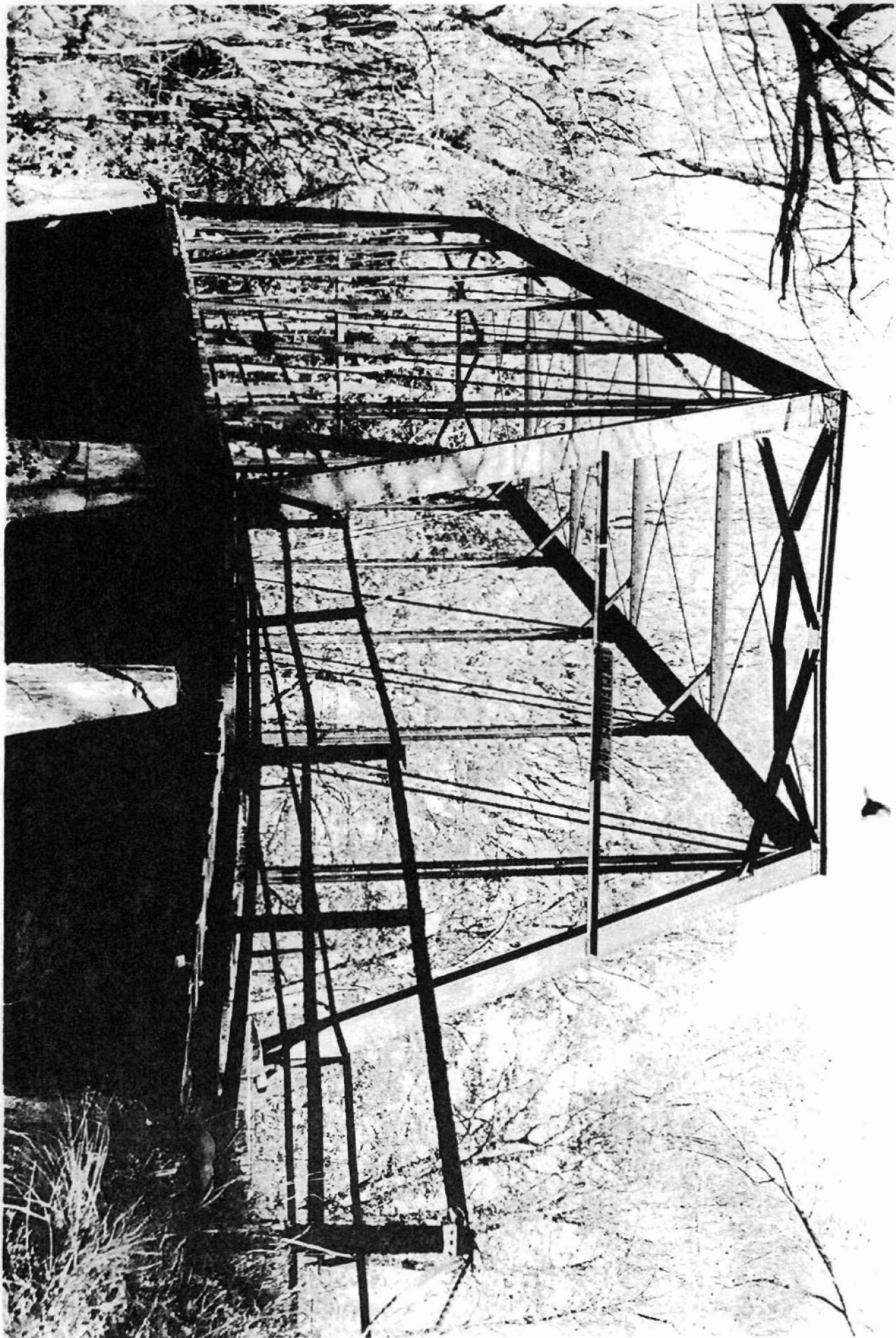
UTM: 15/374824/4004338  
SPRINGDALE 13 MI  
HUNTSVILLE 42 MI  
ILLINOIS RIVER  
BRIDGE  
PEDRO VIC., BENTON  
COUNTY, AR













BRIDGE CLOSED  
BY ORDER OF  
COUNTY JUDGE  
ORDER # 2004-EG91

