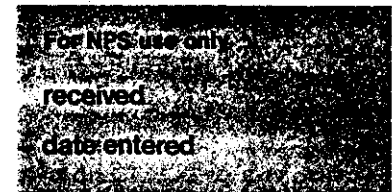


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# 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 Pin-connected through Pratt iron truss bridge

and/or common Swan Creek Bridge

## 2. Location

street & number SW 1/4, Section 27, T23N, R20W not for publication

city, town Forsyth  vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county Taney code 213

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Taney County Court

street & number

city, town Forsyth state Missouri 65653

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Taney County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Forsyth state Missouri 65653

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>June, 1932</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Swan Creek Bridge is one span of an original double span state highway bridge across the mouth of Swan Creek. It was constructed by the Canton Bridge Company, Canton, Ohio, and installed in 1914. As a pin-connected through Pratt in design, "it is representative of perhaps the most common type of early twentieth century truss bridge."<sup>1</sup> In 1932 with the construction of a new concrete bridge at the mouth of Swan Creek, the two iron truss spans were moved; one to lower Big Creek and one just one and one-half miles upstream. Since 1932 the Swan Creek Bridge has consisted of "nine panels @ 18'4" or 165' bridge span."<sup>2</sup> A detailed bridge evaluation report of contemporary conditions and ratings is attached.

### FOOTNOTES

1. T. Allan Comp and Donald Jackson, Bridge Truss Types: A Guide to Dating and Identifying, Nashville: AASLH, Local History Technical Leaflet 95, 1977.
2. Bridge Evaluation Report, Harrington and Cortelyou, Inc., Consulting Engineers, July 22 and September 16, 1980.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> transportation		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

**Specific dates** 1914; 1932      **Builder/Architect** Canton Bridge Company

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Swan Creek Bridge is significant as it represents the most common type of early twentieth century truss bridge, none of which have received enrollment on the National Register of Historic Places in Missouri; is significant as one of the last surviving landmarks associated with the "old" county seat town of Forsyth; is significant as a symbolic landmark along a major transportation corridor upon which the regional, commercial influence of the City of Springfield was built; and is significant as a model and the first choice of the Forsyth Chamber of Commerce in the promotion and development of a preservation ethic in Taney County.

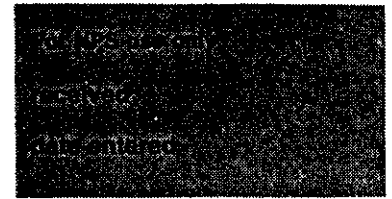
The antebellum route south from Springfield to the historic trade of the great bend of White River led through the Swan Creek valley and to Forsyth. This trade corridor succeeded a prior Indian trading route which was part of a much larger route during the 1820's which connected the White River country with Ste. Genevieve, St. Louis and eastern markets. The local travel began at the Delaware Towns on James River, southwest of Springfield, led down James River to White River, down White River to the mouth of Swan Creek where a trading rendezvous and trading posts had been established. Then for the return trip travel criss-crossed Swan Creek to the north until it crossed Bull Creek valley, Vinley Creek valley and reached Delaware Towns. Following Indian removal and the founding of Springfield in 1831 local commerce continued southward to the mouth of Swan Creek until the establishment of an official post road from Springfield to Forsyth in the 1840's. Principal north-south commerce from the upper White River country continued along this corridor until the 1870's, at which time increasing population and freighting roads along the ridge tops began to diversify the commercial routes. But even then the southern leg of the three or four primary northern trade routes, including traffic to the Chadwick railhead, still included a crossing at the ford where the present Swan Creek Bridge is located. In addition to the heavy travel across Swan Creek at this site, the Reynolds/Forsyth mill site and Casey Cemetery (where northern sympathizers during the Civil War are buried) are nearby.

The demolition and removal of Forsyth during 1950 in the wake of Bull Shoals dam construction left few structural remnants of the century-old county seat town. A few buildings were moved to new Forsyth, including the masonic hall. The stone jail remains on a hillside, a metal loop secured in limestone rock used a tie-down for steamboats is visible during low water, and the Swan Creek bridge stands at the ford on Casey Road. Like Greenville in Wayne County and Linn Creek in Camden County, Forsyth citizens have an historic and emotional attachment to the few surviving artifacts which tangibly represent the town that their forebearers built. The Swan Creek Bridge, constructed during the height of small town foundings and development in the United States, is the most dramatic structural remnant of the former town's past.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

SWAN CREEK BRIDGE



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

The truss-pin bridge is one of many structural types taken for granted in the twentieth century (only three others survive in Taney County). As the century progresses toward its end the truss-pin bridge has become an artifact of the past worthy of preservation. The Taney County Court and citizen promoters are anxious for that preservation to proceed, augmented with the status of National Register of Historic Places enrollment. If enrolled, the Swan Creek Bridge will at present be Missouri's only such structure on Missouri's register.

The Swan Creek Bridge promotion by the Chamber of Commerce is the first in a series of locally significant landmarks which are targeted to raise the conscious awareness of central Taney County's resident and tourist population to historic preservation. Subsequent work in that direction depends in part on the experience with the Swan Creek Bridge.

Item number 11

Page 1

2) James M. Denny  
State Contact Person  
Department of Natural Resources  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City

June, 1983  
314/751-4096  
Missouri 65102

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. T. Allan Comp and Donald Jackson. Bridge Truss Types: A Guide to Dating and Identify Nashville: AASLH, Local History Technical Leaflet 95, 1977.
2. Harrington and Cortelyou, Inc. Bridge Evaluation Report. Kansas City: Harrington and Cortelyou, Inc., Consulting Engineers, July 22 and September 16, 1980.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Forsyth, MO

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>115</u>	<u>4912</u>	<u>31615</u>	<u>410</u>	<u>611</u>	<u>41610</u>	B	<u>10</u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>
	Zone	Easting						Zone	Easting		
C	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	D	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>
E	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	F	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>
G	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	H	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Swan Creek Bridge is contained within an 150 meter by 20 meter rectangle centered on the above referenced UTM coordinate the sides of which are parallel to the bridge being nominated.

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 Viola Hartman and Lynn Morrow

organization White River Valley Historical Society

date September 10, 1982

street & number Box 565

telephone 417/334-2742

city or town Point Lookout

state Missouri 65726

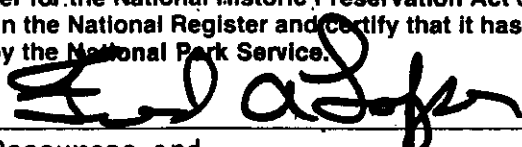
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  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



Director, Department of Natural Resources and  
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6-17-83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

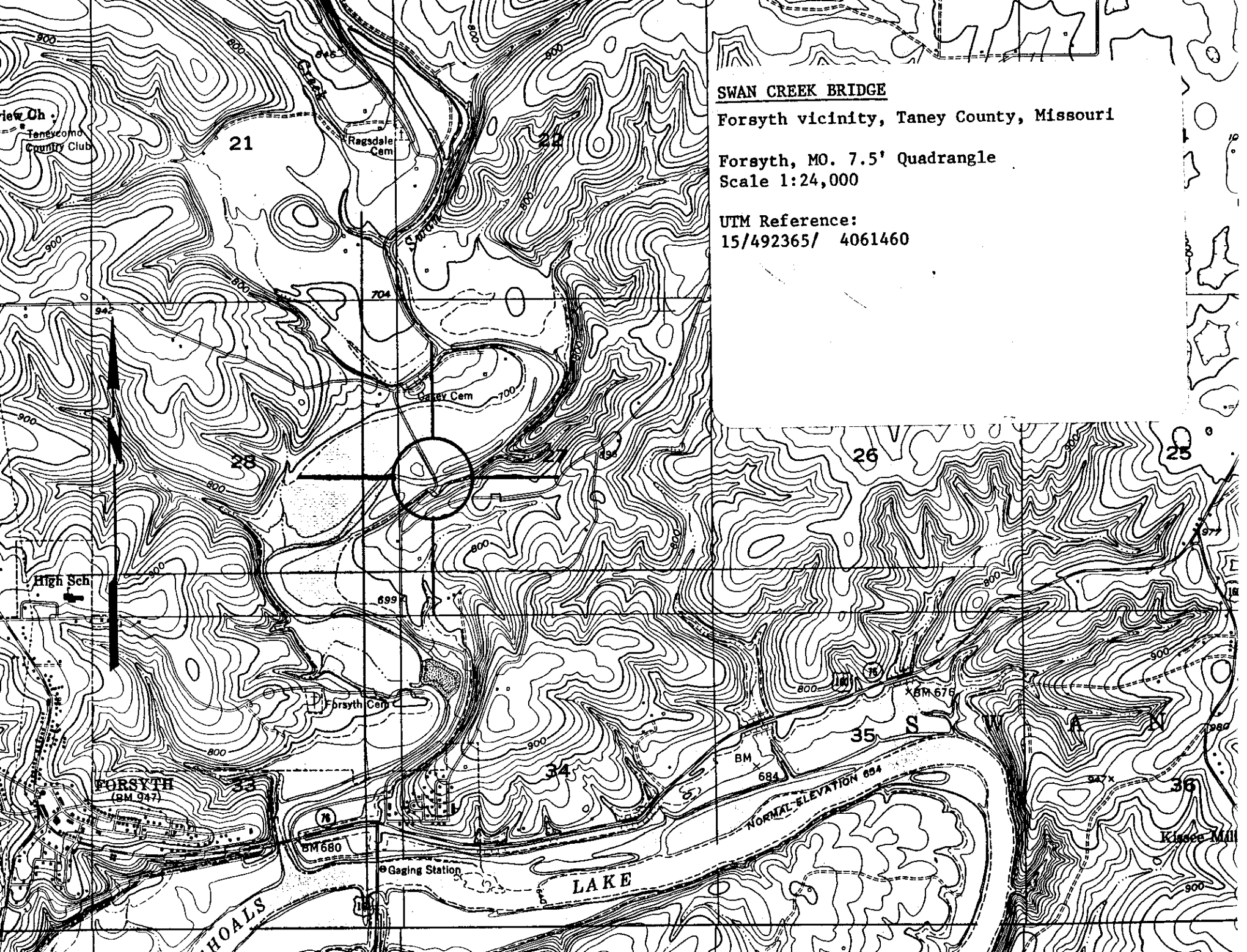
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



SWAN CREEK BRIDGE

Forsyth vicinity, Taney County, Missouri

Forsyth, MO. 7.5' Quadrangle

Scale 1:24,000

UTM Reference:

15/492365/ 4061460



THE CAMDEN BRIDGE CO.  
BUILDERS  
BALTIMORE













