

HISTORIC U.S. 66 BRIDGE DATABASE 1926-1985

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COMPILED BY JIM ROSS IN PREPARATION FOR THE BOOK: ROUTE 66 CROSSINGS: Historic Bridges of the Mother Road, published by THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS. Periodic updates will denote bridges lost since its creation in 2015 with a red * asterisk.

INTRODUCTION

Information in this database makes no claim to the final word on the bridges of Route 66, simply because it remains a work in progress. In addition to unresolved questions about early Route 66 alignments in some areas as well as dates that certain pathways were signed as US 66, the quest to ferret out build dates and bridge types for many of the lost structures continues. Some culverts that were too small to qualify as bridges but with historical significance were documented, along with a few notable examples of structures integral to the roadway, such as railroad grade separations and tunnels.

To the extent records were available, state departments of transportation were the primary source used to verify bridge types and build dates. It was also necessary to use unofficial web-based resources and documents found in the literature, not all of which could be considered reliable. In some instances, build dates were estimated (circa) based on favored designs for a given era and other supporting evidence.

Bridges are listed using a separate document for each Route 66 state, while entries within each document follow an east-to-west geographical order. In addition to the numbered entries, there are notes providing anecdotal information or giving brief mention of structures not more fully documented.

Not all bridges that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places are so noted, though many are.

Only some interstate bridges that carried US 66 traffic are included, and all of those featured were originally built for an alignment of US 66. Among those, some that have since been lost or which have little significance were omitted.

Finally, with few exceptions, references to direction will be Eastbound or Westbound, regardless of the true direction of the road in a given instance. Unless otherwise attributed, all photos are by the author.

Key to abbreviations and acronyms:

EB = Eastbound

WB = Westbound

FAP = Federal Aid Project

LWC = Low-water Crossing

KANSAS

1. Concrete Culvert with guardrails at the State Line (one guardrail has been removed).

Date Built: Unknown

Type: Concrete Culvert

Status: Open to Traffic.

Coordinates: 37.085962,-94.618212



2013

NOTE: Acknowledgment of 3 other Concrete Culverts similar to the one above between the state line and Galena, Kansas.

2. Concrete bridge on a Short Creek tributary (north side of the RR) opposite the entry below.

Date Built: Unknown

Type: 2-span Concrete Slab.

Status: Open to traffic.

Coordinates: 37.0836,-94.632826

Note: This bridge was used until Aug. 1927, when new paving and the RR viaduct were completed after a several year delay in construction (both the viaduct and the bridge just to its east show a 1922 built date—possibly reflecting when the contracts were let).



2013

3. Concrete bridge just east of the RR Viaduct on Front St. in Galena.

Date Built: 1922 (not open to traffic until 1928 due to funding delays).

Type: 3-span Concrete slab.

Status: Open to traffic.

Coordinates: 37.083239,-94.632589



2013

4. Viaduct over the MKT RR on Front St. in Galena.

Date Built: 1922 (not opened until 1928 due to delays in funding). Light rehab completed in 2011.

Type: Concrete Deck Girder.

Status: Open to traffic.

Coordinates: 37.082242,-94.635869



2013

5. Lost Marsh Arch Bridge on the Spring River at Riverton.

Date Built: 1922

Type: 3-span Concrete Marsh Through Arch.

Status: GONE. Replaced in 1986.

Coordinates: 37.074945,-94.695584



Joe Sonderman Collection

6. Eastbound bridge on the Spring River at Riverton.

Date Built: 1964 for the 4-lane expansion between Riverton and Galena.

Type: 6-span Steel Girder.

Status: Open to traffic.

Coordinates: 37.074773,-94.695696



2013

7. Marsh Arch Bridge on Brush Creek west of Riverton; known as the Rainbow Bridge.

Date Built: 1923

Type: Single-span Concrete Marsh Through Arch.

Status: Open to traffic; preserved; added to the NRHP in 1983. Replacement bridge nearby = 1992.

Coordinates: 37.073524,-94.740832



2013

8. Lost Willow Creek Bridge on Willow Ave. at Baxter Springs.

Date Built: Unknown, but likely 1923, when the Brush Creek Bridge was built.

Type: Single-span Concrete Marsh Arch.

Status: GONE. Replaced in 1991.

Coordinates: 37.040138,-94.74058



1990

9. Lost bridge over an unnamed creek on Military Ave. in Baxter Springs.

Date Built: Unknown

Type: Unknown; likely a Concrete Slab like the existing bridges one block east and one block west.

Status: GONE. Replaced at an unknown date by a 2-barrel Concrete Culvert.

Coordinates: 37.028972,-94.73494

Photo unavailable