

# McCracken Street Bridge

CHRI09

## GENERAL DATA

structure no.:	328500.1	city/town:	north edge of Ozark
county:	Christian	feature inters.:	Finley River
		cadastral grid:	S23, T27N, R21W
		highway route:	McCracken Street
		highway distr.:	8
		current owner:	Christian County

## STRUCTURAL DATA

superstructure: steel, 5-panel, rigid-connected Baltimore through truss  
substructure: concrete abutments, wingwalls and pier

span number:	2	condition:	good
span length:	100.0'	alterations:	none
total length:	204.0'	floor/decking :	asphalt over concrete deck with steel stringers
roadway width:	18.0'	other features:	upper chord and inclined end post: 2 channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 angles with batten plates; vertical: 4 angles with batten plates; diagonal: 4 angles with batten plates; lateral bracing: 1 angle; strut: 4 angles with lacing, braced; floor beam: I-beam, field-bolted to vertical; guardrail: steel gaspipe; portal strut: angles with lacing and gusset plates

## HISTORICAL DATA

erection date: 1922  
erection cost: \$17,617.90  
designer: Missouri State Highway Department  
fabricator : Carnegie Steel Company, Pittsburgh PA;  
Illinois Steel Company, Chicago IL  
contractor: Pioneer Construction Company, Kansas City MO  
references: Missouri Highway and Transportation Department, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure Number 328500.1; Missouri State Highway Commission, **Fourth Biennial Report: 1923-24**, p. 119; Missouri State Highway Department Primary System Bridge Record (abandoned or void-due-to-relocation structures), located at Bridge Division, MHTD, Jefferson City MO; Bridge Drawings G-325, located at MHTD, Jefferson City MO; field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 26 January 1990.  
sign. rating: 73  
evaluation: NRHP eligible (a rare example of MSHD truss experimentation)

inventoried by: Clayton B. Fraser 26 February 1992

# HAER INVENTORY

Missouri Historic Bridge Inventory

**NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE**

McCracken Street Bridge  
MHTD: 328500.1

CHRI09

**DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION**

1923

**LOCATION**

McCracken Street over Finley River; S23, T27N, R21W  
north edge of Ozark; Christian County, Missouri

**USE (ORIGINAL / CURRENT)**

highway bridge / roadway bridge

**RATING** NRHP eligible (score: 73)

**CONDITION**

excellent

**OWNER**

Christian County

span number: 2

span length: 100.0'

total length: 204.0'

roadway wdt.: 18.0'

superstructure: steel, 5-panel, rigid-connected Baltimore through truss

substructure: concrete abutments, wingwalls and pier

floor/decking: asphalt over concrete deck with steel stringers

other features: upper chord/end post: 2 channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 angles with batten plates; vertical: 4 angles with batten plates; diagonal: 4 angles with batten plates; lateral bracing: 1 angle; strut: 4 angles with lacing, braced; floor beam: I-beam, field-bolted to vertical; guardrail: steel gaspipe; portal strut: angles with lacing and gusset plates

The McCracken Street Bridge spans the Finley River on the northern edge of Ozark, the County Seat of Christian County. The structure was built by the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department to carry U.S. Highway 65. Designed late in 1922 by engineers for the Missouri State Highway Department, the bridge was let for bids in November. On December 27th, MSHD contracted with the Pioneer Construction Company of Kansas City to build the concrete abutments and pier and erect the two rigid-connected trusses. Using steel components rolled by Carnegie and Illinois, Pioneer erected the structure in 1923 for \$17,617.90. The McCracken Street Bridge carried the U.S. highway until it was turned over to Christian County in September 1962 in a route re-alignment. With no major alterations, the bridge retains a high degree of physical integrity.

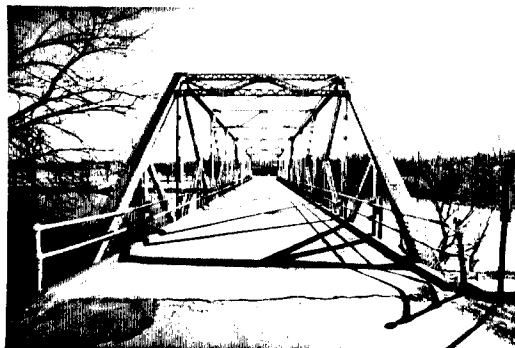
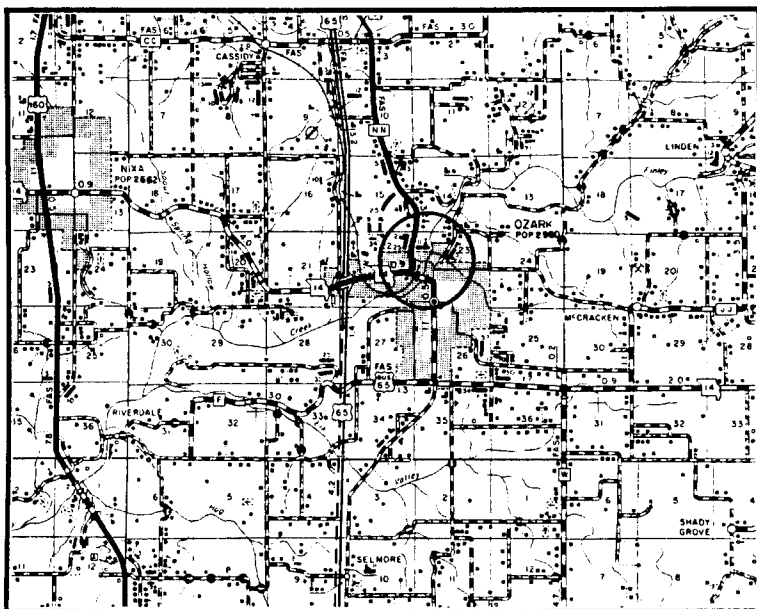
The Missouri State Highway Department reported in its 1923-24 **Biennial Report**: "During the past two years the Bureau [of Bridges] has been largely engaged in preparing special designs for the bridges needed on the various road projects initiated during this time. The designs embrace structures ranging in length from 12 feet to 1,200 feet and costing from \$1,200 to \$121,000." Highway department bridge engineers relied primarily on straightforward Pratts for their standard medium-span through trusses, but they experimented for a brief period as well with rigid-connected Baltimore trusses - Pratt configurations with subdivided panels. The McCracken Street Bridge is one of only two such Baltimore-truss structures remaining in place from this period (other: the Honey Creek Bridge (GRUN01). It therefore enjoys a degree of technological significance for its representation of experimental design conducted during the formative years of the highway department.

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**NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE**

McCracken Street Bridge

**PHOTOS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION**



**LOCATION MAP**

TAKEN FROM MISSOURI HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT  
GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP

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**SOURCES**

Missouri Highway and Transportation Department, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure Number 328500.1; Missouri State Highway Commission, **Fourth Biennial Report: 1923-24**, p. 119; Missouri State Highway Department Primary System Bridge Record (abandoned or void-due-to-relocation structures), located at Bridge Division, MHTD, Jefferson City MO; Bridge Drawings G-325, located at MHTD, Jefferson City MO; field inspection by Clayton Fraser and Paula Sutton, 26 January 1990.

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**INVENTORIED BY**

Clayton B. Fraser

**AFFILIATION**

Fraserdesign, Loveland CO

**DATE**

26 February 1990

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