

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 30 1976
DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

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 ******
Regency Suspension Bridge
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
approximately 3/4 miles S. of Regency on dirt road *at Colorado River*

CITY, TOWN
VICINITY OF Regency
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 11 & 17

STATE Texas CODE 48 COUNTY Mills CODE 333

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mills County, Texas, and San Saba County, Texas
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Goldthwaite and San Saba VICINITY OF STATE Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Mills County Courthouse
San Saba County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Goldthwaite and San Saba STATE Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic Engineering Sites Inventory

DATE 1975
_FEDERAL STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Texas Tech History of Engineering Department

CITY, TOWN Lubbock STATE Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

During a flood of the Colorado River in 1938 an older bridge at Regency, Texas, was destroyed. Mills and San Saba counties combined their efforts to build a new bridge across the deep ravines of the Colorado River at Regency. Bids for construction were advertised by both counties with the Austin Bridge Company of Dallas, Texas receiving the contract. Both counties agreed to supply lumber for use in building the flooring.

Construction began in February 1939 with excavation of the banks of the river. Six to eight feet of earth were removed so that footings for the towers could be poured. After the concrete and steel towers were built, a falsework was constructed across the Colorado River to support beams and trusses while cable was strung above them. This falsework washed away during high water on the Colorado River, but it was rebuilt and construction resumed.

The cables consisted of 475 strands of No. 9 galvanized wire and each cable passed over towers at both ends of the bridge. Both of the cables were anchored at each end by pouring concrete into excavated holes and placing the ends of the cable into it. Beams and trusses were connected to the cable by vertical one-inch turnbuckles. Eventually the cable and abutments held all the weight of the bridge plus vehicular traffic passing over it.

The Regency Suspension Bridge spans 340 feet from tower to tower. Both cables are pulled tight for another 134 feet behind each tower where they are anchored into the ground. The towers rise approximately 30 feet above the bridge floor. Maximum sag in the cable was not to exceed 7 feet above the floor of the bridge. The bridge stands 1.25 feet above the recorded high water level of the Colorado River at Regency. The flooring for the bridge was constructed with 4 by 12 inch lengths of lumber.

All work on the Regency Suspension Bridge was with hand labor and light-weight equipment. Local residents were used for common labor and worked 60 hours a week. Those individuals who were not local residents boarded at the nearby Regency Store.

Construction on the bridge was completed in October 1939. The bridge has maintained its structural integrity since that time with a minimum amount of maintenance. Today it is in need of painting and floor repair, but it remains sound and should continue to serve the surrounding area.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES February - October 1939 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Austin Bridge Co., Dallas, TX

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built for the counties of Mills and San Saba by the Austin Bridge Company of Dallas, Texas, the Regency Suspension Bridge is one of the last remaining suspension bridges in use in Texas. Although it does not meet the National Register of Historic Places age requirement, extenuating circumstances make its nomination necessary. It is likely that the bridge will be destroyed within a short period of time.

In 1938 after a flood along the Colorado River destroyed the older, heavily used bridge at Regency, Texas, a suspension bridge was erected in 1939 to reopen the transportation link between San Saba and Brownwood. Cotton and other agricultural products were shipped to market along this route. This bridge also provided an accessible crossing of the Colorado River for persons living in this locale.

Since its construction the Regency Suspension Bridge has maintained its structural integrity with a minimum amount of maintenance. Although today it needs painting and floor repair, the structure remains sound and should continue to serve its surrounding agricultural area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Austin Bridge Co., Dallas, Tex. "[Bid Plans] Covering Material and Erection of 340' Suspension Span Contract No. 2305." May 27, 1939. 10 lvs. Pencil on tracing paper. Available at Austin Bridge Co., Dallas, Tex.

Mr. Jack Moore, Abilene, Texas [laborer on construction of Regency Suspension Bridge], to John E. Moore, History of Engineering Program. Tape recorded interview. June 29, 1939. Available at History of Engineering Program, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY two acres *less than* Taken from a 15 minute series map.

UTM REFERENCES

900 *one acre* *to which*

A	1 4	5 1 4 6 5 0	3 4 7 4 8 5 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Texas	48	San Saba	411
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul D. Hutchison, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

History of Engineering Program, C.E. Department

DATE

7-12-76

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 4089

TELEPHONE

(806) 742-3591

CITY OR TOWN

Lubbock

STATE

Texas

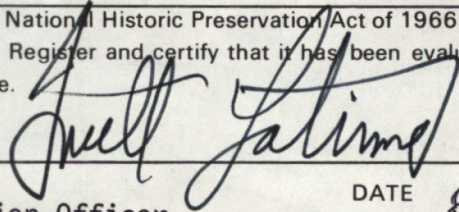
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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



TITLE

Texas State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

8-26-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

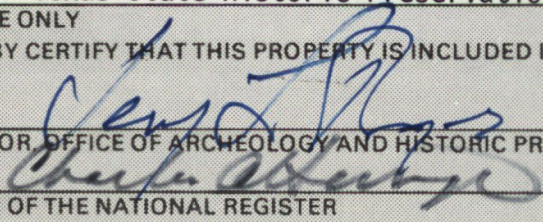
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

12/12/76

ATTEST:



DATE

11-31-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

76002052
Mills

Property Regency Suspension Bridge
State Tx Working Number 8.30.76.4040

TECHNICAL

Photos 4
Maps 1

CONTROL

pl
OK 8.30.76

(To HAER)

Constructed in 1939 and thus does not meet the 50 rule or guideline. However, this is one of the last remaining suspension bridges in use in

HISTORIAN

Accept
E. Smith
11-2-76
Texas [over] →

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ADREAGE EXCESSIVE
will call after HAER Review
called name
referred to long name
Accept
LEBOWITZ
11.11.76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

Because of the rarity of this type of bridge in the State, and for that matter, this part of the country, I urge that we accept it. If the property is threatened, NR status will enhance the possibility for documentation!

HAER

Inventory *dmb 15.21.76*
Review *Accept Eudy*
11/17

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Acting
BRANCH CHIEF

Accept
Cole
11/30/76

KEEPER

Because of threat and rarity, this deserves exception to the criteria

Wm
Hung
11.30.76

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered DEC 12 1976
Federal Register Entry 2-1-77 Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74

Property

Register Supervisor *Butler*

State

Working Number 8.30.76.4040

CONTROL

TECHNICAL

Photos

Maps

and it is about to be lost.

Contracted in 1939 and then the 50 miles or quadrangle. However, this is one of the last remaining original bridges in use in the area.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Research Expense

11-5-76

Will call after 11:30 AM

ARCHAEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory done 12.22.76

Review done

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

11/30/76

11/30/76

KEEPER

Summary of that and vicinity, this document is in the center.

Entered DEC 15 1976

Send-back

National Register Write-up

Re-submit

5-1-77

Federal Register Entry



Regency Suspension Bridge
near Regency, Mills Co., Texas

AUG 30 1976

History of Engineering Program
Texas Tech Univ., Lubbock, Texas

Full view of Regency Suspension Bridge
Photo #1 *af 4*

DEC 12 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Regency Suspension Bridge
near Regency, Mills Co., Texas

AUG 30 1976

History of Engineering Program
History of Engineering Program, Texas Tech, Lubbock

Looking along southeast end of bridge
Photo #2 *oh4*

DEC 12 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Regency Suspension Bridge
near Regency, Mills Co., Texas

AUG 30 1976

History of Engineering Program
Texas Tech Univ., Lubbock, Texas

Detail of cable and turnbuckles
Photo #3 *only*

DEC 12 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



AUG 30 1976

Regency Suspension Bridge
near Regency, Mills Co., Texas

History of Engineering Program, 8-2-75
Texas Tech Univ., Lubbock, Texas

Looking to side view of bridge
Photo #4 *24*

DEC 12 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

AUG 30 1976

DATE ENTERED

DEC 12 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Regency Suspension Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

X VICINITY OF Regency

COUNTY Mills

STATE Texas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey

SCALE 1:62500

DATE 1948

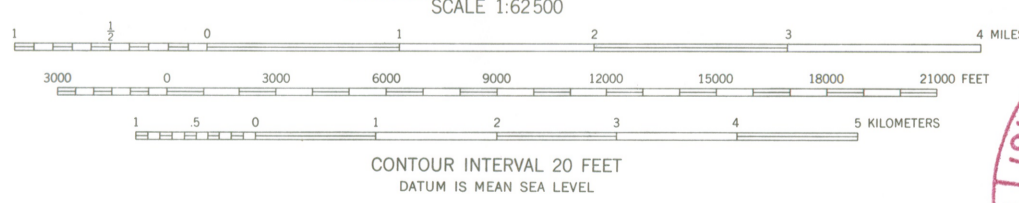
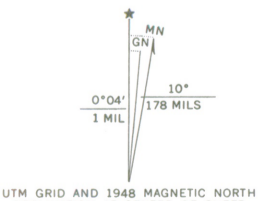
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



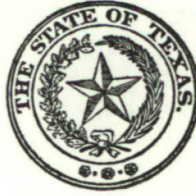
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCG&S, and Corps of Engineers
Culture and drainage in part compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1938
Topography by plane-table methods 1948
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system
central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
HARD-SURFACE ALL WEATHER ROADS DRY WEATHER ROADS
Heavy-duty Improved dirt
Medium-duty Unimproved dirt
Loose-surface, graded, or narrow hard-surface
U. S. Route State Route

RICHLAND SPRINGS, TEX.
N3115-W9845/15
1948

JIM BAKER
COUNTY JUDGE
WARDEN TERRY
COUNTY ATTORNEY
CLOVIS LETBETTER
DISTRICT AND COUNTY CLERK
C. W. JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1
CALVIN BUSH
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2
WILSON KUYKENDALL
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3
DOUGLAS KEENEY
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4
BRANTLEY BARKER
SHERIFF, TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR



COUNTY OF SAN SABA

San Saba, Texas 76877

MADA LEE SMITH
COUNTY TREASURER
BILLY F. KIDD
COUNTY AGENT
CAROLYN STOCKHOFF
HOME DEMONSTRATION AGENT
HARVY L. REEVES
JUSTICE OF PEACE, PRECINCT 1
JACK B. MILLER
DISTRICT JUDGE
LOUIS CRUMP
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BILLY C. McDONIEL
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

September 7, 1976

National Register of Historic Places
Department of Interior
National Park Service
18th & C Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Gentlemen:

The Commissioners Court, in their regular meeting August 9, unanimously voted to oppose any and all nominations of the Regency Bridge to any form of Historical Place.

We already have a historical monument classification of our Jail. As such we are forbidden to alter it in any form. So the Court feels that to place the Regency Bridge into such classification would interfere with the County's need for maximum use of the bridge.

Hence, the Court offers vigorous opposition to this plan for San Saba County.

Sincerely,

Jim Baker
County Judge

JB:nrb

cc: Judge Herbert S. Faulkner
Goldthwaite, Texas 76844

Mrs. M. F. Horton
Chairman, Mills County Historical Commission
Route 2, Box 107
Goldthwaite, Texas 76844

HERBERT FAULKNER

MILLS COUNTY JUDGE

AND

EX-OFFICIO COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

GOLDTHWAITE, TEXAS 76844

September 17, 1976

National Register of Historic Places
Department of Interior
National Park Service
18th & C Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

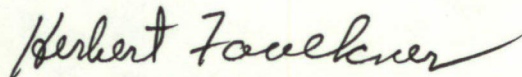
Dear Sir:

The Mills County Commissioners Court on September 13, 1976, in their regular meeting, unanimously voted to oppose any attempt to place the Regency Bridge (in the West part of Mills County) on the Federal Register.

Since the Bridge is owned jointly by Mills and San Saba Counties and the bridge is still in use and saves miles of travel by using it. Also it does need some repairs on it now and then.

Therefore, the Court does go on record as opposing the bridge being placed on the Federal Register.

Sincerely,



Herbert Faulkner
Mills County Judge

HF/fg

cc: Judge Jim Baker
San Saba County Judge
San Saba, Texas 76877

Mrs. M. F. Horton
Chairman, Mills County Historical Commission
Rt. 2, Box 107
Goldthwaite, Texas 76844

DATE REC'D SEP 20 1976

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN _____

INITIALS _____

COPIES OF THIS REPORT
TO BE FORWARDED TO:
1. THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
2. THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
3. THE LOCAL HISTORIC COMMISSION

DATE OF VISIT: _____
NAME OF HISTORIC PLACE: _____
LOCALITY: _____

NAME OF HISTORIC PLACE: _____
LOCALITY: _____
STATE: _____

NAME OF HISTORIC PLACE: _____
LOCALITY: _____
STATE: _____

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE: _____
SIGNIFICANCE: _____
RECOMMENDATION: _____

DATE OF VISIT: _____
NAME OF HISTORIC PLACE: _____
LOCALITY: _____
STATE: _____

NAME OF HISTORIC PLACE: _____
LOCALITY: _____
STATE: _____

COPIES OF THIS REPORT
EXCELSIOR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND
NIGHTS OF THE TOWN

НЕВВЕЗЪ ВЪПЕКНЕВ

H34-880

OCT 15 1976

M. J. Perry
• 10-7-76
Cole for
Harrington
10-12-76

Mr. Jim Baker
County Judge
San Saba, Texas 76877

Mills Co, TX.

Dear Mr. Baker:

Thank you for your letter concerning the nomination of the Regency Suspension Bridge in Mills and San Saba Counties, Texas, to the National Register of Historic Places. By clarifying a few points, we hope to alleviate your concerns that listing in the National Register will automatically prohibit any alterations that the county might wish to make on the bridge.

Listing in the National Register is Federal recognition that a property has historic value and is worthy of preservation. Once listed in the National Register, a property receives limited protection from federally controlled, licensed, or funded projects and can qualify for either development or acquisition grants-in-aid. Listing has no other effect on the property. It does not restrict the range of actions an owner can take as long as Federal monies are not used, and it gives no governmental unit any authority or control over the property. Some State and local authorities utilize National Register listing as a basis for State and locally enforced restrictions. These State and local provisions providing for the protection of historic properties function independently from the National Register program.

In this case, National Register listing alone could not prohibit the county from altering or even demolishing the bridge, if Federal funds were not involved. The San Saba County Jail, which you mention in your letter, is not listed in the National Register. It was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1969. As such, it receives limited protection under a State statute which requires that a 90-day notice be given to the Texas Historical Committee before any action is undertaken which will alter or destroy the property's historic or architectural value. In no way does the statute prevent alteration or demolition of the jail or any other recorded landmark; it simply has a delaying effect.

Because of its county ownership, the Regency Suspension Bridge would come under the provisions of the Texas Antiquities Code if recognized as an historic property by the Antiquities Committee. In this case, the use of the National Register listing as recognition that a structure has

historic value, would be a State or local action. In addition, it is possible that the bridge would be recognized as a historic property by the Antiquities Committee without National Register listing. It is important to note that if the procedures of the Texas Antiquities Code apply to the Regency Suspension Bridge, a permit for alteration or development might be approved if plans were sensitive to those elements giving the bridge its historic value.

Finally, it is the responsibility of the National Register to consider only comments concerning a property's historical significance during the professional review process. We will be happy to review any comments you may have concerning the bridge's historical significance under the criteria explained in the enclosed leaflet.

We hope that this information will be helpful. We will be happy to answer any further questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) William J. Murtagh

William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711 w/c

bcc: Regional Director, Southwest Region w/c
Director's Reading File
880 w/c

FNP:LUTZ:sle:10-7-76

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 880

M. J. Murtagh
9-16-76
9.20.76

H34-PR

Mr. Jim Baker
County Judge
San Saba, Texas 76877

Dear Mr. Baker:

Thank you for your letter concerning the proposed listing of the Regency Suspension Bridge, Mills County, Texas, in the National Register of Historic Places.

Listing in the National Register is Federal recognition that a property possesses historic values and is worthy of preservation. Inclusion of a property in the National Register ensures the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to review and comment upon any federally controlled, licensed, or funded undertaking which may affect the property. In addition, preservation projects for National Register properties, in accordance with an approved State historic preservation plan, can qualify either development or acquisition grants-in-aid. Listing has no other effect on the property; it does not affect in any manner, the range of actions an owner could take, as long as Federal monies are not involved; and it gives no governmental unit any authority or control over the property, its use, or disposition.

Under section 60.13(a) of 36 CFR part 60, notice has been published in the September 14, 1976, "Federal Register" for comment on the pending nomination of the Regency Suspension Bridge for inclusion in the National Register. Any written comments received concerning the significance of the property under the National Register criteria for evaluation, set forth in the enclosed leaflet, will be carefully considered during the professional review process. Copies of these written comments will be supplied to the State Historic Preservation Officer.

We hope this information will be useful to you.

Sincerely yours,

William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711 w/c

bcc: DG Advisory Council w/c

Regional Director
Southwest Region w/c

Director's Reading File
PR w/c

FNP: M Lutz:jln:9-16-76

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PR

H34-880

OCT 28 1976

Mr. Herbert Faulkner
Mills County Judge
Goldthwaite, Texas 76844

Dear Mr. Faulkner:

Thank you for your letter concerning the nomination of the Regency Suspension Bridge in Mills and San Saba Counties, Texas, to the National Register of Historic Places. By clarifying a few points, we hope to alleviate your apparent concerns that listing in the National Register will automatically restrict the use of the bridge and will prohibit either county from making any alterations or improvements.

Listing in the National Register is Federal recognition that a property has historic value and is worthy of preservation. Once listed in the National Register, a property receives limited protection from federally controlled, licensed, or funded projects and can qualify for either development or acquisition grants-in-aid. Listing does not restrict the range of actions an owner can take as long as Federal monies are not used, and gives no governmental unit any authority or control over the property. National Register listing alone could not restrict use of the bridge or prohibit improvements.

Some State and local authorities use National Register listing as a basis for State and locally enforced restrictions. These State and local provisions protecting historic properties function independently from the National Register program. For example, because ^{of} its county ownership, the Regency Suspension Bridge might come under the provisions of the Texas Antiquities Code which prohibits the demolition or alteration of any publically owned, recognized historic property without a permit from the Texas Antiquities Committee. If the Committee chooses to use the National Register listing as evidence that the bridge is a historic property, this use would be a State and not a Federal action. In addition, it is possible that the Committee might regard the bridge as a historic property independent of National Register action. Finally, it is important to note that if the procedures of the Code do apply to the bridge, a permit for alteration or development might be approved if plans were sensitive to the characteristics giving the bridge its historic value.

We hope that this information will be helpful. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,
Ronald M. Greenberg

for

William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register

Mills Co, TX

M. J. Cole
10-27-76
Cole for
Herrington
10-28-76

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711 w/c

bcc: Regional Director, Southwest
Region w/c

001 Reading File

880 w/c

FNP:LUTZ:sle:10-19-76

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 880

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered DEC 12 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Menard, Michel B., House	Galveston Galveston County
Galveston Causeway	Galveston Galveston County
St. Joseph's Church	Galveston Galveston County
Stage Coach Inn	Chappell Hill Washington County
Giddings-Wilkin House	Brenham Washington County
Regency Suspension Bridge	Regency vicinity Mills County
Bell County Courthouse	Belton Bell County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen
Hon. Jack Brooks
Hon. J. J. (Jake) Pickle
Hon. W. R. Foage
Regional Director, Southwest
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 11-2-76
Reviewer INITIALS: ELL

NR DOE

DEC 12 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Regency Suspension Bridge

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION: 0.75 mi. S of Regency at Colorado River

CITY, TOWN: VICINITY OF Regency CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 11 and 17
STATE: Texas 48 COUNTY Mills code 333

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline): FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):
NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:
INTERIOR: Substantially intact-1, unknown-4, not applicable-7
EXTERIOR: Substantially intact-2, unknown-5, not applicable-8
ENVIRONS: Substantially intact-3, unknown-6, not applicable-9

CONDITION - EXCELLENT, GOOD, FAIR, DETERIORATED, RUINS, UNEXPOSED, Unexcavated, UNALTERED, ALTERED, Reconstructed, Excavated, ORIGINAL SITE, MOVED, Unknown

ACCESS - Yes-restricted, Yes-unrestricted, No access, Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)
then- Bridge
now- Bridge

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC, CONSERVATION, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, RELIGION, entertainment
- ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC, ECONOMICS, LAW/Gov't/politics, SCIENCE, health
- AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION, MILITARY, SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN, recreation
- ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, MUSIC, TRANSPORTATION, settlement
- ART, EXPLORATION, PHILOSOPHY, OTHER (SPECIFY), socio/cultural
- COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, POLITICS/GOVERNMENT, urban & commun
- COMMUNICATIONS, INVENTION, planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor: ~~AUSTIN~~

✓ AUSTIN BRIDGE CO,
DALLAS, TX

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role & appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

~~Oct.~~ 1939

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

1939 - Present

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

7.1-.9

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

~~Steel suspension bridge, 340' single span, wooden flooring, concrete footings and abutments; galvanized wire cables. One of the last remaining suspension bridges in use in state.~~
Steel suspension bridge, 340' single span, wooden flooring, concrete footings and abutments; galvanized wire cables. One of the last remaining suspension bridges in use in state.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

~~The Regency Suspension Bridge is significant as one of the last remaining suspension bridges in use in Texas.~~
The Regency Suspension Bridge is significant as one of the last remaining suspension bridges in use in Texas.

Jeff 8.8