

Shady Sadie's bridge

Kanawha County



Shady Sadie's Bridge spans County Route 39 over Little Sandy Creek in the Elkview area of Kanawha County. Rt 39 - Aaron's Fork Road - existed by the 1890s and was first paved in the 1920s; it is a

byway between Elkview and Sissonville, historically important for farm- and school-related transport. The subject bridge was built in 1928, originally called "Cobb Bridge" as surrounding land was the Cobb Farm. The existing bridge name came after Shady Sadie's tavern was established ca. 1970s on an adjacent parcel.

This bridge's truss superstructure – built by Fairmont Mining Machinery Co – is a 125-ft-long by 18-ft-wide single-span riveted steel Pratt through truss. It consists of the pair of trapezoidal-shaped trusses – each composed of top (upper) and bottom (lower) chords, end posts, vertical posts, and diagonal tension members – that are connected by floor beams & lower lateral bracing below and by portal struts, upper lateral struts & upper lateral bracing above. The bridge's concrete abutments were built by WV contractor Monty Brothers.

Fairmont Mining Machinery Co was incorporated 1906 in Fairmont, WV and dissolved in 1935. This company mainly manufactured mining machinery, mine cars, and tipples and sold them throughout the nation. The company added steel bridge building late in its tenure, currently known to have built six truss bridges in WV.

Shady Sadie's Bridge has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a noteworthy remaining example of a bridge built within the county road system operated in West Virginia prior to the development of the comprehensive state road system into which the county system was absorbed.

What Historical Services Unit Does

- Research and Write Historic Reports
- Determine National Register Eligibility
- Determine Historic Boundaries
- Determine Effects to Historic Properties
- Mitigate Adverse Effects to Historic Properties
- Complete Historic Documentations for Specific Historic Properties
- Historic Turnpike Research and Analysis
- Coordinate with Federal, State, and Local Resource Agencies
- Conduct Public Workshops for Specific Bridge and Highway Projects



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