

The community of Shiloh is located in western Tyler County, about 8 miles southeast of Friendly and the Ohio River. Shiloh was a small community of early settlers on Middle Island Creek and included a gristmill prior to 1850. Shiloh was a bustling small town in the late 19th century and included mills, a blacksmith, general stores, a school, churches and newspaper. There was also a four-story woolen mill constructed in 1865 that operated until about 1904. Shiloh's first bridge over Middle Island Creek was a wooden pontoon (floating) pedestrian bridge that was built in 1894. Around 1898, a metal truss bridge was built that could carry people, wagons and later, automobiles. The Shiloh truss was a wrought iron two-span Pratt truss and was 244 feet long and 15 feet wide. The bridge was supported by two full-height cut stone abutments and a solid stone pier. The bridge had no sidewalk, but did have simple "X"-patterned railings.

Shiloh History

Many wrought iron bridges built in the late 19th century were available through catalog order and were shipped all over the county. It is likely that the Shiloh truss was a catalog bridge. According to county histories, Ben Pipes built the Shiloh truss. The 1900/1910 Censuses list a Benjamin Pipes born in 1870 living in Meade District, just south of Union District/Shiloh, with an occupation of merchant. Pipes had moved to Canton, Ohio by 1920 and had the occupation of bus driver in the 1920 U.S. Census. He died in 1927. His obituary noted that he was a county commissioner for three years and built a number of bridges and culverts with George F. Watson and later T.O. Johnson. The Shiloh truss is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places based on its design as a wrought iron pin-connected truss. Shiloh Bridge is scheduled for replacement in 2015.



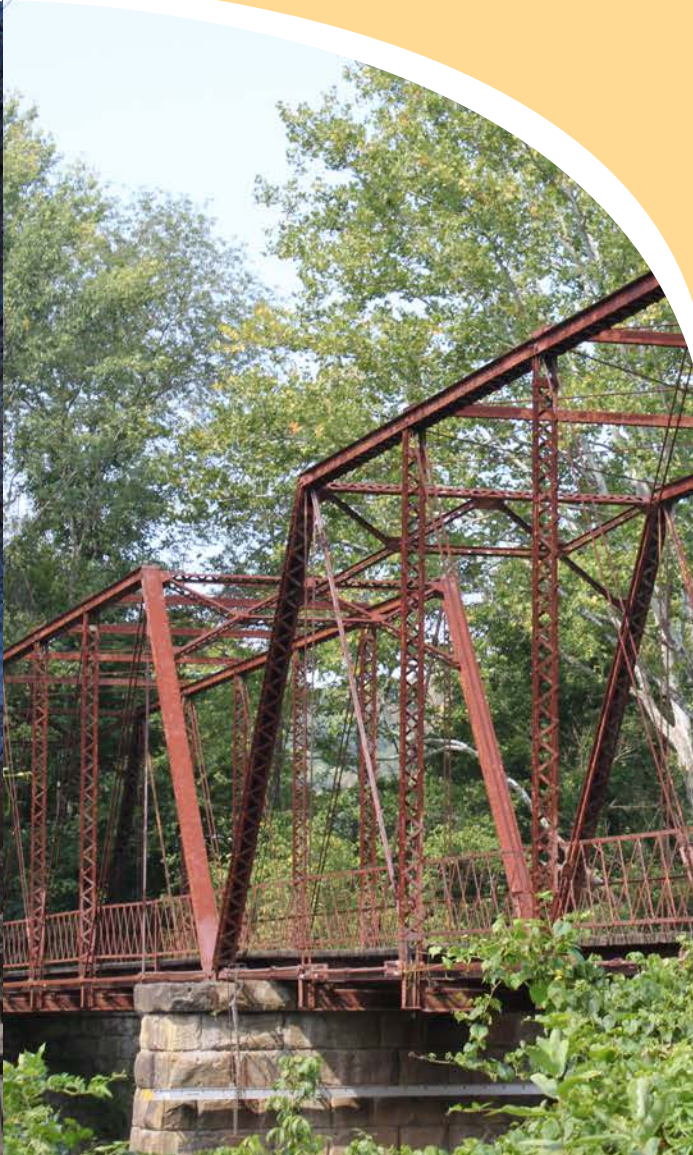
Location: Crosses Middle Island Creek in the rural community of Shiloh. Tyler County Route 14/4
Type: Simple Two-Span Wrought Iron Pin-Connected Pratt Through Truss
Length: 244 feet 6 inches
Year constructed: 1898
Contractor: Ben Pipes

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

contact **us**

Division of Highways
Engineering Division
Environmental Section
1334 Smith Street
Charleston, WV 25301
Sondra Mullins
Historical Services Unit Leader
304.558.9487
sondra.l.mullins@wv.gov



shiloh
bridge
tyler county