

what **Historical Services Unit** does

- Research and Write History 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

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whiteoak
bridge
boone county

Whiteoak Bridge History

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Whiteoak Bridge was completed in December 1932, being fabricated by the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company of Pittsburgh, PA and erected by Monty Brothers of Charleston, WV. It is located at the north end of Orgas, a community that grew once the C&O Railroad came through in the late 1910s and subsequent coal and lumber companies operated in the area, mainly in the 1920s and 1930s. Whiteoak bridge replaced an earlier span that washed out during flooding in July 1932. This bridge's steel span exhibits the Warren Truss design which was patented in the mid-1800s and became highly favored in pony truss style by state highway departments in the 1920s and 1930s. The prominent identifying feature of this truss type is that only the diagonal members, installed to create triangular webs between the upper and lower chords, carry the structure's tensile and compressive forces. A major rehabilitation of Whiteoak Bridge was completed in 1985 by WV State Forces. Riveted attachments on the steel superstructure are original and bolted attachments identify later repairs. The substructure consists of full-height concrete abutments.

As of early 2016: Whiteoak Bridge appeared to be Boone County's only Warren Pony Truss span and was one of only 10 known to still exist in West Virginia with polygonal top chords; and Whiteoak Bridge and Cheat Bridge (blt 1934; Randolph Co.) - both of the same pony truss design - were the only remaining spans known to use both the same bridge fabricator and same builder. Whiteoak Bridge has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its engineering significance as one of the state's few remaining examples of a Warren Pony Truss bridge with polygonal top chords, as well as being a representation of the work of the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel, a bridge fabricator distinguishable on a national level, and of Monty Brothers, a bridge builder distinguishable on a state level.



Location: State Route 3, south of County Route 14, spanning Whiteoak Creek

Type: Warren Pony Truss with polygonal top chords

Year constructed: 1932

Length: 94 feet, 8 ½ inches

Contractor: Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company of Pittsburgh, PA
and Monty Brothers of Charleston, WV