

The Fink Creek W-Beam Bridge carries WV Route 47 over Fink Creek in Gilmer County, just upstream from its confluence with Leading Creek. The bridge was built in 1939 by the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works and is eligible under Criterion A of the National Register of Historic Places for its “significant association with a historic transportation system, program, event, trend, or policy.” This bridge is scheduled for replacement in 2018.

Fink Creek W-Beam Bridge is a three simple span steel girder. Each span is 55 feet long and the overall length from end to end parapet walls is 173 feet 4 inches. It is a curved structure with a 45 degree right backward skew and supported by concrete spill through abutments and 2 three-column concrete bents. The bridge has 27 foot superstructure width and a 24 foot roadway width. There is a 2 feet 9 inch high concrete balustrade type parapet wall with guardrail in front along each side. There are 2 plaques on the upstream side of the bridge, one has the bridge number, year of construction, and WV state seal. The other plaque states: “Federal Emergency, Administration of Public Works Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States, Harold L. Ickes, Administrator of Public Works, Fink Creek Bridge, 1939.”

The Public Works Administration (PWA) was created on June 16, 1933 as part of the National Industrial Recovery Act. The act was part of Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal to aid economic growth and provide employment. Although the PWA spent billions and constructed many public projects, employment and the economy did not grow as expected. The PWA was abolished in 1941 as spending and industries began supporting the World War II effort.

Fink Creek History



Location: Carries WV Route 47 over Fink Creek

Type: A Three Simple Span Steel Girder

Year constructed: 1939

Length: 173 feet and 4 inches

Contractor: Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works

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

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bridge
gilmer county