

Types of Metal Truss Designs

The following bridge types are listed from the most common forms to the rarest surviving examples in Texas.

Warren Truss

- Zig-zag “W” pattern on truss
- Built in Texas 1900 through 1930s
- Short spans—30 to 90 feet
- Most common type remaining



CR 402 at Navasota River, Limestone County

Pratt Truss

- Sawtooth pattern on truss
- Built in Texas c. 1880 through c. 1910
- Generally 30 to 150 feet long
- Superseded by Warren truss



CR 139 at Pecan Bayou, Coleman County

Parker Truss

- Sawtooth pattern on truss
- Variation of Pratt truss—inclined top chord instead of flat
- Built in Texas c. 1905 through 1930s
- Longer distances—up to 250 feet or more



SH 203 at Salt Fork Red River, Collingsworth County

Camelback Truss

- Sawtooth pattern on truss
- Variation of Parker truss—top chord has 5 distinct slopes
- Built in Texas c. 1870 through 1910s
- Longer distances—up to 250 feet or more



Old Railroad Road at Snake Creek, McLennan County

Bowstring Truss

- Crisscross pattern on truss
- Rounded top chord
- Built in Texas c. 1870 through 1880s
- Only one extant bowstring truss remaining in Texas



CR 179 at Big Elm Creek, Falls County

Lenticular Truss

- Crisscross pattern on truss
- Curved top and bottom chords
- Built in Texas c. 1870 through 1920s
- Spanned short distances



Augusta Street at San Antonio River, Bexar County

Pennsylvania Truss

- “Y” and “X” pattern on truss
- Variant of Parker truss
- Built in Texas 1875 through 1920s
- Spanned long distances



Washington Avenue at Brazos River, McLennan County

Whipple Truss

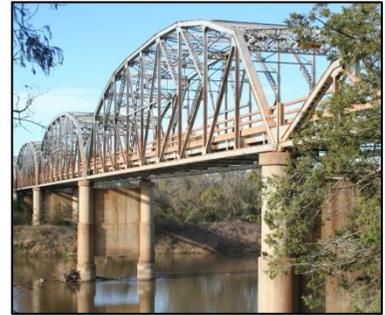
- Diagonals slant to middle of truss
- Variant of Pratt truss
- Built in Texas 1860 through 1890
- Spanned long distances—up to 300 feet



CR 3112 at North Bosque River, Bosque County

K Truss

- “K” mirrored pattern on truss
- Polygonal top chord
- Built in Texas in c. 1920 through 1930s
- Only one extant K truss remaining in Texas



SH 78 at Red River, Fannin County

Cantilevered Through Truss

- Variety of truss configurations
- Cantilever = truss only supported on one end
- Built in Texas from the late 1800s to early 1900s
- Spans exceptionally long distances
- Only one extant Cantilevered truss remaining in Texas



SH 73/87 at Neches River, Jefferson County