

Historic Hermann Bridge Across the Missouri River



SITE

Hermann Bridge
Opened to Traffic in 1930

LOCATION

MoDOT Northeast District
Hermann
Gasconade County Route 19

HIGHLIGHTS

The historic Hermann Bridge will be carefully documented and preserved "on paper" prior to the opening of its replacement, the Christopher Bond Memorial Bridge.

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INTRODUCTION

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) is responsible for cultural resources under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Hermann Bridge (Bridge No. K-226A) is a multi-span structure crossing the Missouri River. The total length of the bridge is approximately 2,232 feet, and the structure has undergone only minor alterations since it opened to traffic in 1930.

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

The structure represents an excellent example of large-scale highway bridge construction and local efforts to bridge the Missouri River. Hermann's civic leaders wanted a river bridge to help spur the local economy, so they hired the National Toll Bridge Company to build and operate a toll structure. In 1932, the highway department sought to buy the bridge and turn it into a toll-free facility. This led to a landmark decision by the Missouri Supreme Court giving the Missouri State Highway Commission wide discretion in using state funds to either build new roads and bridges or to purchase existing structures from municipal and county governments.

PUBLIC BENEFITS

Even though the Hermann Bridge could not be adaptively reused, the structure has been preserved "on paper." The bridge has been documented for the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) Collection. Documentation includes a detailed construction history and original blueprints of the bridge structure. This material will be available to the public, guaranteeing that future generations will know the engineering details and history behind this important bridge. In addition, the replacement for this historic structure will be named the Christopher Bond Memorial Bridge to honor the efforts of Senator Bond to improve and expand Missouri's transportation infrastructure.



The Hermann Bridge Under Construction



Artist's Rendering of the Christopher Bond Memorial Bridge