INTRODUCTION

Information in this database makes no claim to the final word on the bridges of Route 66, simply because it remains a work in progress. In addition to unresolved questions about early Route 66 alignments in some areas as well as dates that certain pathways were signed as US 66, the quest to ferret out build dates and bridge types for many of the lost structures continues. Along that thread, no attempt was made to verify which bridges original to the interstates carried Route 66 signage as the route was gradually dismantled, though the ones likely to have done so are addressed in the database. Some culverts that were too small to qualify as bridges but with historical significance were documented also, along with a few notable examples of structures integral to the roadway, such as railroad grade separations and tunnels.

To the extent records were available, state departments of transportation were the primary source used to verify bridge types and build dates. It was also necessary to use unofficial web-based resources and documents found in the literature, not all of which could be considered reliable. In some instances, build dates were estimated (circa) based on favored designs for a given era and other supporting evidence.

Bridges are listed using a separate document for each Route 66 state, while entries within each document follow an east-to-west geographical order. In addition to the numbered entries, there are notes providing anecdotal information or giving brief mention of structures not more fully documented.

Not all bridges that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places are so noted, though many are. Finally, with few exceptions, references to direction will be Eastbound or Westbound, regardless of the true direction of the road in a given instance. Unless otherwise attributed, all photos are by the author.

Key to abbreviations and acronyms:

EB = Eastbound
WB = Westbound
FAP = Federal Aid Project
LWC = Low-water Crossing
NOTE: Status of listed bridges is current as of 2014.

1. Concrete bridge over abandoned RR 5.5 mi. W. of Oklahoma State Line.
   Date Built: 1932
   Type: Concrete Deck Girder
   Status: Open to traffic
   Coordinates: 35.226393,-100.105557
   Note: Added to the NRHP in April 2007.

2013

   Date Built: Interstate-era for I-40 bridges (same for N. Svc. Rd.); possibly earlier for S. Svc. Rd.
   Type: WB I-40 = Precast Concrete Girder; I-40 EB and South Service Rd. = Concrete Slab.
   Status: Open to traffic
   Coordinates: 35.228715,-100.378122
   Note: Original unpaved 66 followed the curve of the creek between the two ends of the old concrete two-lane roadway in this area, or, possibly EB I-40. Two-lane paved 66 likely joined I-40 EB just W. of the off-ramp at the W. end of Lela and followed it to near where the old concrete resumes W. of the bridges on the S. service road. The asphalt service roads and bridges were added at that time.

2013 (EB I-40 Service Rd. bridge) 2013 (EB I-40 bridge) 2013 (WB I-40 bridge)
3. Abandoned Concrete Culvert on first paved 2-lane route just W. of McLean.
Date Built: Unknown, Circa 1920s; verifies pathway of 66.
Type: Concrete Culvert
Status: Abandoned
Coordinates: 35.227249,-100.628492

4. Three Concrete Culverts west of Jericho on the original unpaved route.
Date Built: Unknown; verifies the path of US 66.
Type: Concrete Culverts
Status: Abandoned
Coordinates: 35.166033,-100.961583; 35.165997,-100.970552; and here: 35.166037,-100.97297

5. East Amarillo Blvd. bridge (EB half of 4-lane; no bridge on WB half) over “Ave. B” near airport.
Date Built: Unknown
Type: Precast Concrete Girder
Status: Open to traffic
Coordinates: 35.241659,-101.685315
6. East Amarillo Blvd. bridges over Lakeside.
Date Built: Unknown
Type: Concrete Deck Girder
Status: Open to traffic
Coordinates: 35.224061,-101.741577
Photo unavailable

7. Concrete Culverts on Amarillo Blvd. near the RR underpass.
Date Built: Unknown
Type: Concrete Culverts
Status: Open to traffic
Coordinates: 35.221045,-101.761122

8. Slab bridge on 1926 route near the RR underpass on Amarillo Blvd.
Date Built: Unknown
Type: Single span Concrete Slab (18’ wide).
Status: Abandoned
Coordinates: 35.222045,-101.761498
9. RR viaduct on Amarillo Blvd. just W. of Panhandle Blvd.
Date Built: Unknown
Type: Precast Concrete Girder
Status: Open to traffic
Coordinates: 35.22046,-101.788352

10. RR Underpasses with art deco walkways on original route on Fillmore in Amarillo.
Date Built: 1931; prior to this it would have been an at-grade crossing.
Type: Steel Beam
Status: Open to traffic
Coordinates: 35.213601,-101.833322
Note: When streets became one-way, Fillmore was NB and Pierce was SB, however the viaduct on Pierce was likely built in the post-66 era for this alignment.

Date Built: Unknown; final route in Amarillo; would have to be pre-1985 to qualify.
Type: Steel Stringer
Status: Open to traffic
Coordinates: 35.22266,-101.860252

2013
12. Bridges on W. Amarillo Blvd. over Western Avenue.
Date Built: Unknown; final route in Amarillo; Route 66 bridge if pre-1985.
Type: Precast Concrete Girder
Status: Open to traffic
Coordinates: 35.222203,-101.884087

13. Amarillo Blvd. over Hagy Street.
Date Built: Unknown; final route in Amarillo; Route 66 bridge if built prior to 1985.
Type: Precast Concrete Girder
Status: Open to traffic
Coordinates: 35.194955,-101.914791

14. Bridge on Amarillo Blvd. over Coulter Street.
Date Built: Unknown; final route in Amarillo; Route 66 bridge if pre-1985 build date.
Type: Precast Concrete Girder
Status: Open to traffic
Coordinates: 35.192067,-101.920437
15. Subway under the RR on W. side of Amarillo.
Date Built: Unknown
Type: Timber trestle
Status: GONE; replaced with an at-grade crossing; RR tracks have since been removed.
Coordinates: 35.191482,-102.027758
Note: a fragment of curved paving remains on the right of way at the present intersection.

NOTE: Between Vega and Adrian are the remains of five structures (3 culverts and 2 bridges) on the unpaved route that lies north of the abandoned RR, which runs along the north side of the north I-40 service road. They are itemized below in east-to-west order.

16. Concrete bridge (1st west of Vega) on the 1926 route N. of the former RR.
Date Built: Circa 1925
Type: Concrete Deck Girder
Status: Abandoned; on private property.
Coordinates: 35.258862,-102.499328
17. Concrete Culvert (2nd west of Vega) on the 1926 route, approx. 2 mi. W. of No. 16 above.
Date Built: Circa 1925
Type: Concrete Culvert
Status: Abandoned; on private property.
Coordinates: 35.265908,-102.537772

18. Concrete Culvert (3rd west of Vega) on the 1926 route, 1000 ft. W. of No. 17 above.
Date Built: Circa 1926
Type: Concrete Culvert
Status: Abandoned; on private property.
Coordinates: 35.267115,-102.544045

19. Concrete Culvert (4th west of Vega) on the 1926 route, approx. 2.3 mi. W. of No. 18 above.
Date Built: Circa 1926
Type: Concrete Culvert
Status: Abandoned; on private property.
Coordinates: 35.27445,-102.583206
20. Concrete bridge (5th west of Vega) on the 1926 route, approx. 2.7 mi. W. of No 19 above.
Date Built: Circa 1926
Type: Concrete Slab
Status: Abandoned; on private property.
Coordinates: 35.273189,-102.631762

Date Built: Unknown; establishes the path of the 1926 route.
Type: Concrete Culvert
Status: Abandoned; on private ranch.
Coordinates: 35.255009,-102.780909

NOTE: Acknowledgment of two other drains on the abandoned stretch north of I-40 westbound from the above entry entry, located here: 35.253774,-102.784431; and here: 35.251967,-102.787062

NOTE: Crossing to the south side of I-40, original 66 followed the RR to Glenrio. There are many structures along this stretch, mostly ruins of culverts. A few are listed below.
Date Built: Circa 1926
Type: Timber with concrete abutments and concrete & timber deck.
Status: Abandoned; on private ranch.
Coordinates: 35.23435,-102.79737

Date Built: Circa 1926
Type: Concrete Culvert
Status: Abandoned; on private ranch.
Coordinates: 35.231286,-102.826825

24. Tin Culvert & Concrete drain on the 1926 route on the Boydston Ranch E. of Boise.
Date Built: Circa 1926
Type: Tin Culvert with unusual concrete sidewalls.
Status: Abandoned; on private ranch.
Coordinates: 35.225301,-102.840986
Date Built: Circa 1926
Type: Concrete Culvert
Status: Abandoned; on private ranch.
Coordinates: 35.211054,-102.869776

Date Built: Circa 1926
Type: Concrete Culvert
Status: Abandoned; on private ranch.
Coordinates: 35.202715,-102.89431

I-40 BRIDGES IN TEXAS THAT MAY HAVE CARRIED ROUTE 66 TRAFFIC (If built during the era and if I-40 was signed as 66 at their locations):

East of Amarillo
35.226901,-100.077041    First bridges W of Texola
35.228461,-100.269603    W. end of Shamrock
35.228702,-100.378165    North Long Dry Creek W of Lela
35.226441,-100.587511    McLean
35.22797,-100.621667     W end of McLean
35.203647,-100.789123    Johnson Ranch Road
35.198465,-101.084585    E end of Groom
35.209397,-101.099476    Middle Groom Exit
35.213026,-101.1172  W Groom Exit
35.208635,-101.140428  Just W of W Groom Exit
35.207048,-101.653653  Exit 81 E of Amarillo

Amarillo Metro
35.19281,-101.742305  Exit 75 E side of Amarillo
35.19274,-101.760104  Exit 74 – Whitaker Road
35.192661,-101.778826  S Easter St.
35.192661,-101.778826  Bolton Street
35.192653,-101.817321  Ross-Osage
35.192372,-101.826763  S Arthur St.
35.192512,-101.831236  RR Viaduct
35.195327,-101.857876  Crockett St.
35.187611,-101.956313  Helium Road
35.191346,-102.063893  Simmons Rd.

West of Amarillo
35.209301,-102.201928  Wildorado I-40 Exit 49
35.237032,-102.428145  Vega
35.268616,-102.558147  Landergin I-40 Exit 28
35.249939,-102.78695  Ivy Road I-40 Exit 15
35.23166,-102.852621  One Mile E. of Boise
35.211177,-102.91936  About 5 miles E of Glenrio – WB Bridge is narrower than EB
35.209126,-102.923932  Just W of above entry