

Cable Bridges

Hal Adams Bridge

Lafayette County
FDOT #330009, 8LF0022

Florida added its only suspension bridge to the highway system in 1946-1947 when the L.J. and W.J. Cobb Construction Company of Tampa built the Hal Adams Bridge over the Suwannee River near Luraville in Lafayette County. Hal Adams was a veteran circuit court judge from northern Florida. This



Photo 5-45. Hal Adams Bridge, Lafayette County (No. 330009)

structure replaced a 40-year-old, multiple-span through truss bridge on the site where a ferry previously had operated. Measuring only 420 feet between the towers, this bridge is small among structures of this type. Nevertheless, it makes an impressive appearance in its rural, forested setting on the road between Mayo and Live Oak.

Designers in the State Road Department's engineering division chose the suspension type because of the unstable river bottom and deep potholes that made setting foundations difficult. The suspended span utilizes a Warren-type stiffening truss. Four steel beam towers, approximately 50 feet high and braced by cross girders, support steel wire cables which are fastened to steel shoes embedded in concrete anchorages. Although placed within the area between the anchorages and the towers, the approaches themselves are not suspended. The south end rests on the embankment, while the northern approach consists of eight concrete girder spans on concrete supports. Because of this arrangement, the cables extending between the towers and the anchors have differing lengths and angles, a distinguishing feature of this bridge.

The Hal Adams Bridge is distinguished by its high-style, technologically-advanced design applied to a small scale. This bridge was determined NRHP-eligible during the 2000 survey under Criterion C in the area of Engineering as the only suspension span bridge in Florida.