

Sharpe's Ferry Swing Bridge

Marion County
FDOT #364110, 8MR2539

The Austin Brothers Bridge Company of Atlanta originally constructed this 117-foot-long swing span in 1928 at CR-316 and the Oklawaha River near Eureka. Subsequently, the bridge was removed and re-erected in 1971 in a similar setting downstream at Sharpe's Ferry, east of Ocala on the edge of the Ocala National Forest in Marion County. At the time of relocation, the bridge underwent a major renovation that primarily affected the secondary spans. Three steel stringer approach spans, supported on concrete pile bents, connect with the swing. The additions also included aluminum safety rails as



**Photo 5-61. Sharpe's Ferry Swing Bridge, Marion County
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well as a new, angularly-shaped concrete pivot pier. These changes maintained the original appearance of the bridge. The structure bears the typical features of Austin Brothers' swing bridges. The Warren pony truss, with verticals, uses steel structural members with joints that are rigidly connected; the center-bearing assembly is mounted on a concrete pivot pier. The swing span is no longer in operation, but the bridge remains in use.

The Sharpe's Ferry Bridge is the only remaining swing bridge with a Warren pony truss main span built by the Austin Brothers Bridge Company in Florida. The other Austin Brothers bridges, the Moss Bluff Bridge and the Linadale Bridge, are no longer extant. Despite its alterations, this bridge retains its historic integrity. It was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP by the Florida SHPO in November 2007. The Sharpe's Ferry Bridge is significant under Criterion C in the area of Engineering as a rare example of a swing bridge, and for its historical associations with the Austin Brothers Bridge Company. Criteria Consideration B also applies.¹²⁵

¹²⁵ Kenneally, Michael, Sharpe's Ferry Swing Bridge, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2007.