U.S.

## WEST PEARL RIVER BRIDGE

LOUISIANA

ST. TAMMANY **PARISH** ARKANSAS MISSISSI PPI US 90 **WEST PEARL** RIVER BRIDGE **WEST PEARL** CAMERON RIVER ST. TAMMANY GULF OF MEXICO **PARISH LOCATION MAP** 

Latitude: 30.23075 North

Longitude: -89.670333 West

SLIDELL

The West Pearl River Bridge (Bridge Recall No. 058710), designed by the Louisiana Highway Commission and completed in 1933, is significant as one of four bridges constructed to carry US 90/Old Spanish Trail over the Pearl River in St. Tammany Parrish in the early 1930s. The bridge is an essential part of the Rigolets-Pearlington highway shortcut connecting New Orleans to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Construction of the shortcut created a more direct and efficient route between Louisiana and Mississippi and made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Louisiana's transportation history.

The West Pearl River Bridge is also significant as an important variation within the vertical lift bridge type - a vertical lift span-drive bridge with a Waddell and Harrington configuration. This variation is demonstrated in the location of the drive machinery on the movable span that operates uphaul and downhaul ropes to raise and lower the span. The West Pearl River Bridge was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 2012 under Criterion A: Transportation and Criterion C: Design/Engineering at the state level of significance.

This documentation was prepared to fulfill Stipulation IX.5 of the Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Highway Administration, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Management of Historic Bridges in Louisiana, dated August 18, 2015 and executed September 21, 2015. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) retained Mead & Hunt to prepare this document. It was prepared by Shannon Dolan, Cultural Resource Specialist, of Mead & Hunt, Stephen V. Estopinal, P.E., P.L.S. and Trenton Iglehart, Geodetic Analyst, of SJB Group, LLC. Dietrich Floeter completed the photography. These measured drawings were prepared based on a site visit to complete laser scanning of the bridge, with selective hand measuring in the field to verify measurements.

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