

John T. Camden Construction Company

In each newsletter, we try to feature a different DBE. In this newsletter, we look at a unique DBE, John T. Camden Construction Company. While they drive piling, helical piles and Magnum Piering, what makes them unique is their historic iron and steel bridge services.

A family-owned and -operated business, it was started in 1948 by the grandfather of the current president, Bernadene Boggs. The company was gradually taken over and ran for many years by Bernadene's parents, Mary Beth and John B. Camden. Bernadene came to work for the company in 1988, and has been handling the day-to-day operations since 2009.

John T. Camden has the capability to completely disassemble a variety of iron and steel truss bridges. They then repair and straighten any members that need attention, or replace those that are beyond repair. They have the experience and skill to conduct the work with a high degree of historical accuracy. Once the restoration work is completed, they will reassemble and place the bridge.

Two recent projects include the bridge over the White River in Strawtown Koteewi Park in Hamilton County, and the Freedom Bridge relocation over the Hoosier Heartland Highway in Delphi.

The Hamilton County park project saw the restoration and bringing together of two different bridges of different truss types. One was a Pratt through truss originally from Wayne County, and the second was a rare Triple Intersection Warren through truss from Washington County. Unfortunately, the bridges were not quite long enough to span the river, so John T. Camden fabricated, from the original plans, a replica of a long-demolished Hamilton County girder type bridge.

The Hoosier Heartland Highway project in Delphi saw the restoration and relocation of a Pennsylvania through truss bridge originally located in Freedom, Ind. The Hoosier Heartland Highway project in Delphi had severed the Monon Trail there. The bridge was originally set to be reassembled at Conner Prairie, but when that project changed, the bridge went to Delphi to reconnect the Monon Trail.

Next year, John T. Camden Construction Company will celebrate its 70th anniversary. Much of this time has been spent successfully preserving our Hoosier heritage, while improving our transportation infrastructure.

It is also worth noting that several of these spans were marketed through INDOT's Historic Bridges Marketing Program. If you know of a group that may be interested in a bridge, the available bridges can be viewed at: www.in.gov/indot/2532.htm