Arkansas

Highway 79
Ouachita County

The first quarter mile of this 1.19-mile stretch of Highway 79 was built by the R. H. Davis Construction Co. in 1966. Reynolds and Williams built the remainder in 1973. The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department has resurfaced the road only once, in 2003, with a 2-inch overlay.

The 1966 roadway included 6 inches of asphalt-treated gravel base course, 2 inches of asphalt binder course and 1.5 inches of an asphalt surface course. The 1973 pavement included 7 inches of asphalt-treated gravel base, 2 inches of asphalt binder and 1.5 inches of asphalt surface course. Using asphalt-treated base allowed the state to reduce the base’s thickness by 9 inches as compared to untreated stone base.

The current average daily traffic is 10,500 vehicles. In 1973, trucks made up 8.8 percent of the traffic; today, trucks account for 15 percent of all vehicles. The road reached its design capacity in 1984, 19 years before the 2003 rehabilitation. Even with infrequent maintenance, it maintains a good ride quality.