

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

SPRING LAKE BRIDGE

HAER NO. AR-36

LOCATION: Spanning Bob Barnes Branch on State Highway 307, at the town of Belleville, in the County of Yell, Arkansas.

UTM: 15/3889660/460680
Quad: Chickalah Mountain West

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1936

STYLE: Two-span, masonry arch bridge.

BUILDER: The Spring Lake Bridge was built by the United States Resettlement Administration.

SIGNIFICANT EXTERIOR FEATURES: A date stone is located above the central pier in the spandrel wall of the east elevation and states "USRA; 1936".

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE: This bridge is still being used for vehicular traffic. A few stones in the parapet ends are missing.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: AHTD Bridge No. 17715, AHPP Resource No. YE003Bridge.

SIGNIFICANCE: This bridge is one of eight known masonry arch bridges identified in Arkansas. It is the only known bridge constructed under the authority of the United States Resettlement Administration in the state. It was built as part of the larger Spring Lake recreation project, which included a massive stone dam creating Spring Lake, and numerous camping facilities. The Spring Lake Bridge exhibits high quality craftsmanship and significant design details not seen in other Arkansas stone arch bridges. These details include roughly squared, coursed masonry, dressed springers and keystones, stone paving, and an inscribed date stone.

HISTORIAN: Michael Swanda
Survey Coordinator
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August 26, 1988.

STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS

The Spring Lake Bridge uses roughly squared, coursed masonry in its construction. An unembellished parapet rises three courses above the current graveled roadway. The bridge contains two arch spans, each semicircular in shape. They are accentuated with rusticated voussoir, dressed springers, and keystones. The dressed springers are located at the central pier. The arch barrels are perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the bridge. The barrel ceilings retain the concrete impressions of the wood planking used for falsework during its construction. Masonry is visible behind the impressed concrete lined ceilings. Small rectangular drainage holes are located at the base of the interior outer walls and stone paving is used as flooring in each arch.

DIMENSIONS

The Spring Lake Bridge is 26 feet long. It contains two arch spans, each 10 feet in length. Each arch is 6 feet high.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Bridge Division Files, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, Little Rock.

Historic Bridge File, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock.

McClurkan, Burney B. Arkansas' Historic Bridge Inventory, Evaluation Procedures 1987 and Preservation Plan. Manuscript of file, Environmental Division Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, Little Rock.