

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

LAKE NO. 1 BRIDGE

HAER NO. AR-39

LOCATION: Spanning Lake No. 1 at Avondale Road, at the town of North Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas.

UTM: 15/3849700/568420
Quad: North Little Rock

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1935

STYLE: Single span, masonry arch bridge.

ARCHITECT: Mr. Frank Carmean, Design Architect.

BUILDER: The Lake No. 1 Bridge was constructed by the Metropolitan Trust Company.

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE: This bridge is in good condition and is currently being used for vehicular traffic.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: AHTD Bridge No. 19407, AHPP Resource No. PU2023.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Lake No. 1 Bridge is one of eight known masonry arch bridges in Arkansas. It was constructed as part of an innovative construction project developed by Mr. Justin Matthews.

HISTORIAN: Michael Swanda
Survey Coordinator
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE: August 26, 1988.

The Lake No. 1 Bridge was constructed as part of a \$250,000 residential construction project called the Lakewood Development. This housing development project was conceived by Mr. Justin Matthews through his Metropolitan Trust Company of North Little Rock, Arkansas. Mr. Matthews was an influential Arkansan, past member of the Arkansas Highway Commission, and local developer. His Lakewood Development included an innovative system of recreational lakes, open spaces, and parks, of which Lake No. 1 and the Lake No. 1 Bridge was a part. It is very likely that the Metropolitan Trust Company's design architect, Mr. Frank Carmean, designed the Lake No. 1 Bridge in the rustic architectural theme so prevalent throughout the development.

STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS

This bridge uses uncoursed rubble masonry in its spandrel walls and parapets. The barrel of its single elliptical arch runs perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the roadway and contains five reinforced concrete ribs. The roadway is paved asphalt over unknown fill material. A small rectangular hole drains the roadway through the spandrel wall above the center of the arch. The unembellished parapet rises approximately 1½ feet above the road deck.

DIMENSIONS

This bridge is 30 feet in length and contains a single arch spanning 18 feet.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Adams, Walter, A History, North Little Rock, The Unique City. August House, 1986 Little Rock.

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.