HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

EDGEMERE STREET BRIDGE

HAER NO. AR-40

LOCATION: The Edgemere Street Bridge crosses an unnamed creek east of Lake No. 3 on Edgemere Street approximately 0.2 miles north of Fairway Avenue in North Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas.

UTM: 15/3850320/568620
Quad: North Little Rock

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1935

STYLE: Single span, masonry arch bridge.

ARCHITECT: Mr. Frank Carmean.

BUILDER: This bridge was built by the Metropolitan Trust Company, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE: The Edgemere Street Bridge is in good condition and is currently being used for vehicular traffic.

SIGNIFICANCE: One of eight known masonry arch bridges in Arkansas, and one of a pair (see also HAER No. AR-52) adjacent to the Lakewood Development area, an innovative housing project by Justin Matthews. Certain design details, such as the vertical columns incorporated into its spandrel walls, make it unique in the state.

HISTORIAN: Michael Swanda
Survey Coordinator
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
August 26, 1988.

The Edgemere Street Bridge is one of eight known masonry arch bridges in Arkansas. It is one of a pair of bridges constructed adjacent to Lake No. 3 in the Lakewood Development area of North Little Rock (the other bridge is the Lakeshore Drive Bridge, HAER No. AR-52). The Lakewood Development housing project was originally conceived by Mr. Justin Matthews, at a cost of $250,000, and administered through his Metropolitan Trust Company of North Little Rock, Arkansas. His innovative plans called for not only residential areas, but also for the construction of several recreational lakes, open spaces, and parks within the project boundaries, including Lake No. 3 and its stone bridges. Justin Matthews was a very prominent Arkansan, past member of the Arkansas State Highway Commission, and community leader. It is very likely that the Metropolitan Trust Company's design architect, Mr. Frank Carmean, designed the Edgemere Street Bridge in the rustic architectural theme so prevalent throughout the development.

STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS

The Edgemere Street Bridge uses roughly squared, uncoursed masonry in its construction. It contains a single elliptical arch whose barrel runs perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the roadway. This bridge does not have wing walls. The spandrel walls incorporate square columns that partially project out from the spandrel wall surface and continue up through the parapet. These square columns are of different heights, creating an irregular, double curve, in the parapet wall. Two larger columns, one on either side of the arch, center these curves. They are accentuated with linear vertical stones in the parapet. The central columns are supported at the base by stepped masonry buttresses. An asphalt roadway covers unknown fill material.

DIMENSIONS

This bridge is 57 feet long and contains a single arch 18 feet in length.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

AHTD Bridge No. 19409, AHPP Resource No. PU2024.

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.