**United States Department of the Interior National Park Service** 

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

DEC 11 2009

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property
historic name Miller Creek Bridge
other names/site number Bridge #14045 / Site # IN0236
2. Location
street & number County Road 86 over Miller Creek
city or town Batesville  vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Independence code 063 zip code 72501
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant statewide statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title Date  In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)  Signature of certifying official/Title Date  State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that the property is:    entered in the National Register.   See continuation sheet   determined eligible for the   National Register.   See continuation sheet   determined not eligible for the   National Register.   removed from the National   Register.   other, (explain:)

Miller Creek Bridge Name of Property		Independence County, Arkansas County and State			
5. Classification					
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count.)			
<ul><li>□ private</li><li>⋈ public-local</li><li>□ public-State</li><li>□ public-Federal</li></ul>	<ul><li>□ building(s)</li><li>□ district</li><li>□ site</li><li>⋈ structure</li></ul>	Contributing Noncontributing	_ buildings		
	object	1	structures objects		
Name of related multiple property listing		1 Total Number of Contributing resources previously listed			
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part		in the National Register	in the National Register		
Historic Bridges of Arkansas	S				
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)			
TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)/bridge		TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)/bridge			
7. Description					
7. Description					
	n	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		(Effect categories from mistractions)			
(Enter categories from instructions)		foundation CONCRETE			
(Enter categories from instructions)		foundation CONCRETE			

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property Miller Creek Bridge

County and State Independence County, AR

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable) Historic Bridges of Arkansas

Section number 7

Page 1

#### Summary

The oldest concrete arch bridge in the state, the Miller Creek Bridge is located along a county road that has been bypassed by AR 233 in Independence County, Arkansas. The bridge is just north of downtown Batesville, Arkansas, about .25 miles east of the AR 233 Miller Creek crossing. Two arch spans of solid filled, reinforced concrete cross Miller Creek.

#### **Elaboration**

Miller Creek Bridge's arch structure is a form used in bridge construction since the Romans. In the early twentieth century, reinforced concrete developed by engineers in France gained popularity and more common use in construction, replacing cut stone in arched structures. In an arched structure, all components work in compression, a load well suited to concrete, which becomes stronger under this type of load.

The Miller Creek Bridge is the oldest remaining concrete arch bridge in the state. These earlier structures demonstrate the limited knowledge of concrete structure available at that time, limited in span and heavily constructed.

Originally built as part of a local county road, the Miller Creek Bridge crossing is now a part of County Road 86, or Miller Creek Rd. The 12 foot lane accommodates one-way traffic over a total length of 123 feet. Two arches spans cross the creek, the longer of the two spanning 70 feet. Decorative details, such as incised rectangles on the exterior, elaborate the integrated concrete guardrails of the bridge. An inscription on the bridge lists the names of county commissioners H.C. Wade and J.M. Reynolds; Engineer O.M. Frierson; County Judge M. Walby; Handford and Faucett, the builders; and the completion date of December 1914.

Miller Creek separates downtown Batesville from rural development and farms to the north. The former Missouri Pacific Railroad runs just south of the Creek. Today, Miller Creek Bridge carries local traffic on County Road 86, also known as Miller Creek Rd.

## Integrity

No alterations have been made to the bridge to compromise its integrity. The bridge's setting remains predominately rural, and today services only local traffic, with primary state highways crossing Miller Creek further upstream. The bridge still illustrates its original design and materials.

Miller Creek Bridge	Independence County, Arkansas			
Name of Property	County and State			
8. Statement of Significance				
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Levels of Significance (local, state, national) Local			
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING			
☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	ENGINEERING			
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and				
distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1914-1960			
■ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.				
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates 1914			
Property is:				
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.				
☐ B. removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)			
<ul> <li>C. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.</li> <li>D a cemetery.</li> </ul>	Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)			
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.				
☐ F a commemorative property				
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Architect/Builder Jack Handford & W.E. Fugett, Builders			
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)				
9. Major Bibliographical References				
<b>Bibliography</b> (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one of	r more continuation sheets.)			
Previous documentation on file (NPS):  preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register Previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  recorded by Historic American Engineering	Primary location of additional data:  State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local Government University Other Name of repository: Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department			

Name of Property Miller Creek Bridge

County and State Independence County, AR

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable) Historic Bridges of Arkansas

Section number 8

Page 1

#### Summary

The Miller Creek Bridge is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with local significance for its association with the development of early automobile infrastructure in the 1910s. Constructed in 1914, the bridge is among the earliest to be developed by the newly formed State Highway Commission, which was rapidly developing better accessibility for automobiles as they gained popularity in transportation. The bridge was the primary crossing in the area until a new bridge crossing Miller Creek was erected in 1936. Today, it continues to serve local traffic in Batesville, Arkansas.

Miller Creek Bridge is also nominated under **Criterion C** with local significance as an early example of reinforced concrete bridge design, a construction method typical of Arkansas state highway projects from this time period. As the oldest concrete bridge remaining in the state, the Miller Creek Bridge anticipates the expanding automobile trend in the early 1910s, as automobile registration in Independence County was growing exponentially. The relatively short span arches demonstrate the limited knowledge of the capabilities of concrete construction available at the time.

The Miller Creek Bridge is submitted under the multiple property listing "Historic Bridges of Arkansas" and under associated historic context "Early Transportation Era."

#### Elaboration

The territory that today forms Independence County was likely first explored by fur trappers and traders beginning in the 1810s. Located at a key point along the navigable White River, settlement in present day Batesville can be dated to the arrival of John Reed in 1812 and Sam Miller in 1813, the namesake of Miller Creek, which forms the northern boundary of downtown Batesville. Independence County was incorporated in 1820, with Batesville serving as the county seat.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 623-

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Name of Property Miller Creek Bridge

County and State Independence County, AR

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable) Historic Bridges of Arkansas

Section number 8

Page 2

Hills and rocky ground dominate the landscape of Independence County, occupying the mineral belt of the state. Mining ores of iron oxide and manganese led to the extension of the Missouri, Iron Mountain, and Pacific Railroad form Batesville to nearby Cushman, situating Batesville as the mercantile center for the region. Batesville's railroad station and location along White River also contributed to its growth in trade. Steamboats traveling the river could only travel as far up as Batesville, where cargo was transferred to smaller river boats to continue up river.<sup>2</sup>

Rail and water dominated transportation through Batesville until the 1910s. The first automobile was registered in Independence County in 1910, signaling the coming excitement for cars and need for passable roads to navigate the region.<sup>3</sup> The first state highway commission was created in 1913, empowering individual counties to develop roads.<sup>4</sup> Commissioned in early 1914, the Miller Creek Bridge was influential in opening up accessibility to Batesville from northern regions of the county. Upon the formation of state and US highways, the bridge became part of a network linking Batesville to Little Rock and southern Missouri.

The bridge was engineered locally by D.M. Frierson, a math teacher at the local Presbyterian-run Arkansas College, known today as Lyon College. This local design of a concrete arch bridge differed from a trend toward metal truss construction, which the State Highway Commission had begun to standardize in 1919 and 1920. The State Highway Commission had developed a chief engineering staff and standardized bridge engineering to carry heavier loads and increase availability for federal funding. The Fourth Biennial Report of 1920 stated:

"In order to have bridges and structures designed and built to meet present and future traffic and to comply with the Federal aid requirements, it has been necessary during the past two years to revise some of the old standard plans and to make many new plans.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 625-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> A.C. McGinnis, "A History of Independence County, Arkansas," *The Independence County Chronicle*, Vol. 17, No. 3 (April 1976): 99.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. *Historical Review*. AHTD, November 1992.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Letter from Mary M Frierson of Cabot, AR- Jun 6, 1988. <sup>6</sup> Fourth Biennial Report of the Department of State Lands, Highways and Improvements. Publisher unknown, c.1920.

Name of Property Miller Creek Bridge

County and State Independence County, AR

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
Historic Bridges of Arkansas

Section number 8

Page 3

Loads have increased to such an extent that the bridges and culverts upon all main roads must be designed to carry safely a load not less than that of a 10-ton truck and in many cases a 15-ton truck, together with the impact caused by these heavy loads moving rapidly over the structures." <sup>7</sup>

The construction of the Miller Creek Bridge was highly anticipated by town citizens, featured in regular updates in the *Batesville Guard*, a newspaper still in circulation today. The *Guard* lauded the bridge's construction as "a great addition to the county... open[ing] the way for persons living north of the creek to reach Batesville at all times in a convenient way."

As the need for road construction expanded through the 1910s and 1920s, US Highway 167 increased traffic through Batesville connecting Central Louisiana, Little Rock, and Southern Missouri. The Miller Creek Bridge still provided a vital local link to and from rural areas surrounding Batesville. In 1923 the Arkansas State Highway Commission began to administer highways at the level of the state rather than the county, and they further developed routes through Northern Arkansas. By 1936, increased traffic necessitated the construction of a "new" bridge crossing Miller Creek just west of the concrete arch bridge, diverting state and US highway traffic. Today, Miller Creek Bridge serves local County Road 86, while highways AR 233 and US 167 cross the creek further to the west. Miller Creek Bridge remains the oldest concrete arch bridge in service in the state.

## Statement of Significance

The Miller Creek Bridge is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with local significance for its association with the development of early automobile infrastructure in the 1910s. Constructed in 1914, the bridge is among the earliest to be developed by the newly formed State Highway Commission, which was rapidly developing better accessibility for automobiles as they gained popularity in transportation. The bridge was the primary crossing in the area until a new bridge crossing Miller Creek was erected in 1936. Today, it continues to serve local traffic in Batesville, Arkansas.

<sup>&#</sup>x27; Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> "Bridge Almost Completed," Batesville Guard, 3 December 1914: 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Weingroff, Richard Information Liason Specialist, Federal Highway Administration. *From Names to Numbers: The Origins of the U.S. Numbered Highway System. AASHTO Quarterly*, Spring 1997.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. *Historical Review*. AHTD, November 1992.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Letter from Mary M Frierson of Cabot, AR- Jun 6, 1988.

# United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

#### **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Name of Property	Miller Creek Bridge
County and State	Independence County, AR
Name of multiple p	property listing (if applicable)

Section number 8

Page 4

Miller Creek Bridge is also nominated under **Criterion C** with local significance as an early example of reinforced concrete bridge design, a construction method typical of Arkansas state highway projects from this time period. As the oldest concrete bridge remaining in the state, the Miller Creek Bridge anticipates the expanding automobile trend in the early 1910s, as automobile registration in Independence County was growing exponentially. The relatively short span arches demonstrate the limited knowledge of the capabilities of concrete construction available at the time.

The Miller Creek Bridge is submitted under the multiple property listing "Historic Bridges of Arkansas" and under associated historic context "Early Transportation Era."

Name of Property Miller Creek Bridge

County and State Independence County, AR

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable) Historic Bridges of Arkansas

Section number 9

Page 1

#### **Bibliography**

- A.C. McGinnis, "A History of Independence County, Arkansas," *The Independence County Chronicle*, Vol. 17, No. 3 (April 1976): 99.
- Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. *Historical Review*. AHTD, November 1992.
- Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 623-628.
- "Bridge Almost Completed," Batesville Guard, 3 December 1914: 1.
- "Bridge Contract Awarded," Batesville Guard, 11 July 1914: 1.
- "Bridge Work to Begin," Batesville Guard, 21 July 1914: 1.
- "Bridge Work to Begin," Batesville Guard, 29 July 1914: 1.
- "Bridge Work Started," Batesville Guard, 29 July 1914: 1.
- Fourth Biennial Report of the Department of State Lands, Highways and Improvements. Publisher unknown, c.1920.
- Frierson, Mary M. Letter to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 6 Jun 1988.
- Pratt, Kenneth C. "The Autoculture of Batesville (1910-1920)," The Independence County Chronicle, Vo. 27, No 1-2 (October 1985-January 1986): 5.
- Weingroff, Richard Information Liason Specialist, Federal Highway Administration. From Names to Numbers: The Origins of the U.S. Numbered Highway System. AASHTO Quarterly, Spring 1997.

Miller Creek Bridge	Independence County, Arkansas			
Name of Property	nd State			
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property Less than one				
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)				
1 15 624550 3960679  Zone Easting Northing	3 Zone	Easting Northing		
2	4	See continuation sheet		
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)  Boundary Justification				
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)  11. Form Prepared By				
11. Form Frepared by				
name/title Brian Poepsel, National Register Intern, Edited by Ralph S. Wilcox organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	, National Red	gister & Survey Coordinator  Jun 2009		
street & number 323 Center Street, 1500 Tower Building	telephone	(501) 324-9787		
city or town Little Rock state	AR	zip code 72201		
	<u> </u>			
Additional Documentation				
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:	-			
Submit the following items with the completed form:	n			
Submit the following items with the completed form:  Continuation Sheets  Maps		resources.		
Submit the following items with the completed form:  Continuation Sheets  Maps  A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location		resources.		
Continuation Sheets  Maps  A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location  A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage of		resources.		
Continuation Sheets  Maps  A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location  A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage of Photographs		resources.		
Continuation Sheets  Maps  A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location  A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage of Photographs  Representative black and white photographs of the property.  Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)		resources.		
Continuation Sheets  Maps  A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location  A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage of Photographs  Representative black and white photographs of the property.  Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)		resources.		
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Continuation Sheets  Maps  A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location  A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage of Photographs  Representative black and white photographs of the property.  Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)  Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)		resources.  telephone (870)793-8833		
Continuation Sheets  Maps  A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage of Photographs  Representative black and white photographs of the property.  Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)  Property Owner  (Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)  name Independence County	or numerous			

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

# United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Name of Property Miller Creek Bridge

County and State Independence County, AR

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)
Historic Bridges of Arkansas

Section number 10

Page 1

#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at a point in the center of County Road 86 20 feet north of the north end of the Miller Creek Bridge, the boundary includes the area within 20 feet of each side of the centerline of County Road 86 to an ending point 20 feet south of the south end of the Miller Creek Bridge.

#### **Boundary Justification**

This boundary includes the Miller Creek Bridge and its immediate setting.

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME:	Miller Creek Bridge			
MULTIPLE NAME:	Historic Bridges of A	rkansas MP	S	
STATE & COU	JNTY: ARKANSAS, Indep	endence		
DATE RECEIV DATE OF 16T DATE OF WEE	TH DAY: 1/14/10		PENDING LIST: 45TH DAY:	12/30/09 1/25/10
REFERENCE N	JUMBER: 09001249			
REASONS FOR	REVIEW:			
OTHER: N	DATA PROBLEM: N LAN PDIL: N PER SAMPLE: N SLR	IOD: N	PROGRAM UNAPPRO	EARS: N OVED: N N
COMMENT WAI	VER: N			
ACCEPT	RETURNREJ	ECT 1.21	'/O DATE	
ABSTRACT/SU	MMARY COMMENTS:			
		Entered in The National Reg of Historic Place		
RECOM./CRIT	'ERIA			
REVIEWER		DISCIPLIN	Ξ	
TELEPHONE		DATE		
DOCUMENTATI	ON see attached comme	nts Y/N see	e attached SLR	Y/N
	tion is returned to the is no longer under co			the



MILLER CREEK BRIDGE

INDEPENDENCE COUNTY AR

RALPH S. WILLOX

AUGUST ZOOG

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

VIEW OF THE BRIDGE LOOKING NORTH



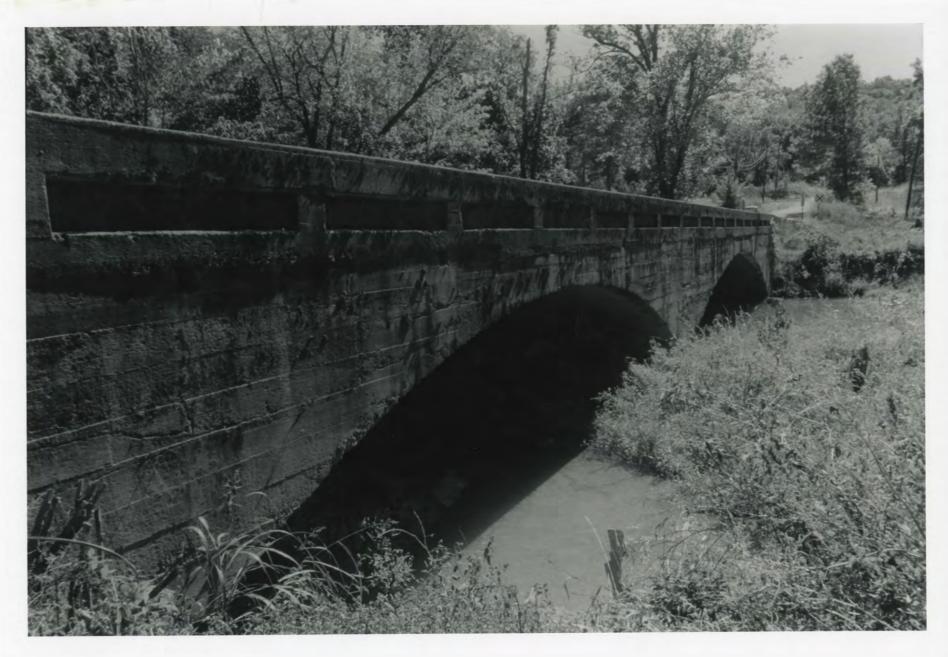
MILLER CREEK BRIDGE

INDEPENDENCE COUNTY, AR

RALPHS. WILLOX

AUGUST ZOOG

ARKANSAS HISTORIL PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR VIEW OF THE BRIDGE LOOKING NORTHWEST



MILLER CREEK BRINGE INDEPENDENCE COUNTY, AR

RALPHS. WILCOX

AUGUST ZOOG

ARKANSAS HISTORIL PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROLL, AR VIEW OF THE BRIDGE LOOKING SOUTHEAST



MILLER CREEK BRINGE

INDEPENDENCE COUNTY, AR

RALPHS, WILLOX

AUGUST ZOOG

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR BUILDER'S PLATE DETAIL, LOOKING WEST



# The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Beebe Governor

Cathie Matthews Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



## Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

1500 Tower Building 323 Center Street Little Rock, AR 72201 (501) 324-9880

fax: (501) 324-9184 tdd: (501) 324-9811

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.com



December 2, 2009

Dr. Janet Matthews
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Miller Creek Bridge – Batesville, Independence County, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Matthews:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews

State Historic Preservation Officer

Callie Matthews

CM:rsw

Enclosure

An Equal Opportunity Employer

