

|  |  |         |  |
|--|--|---------|--|
| IDENTIFICATION   | Historic name: <u>N/A</u>  | STATUS  | Open to public: <u>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/></u> |
|  | Common name: <u>Big Sewee Creek Bridge</u>   |         | Visible from road: <u>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></u>                                  |
|  | Address: <u>Between Center Point Rd. and Hwy. 58 N</u><br><u>Decatur, Tennessee</u>  |         | Occupied: <u>N/A</u> <u>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></u>   |
|  | Owner's name: <u>Meigs County Highway Dept.</u>  |         | Present use: <u>Transportation</u>   |
|  | Owner's address: <u>Eaves Ferry Rd.</u><br><u>Decatur, Tennessee 37332</u>   |         | Current condition: <u>Good</u>   |
|  | Classification: <u>Structure-public</u>  |         | Alterations: <u>N/A</u>  |
|  | Tax map reference: <u>Dist. 3,4, Map 29</u>  |         | Site features: <u>Located on gravel side road in scenic location featuring rock outcroppings and evergreen trees.</u>          |
| Acreage: <u>less than one acre</u>                         |  |         |  |
| UTM reference: <u>Zone 16 N 3941090</u><br><u>E 707220</u> |  |         |  |
| HISTORY  | Date of construction: <u>1914</u>  | SOURCES | Bibliographical data: <u>Miars, David H. A Century of Bridges.</u>   |
|  | Architect/builder: <u>Champion Bridge Company</u><br><u>Wilmington, Ohio</u>   |         |  |
|  | Original or previous owners: <u>Meigs County Road Commission</u>   |         |  |
|  | Original use: <u>Transportation</u>  |         | Form prepared by: <u>Ann Toplovich</u>   |
|  | Theme/s: <u>Primary Transportation</u>   |         | Title: <u>Cultural Resource Surveyor</u>   |
|  | <u>Secondary N/A</u><br><u>Other N/A</u>   |         | Organization: <u>Tennessee Historical Commission</u><br>Date: <u>8/24/81</u>   |
| DESCRIPTION  | Oriented on an east-west axis across Big Sewee Creek, the Big Sewee Creek Bridge is a single span, through truss bridge that utilizes a Pratt truss configuration of diagonals in tension and verticals in compression. The pin-connected steel structure has inclined end posts extending from the top chord to ground level where they rest on a rock bank with concrete abutments. The bridge's top chords, bottom chords, and inclined end posts are channel beams, the diagonals and hip verticals are rods, and the three central posts are twin bars with lattice bracing. The bridge has a metal deck with wood plank treads and a metal handrail. An ornate plaque at each portal of the bridge reads "1914; Champion Bridge Co.; Wilmington, O." Lattice work is incorporated into the portal bracing of the bridge. |         |  |
| SIGNIFICANCE   | Built in 1914, the Big Sewee Creek Bridge was constructed by the Champion Bridge Company of Wilmington, Ohio. The bridge crosses Big Sewee Creek, one of the major secondary streams of northern Meigs County. The bridge is representative of a commitment by Meigs County to improved transportation. Meigs County tried to shift to overland transportation by attracting a railroad on several different occasions, during the 1850s, in 1887, and in 1904. These attempts to get a railroad failed, and Meigs County's dependence on river transportation continued until the early 1920s. The Big Sewee Creek bridge was superior in load-bearing capacity and life span to wooden bridges crossing Big Sewee Creek, and allowed for a shift to motorized overland transport.  |         |  |

**PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA**

Photographer: Stephen T. Rogers

Date: 3/1/79

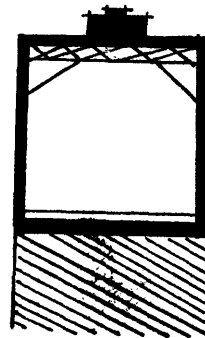
Negatives on file: Tennessee Historical  
Commission

Photographer facing: Facing Northeast

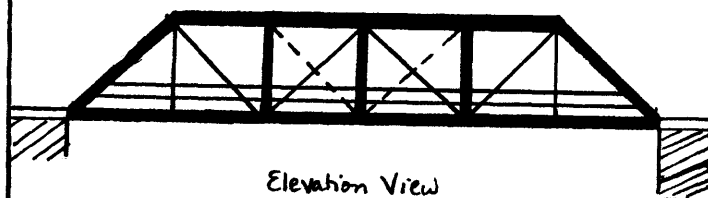
Photograph number 18 of 55 .

**CONTINUATION**

**SITE PLAN - Include North Arrow**



End View

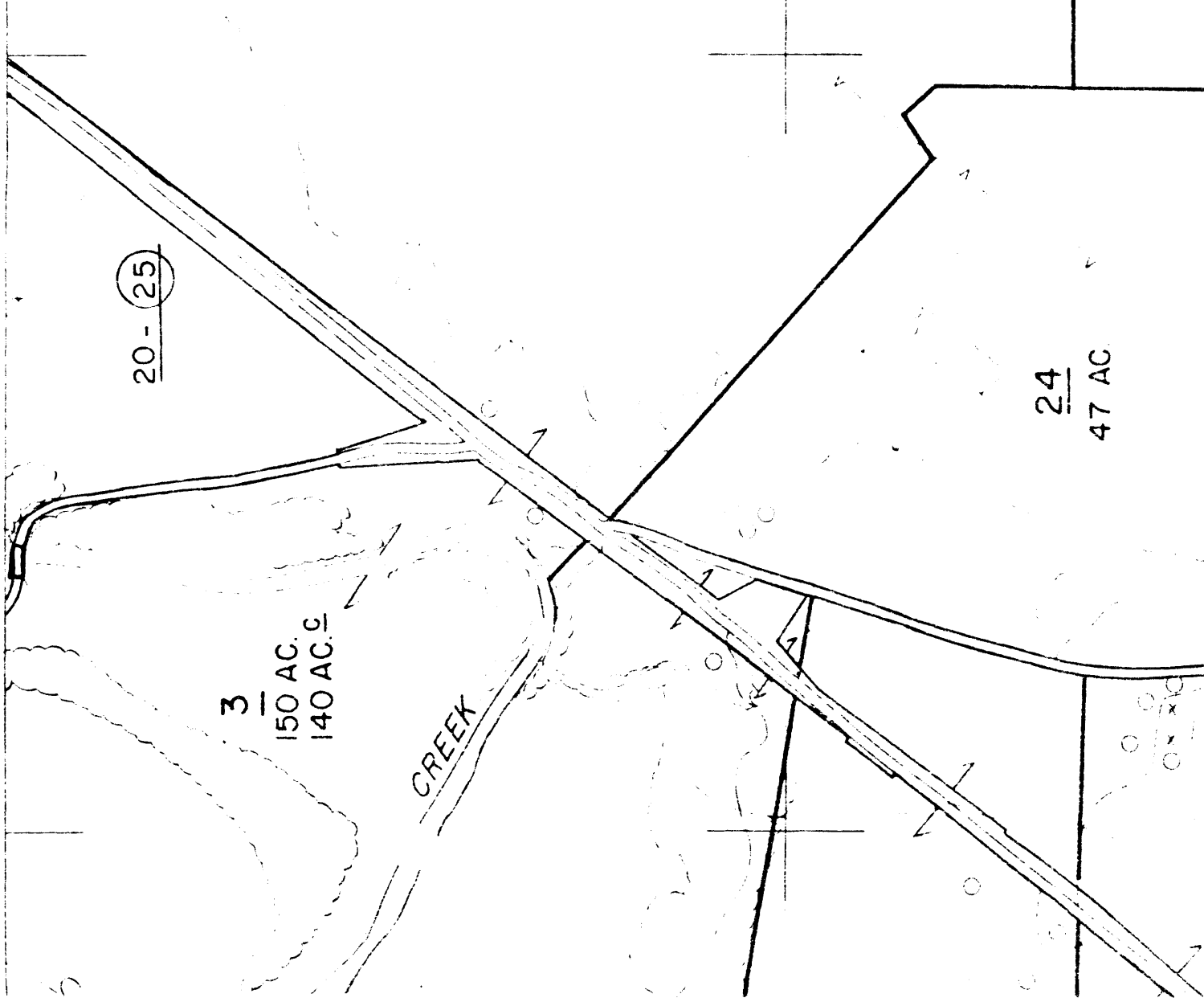


Elevation View

 rock/Concrete

Historic Resources of Meigs County,  
Tennessee  
(Partial Inventory: Historic and  
Architectural Resources)

BIG SEWEE CREEK BRIDGE (#16)



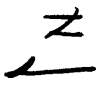
20 - 25

3  
150 AC.  
140 AC. ±

CREEK

24  
47 AC.

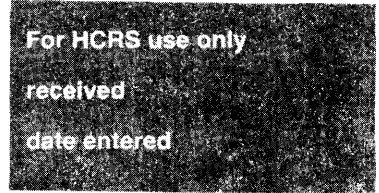
25  
162 AC.



1" = 400'

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Historic Resources of  
Meigs County, Tennessee      Item number      Identification      **Page**      2

---

MEIGS COUNTY MULTIPLE RESOURCE NOMINATION - Big Sewee Creek Bridge (#16)

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

16. The boundaries include the bridge, which is 94' x 12' in length, and located on Sewee Creek on Feezell Road.