

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration FormRECEIVED
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DIVISION OF
NATIONAL REGISTER PROGRAMS
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cedar Creek Bridge

other names/site number HAER No. AR-31

2. Location

street & number Adjacent to State Highway 154, spanning Cedar Creek ☐ not for publication N/Acity, town Petit Jean State Park ☐ vicinity N/A

state Arkansas code 05 county Conway code 029 zip code 72823

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☒ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☒ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
	buildings
	sites
1	structures
	objects
1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic Bridges of ArkansasNumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:)

Entered in the
National Register

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/Road-Related

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/Road-Related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Closed Spandrel, Deck Arch

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation masonry

walls masonry

roof

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

☒ See continuation sheet

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

Located in the mountains of the Arkansas River Valley region, the Cedar Creek Bridge supplies access across the western end of Lake Bailey on State Highway 154 in the south-western corner of Conway County. Its masonry arch design is sympathetic to the architectural theme of the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed Petit Jean State Park in which it was built.

ELABORATION

The Cedar Creek Bridge is a an unaltered semi-circular masonry deck arch with a total deck length of over 60 feet. The arch is about 20 feet long, with a rise of approximately 10 feet. The sandstone masonry units are coursed, rock-faced ashlar, ranging in size from 6"x10" to 2'x3', with an average size of 12"x15". The mortar joints are about an inch thick and are weatherstruck pointed. The voussoirs are primarily rectangular in shape, and approximately 12"x15" in size. About ten to fifteen stones on each side are rusticated, and thus protrude from the spandrel wall surface. The spandrel wall continues upward from the arch about ten feet to form a parapet wall capped with six-inch-thick, flat coping stones. The solid spandrels are filled with sand, and the two-lane road deck is covered with asphalt.

This bridge is in good condition and is currently being used to carry vehicular traffic.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Transportation

1934-1939

1934

Engineering

Social History

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect: Davies, Ladd

Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

10. Geographical Data

UTM References

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Historic Bridges of Arkansas, Multiple Property Nomination, Section H.

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 Record # HAER No. AR-31

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

U.S. Library of Congress

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	5
---	---

5	0	6	8	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	8	7	0	9	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

1	5
---	---

5	0	6	8	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	8	7	0	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point approximately 325 feet north from the intersection of State Highway 154 and Lake Bailey Road, the boundary of the Cedar Creek Bridge starts at the south end of the main span, then extends north across Cedar Creek for approximately 60 feet, then terminates at the north end of the main span.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the main span and abutments that are historically associated with this property.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Text by Lola Bennett & Corinne Smith; edited by Michael Swanda, Survey Coordinator

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date February 5, 1990

street & number 225 East Markham Street telephone (501) 371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1**SUMMARY**

The Cedar Creek Bridge, an example of the masonry, closed spandrel deck arch bridge type, was built in 1934 as part of a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) project that built the original structures which formed the nucleus of Petit Jean State Park. The CCC, a federal work program, made possible the creation of many such state parks throughout the nation during the depression years. Petit Jean State Park was the first of five state parks in Arkansas built by the CCC. It relates to the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department Era: 1923-1939 historic context (See Historic Bridges of Arkansas Multiple Property Nomination, Section E). The Cedar Creek Bridge was built using traditional methods of masonry arch bridge construction. It is one of eight remaining masonry arch bridges in the state, and is unique as the only one which incorporated finished, rather than rusticated, stone. It is an excellent example of a coursed ashlar deck arch bridge in Arkansas and as such is nominated under Criteria A and C with statewide significance.

ELABORATION**PETIT JEAN MOUNTAIN¹**

Petit Jean Mountain stretches approximately ten miles along the southern bank of the Arkansas and Petit Jean Rivers in west-central Arkansas, just southwest of Morrilton. The state park on the mountain encompasses nearly 3,500 acres of woods, streams, ravines, and geological formations. Cedar Falls Creek, a stream about nine miles in length, has its source in the springs at the summit of the mountain. The creek flows down the mountain, into a gorge, and out into the valley below.

The first permanent settlers on Petit Jean Mountain were John Walker and his family, in 1840. In 1841 Roderick Webber established a tanyard on the mountain with the aid of his slaves who knew the art of tanning leather and making shoes. Their reputation brought customers from as far away as Little Rock to buy shoes. The tanyard ceased operation about 1860, by which time the mountain community was growing rapidly. At one point the community boasted two schools, a sawmill, a resort hotel, two post offices, and stores. The main industries were cotton farming and timbering. By 1900, more than 100 families made their homes on Petit Jean. The community declined during the years from 1910 to 1922. Cotton farming played out the soil and the forests had been cut. The young people began to leave, seeking opportunity elsewhere.

CONSTRUCTION OF CEDAR CREEK BRIDGE

The CCC camp at Petit Jean was comprised of World War I veterans, rather than young men as in most CCC camps. There were 200 men in the camp, and, according to Ladd Davies, the son of the supervising engineer, "because the men were older, there was someone who knew how to do everything."²

The CCC began work in the park by clearing roads and trails, and the construction of the bridge across Cedar Creek. An old iron bridge originally spanned Cedar Creek, near where the present dam is located, approximately a quarter of a mile upstream from the masonry bridge. Ladd Davies recalls it being there when the park was started in 1933. There were several reasons why masonry was the material of choice for the new bridge. First, suitable stone was readily available on the mountain, and thus the expense of materials and transporting them could be kept to a minimum. Second, a masonry bridge could be more easily maintained than an iron bridge. Third, it would not be necessary to call in skilled laborers to work on the job, although there happened to be a mason in the camp at Petit Jean. Fourth, a stone bridge would blend well with the surrounding landscape and would be in keeping with the idea of a "natural" park.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
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A crew of 15 or 20 men began construction on the bridge in the summer of 1933 and completed it in 1934.³ Because the master plan for the park was not drawn up until 1935, there are no documented drawings of the bridge, but Ladd Davies recalls that he was the draftsman, and that he calculated the depth of the keystone (22 inches) using a railroad engineer's handbook.⁴

The first task in the construction of the bridge was clearing the lake bed and collecting stones. Nearly all the work was done by hand, as the crew had only three dumptrucks, a flatbed truck and a tractor.⁵ After the area was cleared, a wooden arch form (also known as centering) was constructed using heavy timbers (see historic field photos in HAER file). The rocks, cut by the stone mason, were laid over this form. Once the keystone was dropped into place, the centering was removed. The stones were lifted into place using a makeshift crane, which consisted of "a block and tackle, two trees, and a little iron work made by a blacksmith."⁶ The final steps in construction were backfilling the bridge with dirt and paving the road.

REPAIRS ON THE CEDAR CREEK BRIDGE

Ladd Davies recalled that in the spring of 1985, he received an anxious telephone call from the park, "Mr. Davies, come quick! The bridge is collapsing!" Apparently a recent flash flood had caused the fill inside the bridge to leach out through a crack that had developed in the wall. Consequently, when enough fill had escaped, a hole was created under the asphalt pavement, and the pavement collapsed. Under Mr. Davies' direction, the hole was filled with concrete, and crack in the bridge wall repointed, and road repaved.⁷ This, apparently, was the only time the bridge has been repaired.

THE DAVIES FAMILY⁸

Mr. Sam Davies, the supervising engineer for the bridge, was born in Fayetteville, Arkansas in 1885. He graduated from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1907, with a degree in Civil Engineering. In 1917, he moved to Morrilton to work as a resident engineer for Harrington, Howard and Ash, a bridge engineering firm from Kansas City, Missouri. The firm was supervising the construction of a bridge over the Arkansas River. In 1932, the Attorney General of Arkansas asked Mr. Davies to be the supervising engineer at Petit Jean State Park. Consequently, in 1937, Governor Bailey asked him to be the first Director of Arkansas State Parks, a position which he held until 1943.

Sam Davies son, Ladd Davies, was 19 years old in 1933, and was pursuing a degree in engineering at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Ladd had two years of his education behind him when he decided to work with his father on the CCC project at Petit Jean. He returned to the University in 1935 to finish his degree and went on to obtain a Master's degree in Sanitary Engineering from Harvard University. He served with the army from 1945 to 1947, during which time he was working in Latin America. From 1947 to 1949, he worked in Peru, helping to set up a public health system. After returning to the United States, he and his father set up a private water and sewage contracting business, Davies and Davies Municipal Contractors. When his father retired in 1962, they dissolved the business, and Ladd went to work for the Arkansas Department of Pollution Control and Ecology. After four years he was appointed as Director of that department and he remained there until his retirement in 1976. He presently lives on Petit Jean Mountain, fondly recalling the days that he spent working with the CCC at Petit Jean State Park.

Ladd's son, Richard Davies, has carried on the tradition set by his grandfather. He graduated from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1972 with a degree in Journalism. In 1973 he accepted a position as Assistant to the Director of Parks and Tourism, and in 1976 he became the Director of Arkansas State Parks, a position which he currently holds.

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National Park Service**

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

ENDNOTES

1. "Petit Jean Mountain." exhibit, Petit Jean State Park Visitor's Center, Morrilton, Arkansas.
2. Ladd Davies, personal interview with Lola Bennett, project historian (Petit Jean, Arkansas), August 2, 1988.
3. *ibid.*
4. *ibid.*
5. *ibid.*
6. *ibid.*
7. *ibid.*
8. *ibid.*

2/23/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Historic Bridges of Arkansas MPS	Baxter County, et al.	Date Listed
COVER	Substantive Review	4/6/90
1. Cotter Bridge	Substantive Review	4/4/90
2. North Fork Bridge	Entered in the National Register	4/9/90
3. Beaver Bridge	Substantive Review	4/9/90
4. Mulladay Hollow Bridge	Substantive Review	4/6/90
5. Little Missouri River Bridge	Substantive Review	4/9/90
6. Cedar Creek Bridge	Entered in the National Register	4/9/90
7. Lee Creek Bridge (AR 220)	Substantive Review	4/9/90
8. Lee Creek Bridge (AR 59)	Substantive Review	4/6/90
9. South Fork Bridge	SR Substantive Review	4/9/90
10. Eight Mile Creek Bridge	Substantive Review	4/6/90
11. Newport Bridge		4/9/90
12. Big Piney Creek Bridge	Substantive Review	4/9/90
13. Cache River Bridge		4/9/90
14. St. Louis-San Francisco Overpass	Entered in the National Register	4/9/90
15. Red River Bridge	Substantive Review	4/4/90
16. Buffalo River Bridge	Entered in the National Register	4/9/90
17. Harp Creek Bridge		4/9/90
18. Cypress Creek Bridge	Substantive Review	4/9/90
19. Mountain Fork Bridge	Substantive Review	4/9/90
20. White River Bridge at DeValls Bluff	Entered in the National Register	4/9/90
21. Edgemere Street Bridge	Entered in the National Register	4/9/90
22. Lake No. 1 Bridge	Entered in the National Register	4/9/90

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Cedar Creek Bridge
NAME:

MULTIPLE Historic Bridges of Arkansas MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Conway

DATE RECEIVED: 2/23/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/06/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/22/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/09/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000520

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 4/9/90 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification

___materials

___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph

___completeness

___clarity

___applicable criteria

___justification of areas checked

___relating significance to the resource

___context

___relationship of integrity to significance

___justification of exception

___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description

___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

Signed

Date



CEDAR CREEK BRIDGE

PETIT JEAN STATE PARK, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHER, MICHAEL SWANOA

MAY, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW LOOKING EAST



2
CEDAR CREEK BRIDGE
PETIT JEAN STATE PARK, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHER, MICHAEL SWANDA
MAY, 1989
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW LOOKING SOUTH



CEDAR CREEK BRIDGE

PETIT JEAN STATE PARK, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHER, MICHAEL SWANDA

MAY, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

DETAIL VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST



CEDAR CREEK BRIDGE

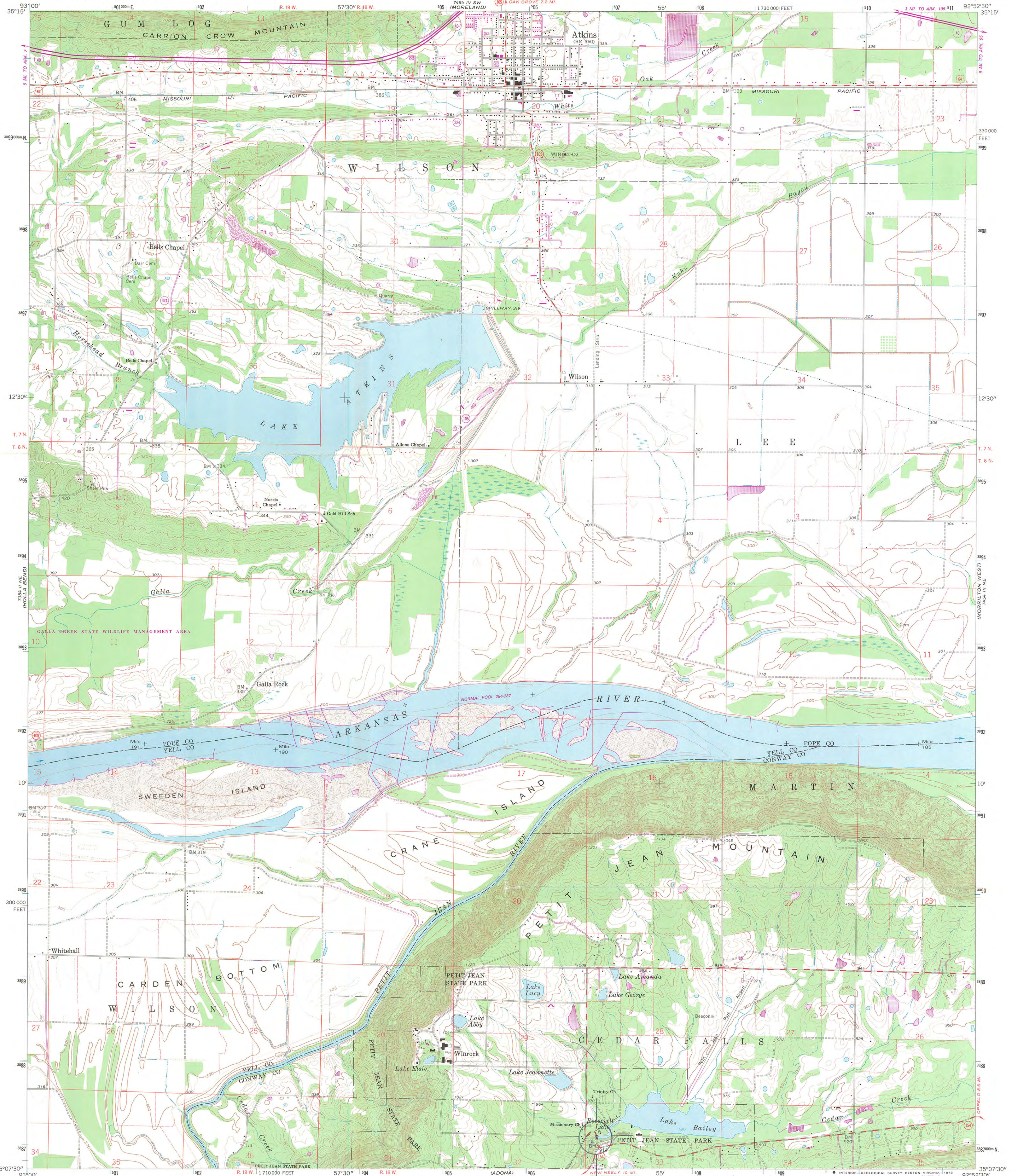
PETIT JEAN STATE PARK, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHER, MICHAEL SWANOA

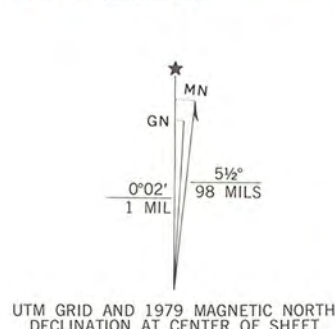
MAY, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

DETAIL VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1958. Field checked 1961
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken
1977. Map edited 1979. This information not field checked



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Cedar Creek Bridge
Petit Jean State Park, Arkansas
Conway County
A) 15/506840/3887095
B) 15/506840/3887070
Arkings Quadrangle
1:24,000

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Duty ——— Light-duty ———
n-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———
Interstate Route ———

ATKINS, ARK.
N 3507.5—W 9252.5/7.5

1961
PHOTOREVISED 1979
DMA 7454 III NW—SERIES V884

Cedar Creek Bridge

Name of Property

Independence County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page

Additional research has revealed that the Cedar Creek Bridge was built by the Works Progress Administration.

(Information from Bob Scoggin, Historic Bridge Coordinator, Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Cedar Creek Bridge
NAME:

MULTIPLE Historic Bridges of Arkansas MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Independence

DATE RECEIVED: 12/10/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/23/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95000613

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Accepted

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

TELEPHONE

DATE

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

Historic Arkansas Museum

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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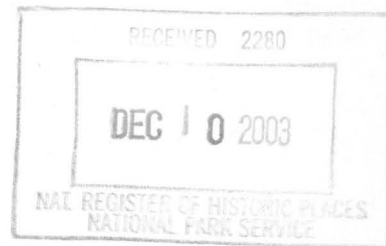
info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

December 4, 2003

Carol D. Shull
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: Cedar Creek Bridge – Independence County, Arkansas

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review additional documentation for the above-referenced property. 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

CM:rsw

Enclosure

An Equal Opportunity Employer

