



Historic Sites Survey

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Measuring 300' in length, the twin-tower swinging suspension bridge has a central span of 200' and two 50' spans between the towers and the North Fork Coles Creek bank. Iron-sheathed concrete towers support the 25-foot wide wooden deck, which consists of creosoted float beams, stringers, and decking.

The Coon Box Fork Bridge was constructed in 1919 at a cost of \$3,498.99 and repaired in 1927 by W.H. Groome and Son at a cost of \$1,058.38. The bridge incorporates the Schuster and Jacob cable anchoring system design (patent #s 6203,729591; dated June 2, 1903).

ALTERATIONS:

None (routine maintenance consists of replacement of the wood deck approximately every fifteen years).

OUTBUILDINGS:

LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

Forested, wilderness setting; gravel road.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Coon Box Fork Bridge is a highly successful technological product of the early twentieth century that met rural transportation needs in southwestern Mississippi. Easier to maintain than wooden bridges and less expensive than iron bridges, swinging suspension bridges similar to the Coon Box Fork Bridge proliferated in Jefferson County after 1900. The patented Schuster and Jacob anchoring system allowed for a simple yet secure method for anchoring bridge cables in the ground. The substitution of concrete infill in ^{the} cable anchoring system by W.H.Groome and Son was hastened after the frequent deterioration of the wood infill used according to the Schuster and Jacob patent. The Schuster and Jacob bridge design was used by local contractors in Jefferson county such as Robert Taylor, J.K. Gallbreath and W.H. Groome and Son. Although originally constructed by Robert Taylor in 1919, the repair of the Coon Box Fork bridge in 1927

NAME: Coon Box Fork Bridge

STREET NO: Coon Box Road

TOWN/VIC: Coon Box

COUNTY: Jefferson

BLOCK/LOT:

PRESENT OWNER: Board of Supervisors
 ADDRESS: Jefferson County Courthouse

PRESENT USE: P.O. Box 145
 FORMER USE: Fayette, Mississippi 39069

DATE: 1919

STYLE:

ARCH/BUILDER: Schuster and Jacob, engineers
 Robert Taylor, builder

SOURCE OF DATE: Minutes Books, Board of Supervisors,
 Jefferson County, Fayette, Mississippi.

ENVIRONMENT: rural

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD

LOCAL

STATE X

NATIONAL

PHOTOS

NEG. #

DATE OR AREA WITH NORTH ARROW AND SHAPE OF STRUCTURE:

CONTINUATION:

by Groome incorporated the improved anchoring system. All of the bridges constructed in Jefferson county were financed by bonds issued by the county. The Coon Box Fork Bridge served the agricultural transportation needs of local farmers in nearby Coon Box, a settlement situated approximately one mile northeast of the bridge.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

fair

TREATS:

deterioration

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Swinging suspension bridge and county road right-of-way along Coon Box Road where the said bridge crosses North Fork Coles Creek.

MEASURE: two acres

GRID REF:

| | | | |
|---|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| A | 1 5 | 6 8 0 5 0 0 | 3 5 4 8 5 7 5 |
| | ZONE EASTING | | NORTHING |
| C | | | |
| B | | | |
| | ZONE EASTING | | NORTHING |
| D | | | |

FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE

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