



# Historic Sites Survey

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Measuring 70 feet in length, the twin-tower swinging suspension bridge has a central span of 40 feet and two 15 foot spans between the towers and the Fifteen Mile Creek bank. Iron-sheathed concrete towers support the 16 foot wide wooden deck, which consists of creosoted pine float beams, stringers, decking, and oak runners. One-and-one-half-inch galvanized steel cables are suspended from the towers and anchored to the creek bank.

The Youngblood Bridge was constructed in 1900 and repaired by W.H. Groome and Son in 1915 at a cost of \$799.96. The bridge is located on the border of the Homochitto National Forest, and is still used for vehicular traffic. The bridge incorporates the Schuster and Jacob cable anchoring system design (patent #s 6203,729591; dated June 2, 1903), as well as improvements made on that system by W.H. Groome and Son.

## 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 Youngblood 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 Youngblood 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 J.K. Gallbreath in 1900, the repair of the Youngblood Bridge

NAME: Youngblood Bridge

STREET NO: Youngblood Road

TOWN/VIC: Union Church

COUNTY: Jefferson

BLOCK/LOT:

PRESENT OWNER: Board of Supervisors  
 ADDRESS: Jefferson County Courthouse  
 P.O. Box 145  
 PRESENT USE: Fayette, Mississippi 39069

FORMER USE:

DATE: 1900

STYLE:

ARCH/BUILDER: Schuster and Jacob, engineers  
 J.F. Gallbreath, builder

SOURCE OF DATE: Minute Books, Board of Supervisors, Jefferson

ENVIRONMENT: County, Mississippi.  
 rural

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD

LOCAL

STATE X

NATIONAL

PHOTOS

NEG. #

SITE OR AREA WITH NORTH ARROW AND SHAPE OF STRUCTURE:

CONTINUATION:

in 1915 by Groome incorporated the improved anchoring system. All of the bridges constructed in Jefferson county were financed by bonds issued by the county. The Youngblood Bridge served the agricultural transportation needs of local farmers and rural settlement areas south of Union Church.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

good

THREATS:

deterioration

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Swinging suspension bridge and county road right-of-way along Youngblood Road where the said crosses Fifteen Mile Creek

ACREAGE: one acre

UTM REF:

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1	5	7	0	7	3	0	0	3	5	0	1	6	7	5
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ZONE EASTING                      NORTHING

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ZONE EASTING                      NORTHING

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FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE

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Division of Historic Preservation

9 September 1978