

Historic Sites Survey



State of Mississippi
Department of Archives & History
P. O. Box 571, Jackson, MS. 39205

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Measuring 350 feet in length, the twin-tower swinging suspension bridge has a central span of 250 feet and two 50 foot spans between the towers and the South Fork Coles Creek bank. Iron-sheathed concrete towers support the 16 foot wide wooden deck, which consists of creosoted-pine float beams, stringers, and decking.

No records exist for the construction of the Old Hill Place Bridge. The bridge incorporates the Schuster and Jacob cable anchoring system design (patent #s 6203,729591; dated June 2, 1903), and was constructed ca. 1920 by one of the three local bridge builders in Jefferson county (W.H. Groome and Son, J.K. Gallbreath, and Robert Taylor).

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 Old Hill Place 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 Old Hill Place 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 of Jacob bridge design was used by local contractors in Jefferson county such as Robert Taylor, J.K. Gallbreath and W.H. Groome and Son. All of the bridges constructed in Jefferson county were financed by bonds issued by the county. The

NAME: Old Hill Place Bridge

STREET NO: Hill Road

TOWN/VIC: Fayette

COUNTY: Jefferson

BLOCK/LOT:

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

DATE: ca. 1920

STYLE:

ARCH/BUILDER: Schuster and Jacob, engineers

SOURCE OF DATE:

ENVIRONMENT: rural

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
NEIGHBORHOOD
LOCAL
STATE X
NATIONAL

PHOTOS

NEG. #

SITE OR AREA WITH NORTH ARROW AND SHAPE OF STRUCTURE:

CONTINUATION:

Old Hill Place Bridges served the agricultural transportation needs of local farmers and rural settlement areas such as Bethlehem Church to the west.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

good

THREATS:

deterioration

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Swinging suspension bridge and county road right-of-way along Hill Road where said bridge crosses South Fork Coles Creek.

CREAGE:

JTM REF:

A | 1 | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 5 | | 3 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE

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9 September 1978