

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Southeast Stone Arch Bridge – Lake Wabaunsee

other names/site number 197-0000-0154

2. Location

street & number East Flint Hills Drive 2.2 miles south of K-4 (Lake Wabaunsee) ☐ not for publication

city or town Eskridge ☐ vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Wabaunsee code 197 zip code 66423

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Nataniel Selmer  
Signature of certifying official/Title

11-18-09  
Date

State Historic Preservation Office, Kansas Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

12-30-09

Southeast Stone Arch Bridge – Lake Wabaunsee  
Name of Property

Wabaunsee County, Kansas  
County and State

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

_____	buildings
_____	sites
1	structures
_____	objects
1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Masonry Arch Bridges of KS MPS; New Deal-era  
Resources of KS MPS

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

0

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Road Related (Vehicular)

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Road Related (Vehicular)

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Works Progress Administration (WPA) -  
Three-Arch Stone Bridge

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Limestone

walls Stone: Limestone

roof

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation Sheet

Southeast Stone Arch Bridge – Lake Wabaunsee  
Wabaunsee County, Kansas

Section number 7 Page 1

Masonry Arch Bridges of KS / New Deal-era Resources of KS

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PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

*Summary*

The Southeast Stone Arch Bridge (c. 1937-1938) is located 2.2 miles south of Highway K-4/99 along East Flint Hills Drive, an asphalt roadway that encircles Lake Wabaunsee. The lake is located 4.4 miles west of Eskridge, Kansas, and 14.6 miles southeast of Alma, the Wabaunsee County seat. K-4/99 is on the Kansas Native Stone Scenic Byway.

*Elaboration*

The bridge was completed in 1938 as part of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) job, but there is no signifying marker or keystone on the bridge. The bridge spans a waterway formed by springs and watershed runoff. Due to the washing-out of parts of the lake and lake silt problems, the Conservation District built containment ponds. There is a containment pond located 1000 feet south of the bridge.

The bridge roadway is asphalt with a compacted earth subsurface measuring twenty feet across. A compacted surface of five feet (width from asphalt edge to bridge sidewall) parallels the asphalt roadway's edge along the entire length of the bridge.

The bridge measures twenty-nine feet in length from east to west, with a deck width (curb-to-curb) measurement of thirty feet. The bridge has approaches on the east and west ends of fourteen feet each. The bridge spans the waterway with three stone arches each measuring six feet in width. The materials of the settings of the arches, as well as underground components, are unknown. The vertical stone face extends six feet above each arch, creating a bridge rail the length of the bridge extending three feet above the roadway. Stepped down from both ends of each side rail or sidewall are slightly angled wingwalls built into the roadside embankment. These wingwalls protect the structure from erosion during high water flows.

The structure is made of native limestone blocks and mortar joints. The limestone blocks, which were quarried from the lakebed and adjoining pastures, are rectangular and feature a rusticated face and many retain the tool markings from when they were quarried. The bridge was designed and constructed in the Roman-arch style, which relies on the compression of the stones for structural strength. The compact fill within the structures provides distribution of both live and dead loads among the arches.

As part of a larger lake development project, the bridge and roadway were built jointly by Wabaunsee County, the City of Eskridge, the WPA, and an association of future residents.

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Southeast Stone Arch Bridge – Lake Wabaunsee  
Wabaunsee County, Kansas

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Masonry Arch Bridges of KS / New Deal-era Resources of KS

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While showing some deterioration from erosion of the limestone (especially at water level), the bridge has remained in use for public vehicular and pedestrian traffic since completion in 1938.

The Southeast Bridge is located at approximate UTM coordinates 14R 744684E 4305205N—approximate latitude, longitude 38°51'42" N, 96°10'48" W.

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Government

Architecture/Engineering

### Period of Significance

1937-1938

### Significant Dates

1937-1938

### Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

John Brink, WPA Engineer

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☒ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Wabaunsee County Government



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Wabaunsee County, Kansas  
Masonry Arch Bridges of KS / New Deal-era Resources of KS

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### *Summary*

The Southeast Stone Arch Bridge at Lake Wabaunsee (c. 1937-1938) is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural and engineering significance as limestone, three-arch bridge as part of the “Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas” multiple property nomination.<sup>1</sup> The bridge is simple, yet functional in its triple-arch design. Its native limestone construction is typical of structures built in the area and uses a local material abundant in the surrounding Flint Hills.

The bridge is also nominated under Criterion A as part of the “New Deal-era Resources of Kansas” multiple property nomination.<sup>2</sup> The bridge’s native stone construction is representative of the New Deal-era work projects in rural Kansas that the Federal Government undertook to provide employment during the economic depression of the 1930s. The construction of this bridge was the result of collaboration between all levels of government (the City of Eskridge, Wabaunsee County, the Kansas Emergency Relief Corporation, the federal Works Progress Administration), and an association of future residents.

The period of significance is 1937-1938, which includes the years the bridge was being constructed.

### *Elaboration<sup>3</sup>*

Efforts to construct a water supply and recreation area near Eskridge began in the 1920s when businessmen, cattlemen, farmers, and sportsmen came together to propose the idea of a state lake in Wabaunsee County. During this same period, Kansas’ first state fishing lakes (Neosho and Meade)

<sup>1</sup> For context relating to the masonry arch bridge construction in Kansas, see “Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas” multiple property documentation form. Larry Jochims, “Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas.” National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form. 1985. Filed at the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office. Available online at: [http://www.kshs.org/resource/national\\_register/mps.htm](http://www.kshs.org/resource/national_register/mps.htm)

<sup>2</sup> For context relating to the Kansas Emergency Relief Corporation, the Works Progress Administration, and the Great Depression years in Kansas, see “New Deal-era Resources of Kansas” multiple property documentation form. Elizabeth Rosin, et. al. “New Deal-era Resources of Kansas.” National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form. 2002. Filed at the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office. Available online at: [http://www.kshs.org/resource/national\\_register/mps.htm](http://www.kshs.org/resource/national_register/mps.htm)

<sup>3</sup> The history of Lake Wabaunsee is primarily taken from two sources: 1) A. V. (Pete) Lungren, A. V., “General History of Lake Wabaunsee.” Lake Wabaunsee Sportsmen Association, 1970. Dedicated to the Wabaunsee County Historical Society, Alma, KS. Available online at: [www.lakewabaunsee.com/Communities/History/GenHist.html](http://www.lakewabaunsee.com/Communities/History/GenHist.html) . 2) Greg A. Hoots *The Complete History of Lake Wabaunsee*. Alma, KS: Flint Hills Publishing, 2008.

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Wabaunsee County, KansasSection number 8 Page 4

Masonry Arch Bridges of KS / New Deal-era Resources of KS

were opened (in 1926) for public fishing, boating, and swimming. There was much discussion among elected officials and local boosters, but a firm commitment was never finalized for a state lake in Wabaunsee County.

By 1932 – as the economic depression was taking hold – local efforts to obtain funding for the construction of a lake intensified. In 1933, the Lake Wabaunsee Corporation obtained options to purchase nearly 500 acres and secured more than \$20,000 in pledges toward the purchase of a site. An application for assistance through the Civilian Conservation Corps was denied. The Kansas Emergency Relief Corporation (KERC) stepped in and agreed to establish a camp for workers, who did not qualify for CCC jobs, to build the lake. The camp was designed to accommodate some 400 workers.

Work at the lake site began under the auspices of KERC and continued until 1936, when the project was taken over by the WPA.<sup>4</sup> By the end of 1936, only about 15 percent of the project, which primarily included the quarrying of stone and the major earthwork, had been completed.

In early 1937, the Lake Wabaunsee Corporation still needed \$12,000 to clear the title to the site and pay expenses. The Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission refused to take ownership of the property, as did the Wabaunsee County government. The City of Eskridge hosted a lottery selling 150 lots at \$100 each with the funds raised going into a special fund for the lake project. Ultimately, the bonds, principal, and interest (amounting to about \$20,000) were paid over ten years by a levy on property within the City of Eskridge.

As the lake began to fill with water in early 1938, work continued on the road encircling the lake. The construction of three stone arch bridges was underway.<sup>5</sup> John Brink, a WPA engineer, oversaw the construction of the bridges. The road and bridge project was undertaken to furnish residents and visitors a perimeter road around the newly constructed lake and dam.

Lake Wabaunsee's grand opening was held on August 26, 1939.

Today, lakefront houses dating from the middle and late 20<sup>th</sup> century line the perimeter. New Deal-era camp buildings are no longer extant and modern development prevents listing the entire lake site

<sup>4</sup> The WPA project that included the construction of both the East and Southeast bridges at Lake Wabaunsee was project # is 465-82-2-65. It was superseded by WPA project # 65-1-82-61. The final project amount was \$48,682.70.

<sup>5</sup> The lake's south bridge was washed out by run-off in the 1950s and replaced with a steel and concrete structure. The stone abutments are all that remain of the original construction.

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Southeast Stone Arch Bridge – Lake Wabaunsee  
Wabaunsee County, Kansas

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Masonry Arch Bridges of KS / New Deal-era Resources of KS

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in the National Register. Both the Southeast Bridge and East Bridge remain an integral part of the historic road system encircling Lake Wabaunsee. The bridges are owned and maintained by Wabaunsee County.



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Southeast Stone Arch Bridge – Lake Wabaunsee  
Wabaunsee County, Kansas

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Masonry Arch Bridges of KS / New Deal-era Resources of KS

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Hoots, Greg A. *The Complete History of Lake Wabaunsee*. Alma, KS: Flint Hills Publishing, 2008.

Jochims, Larry. "Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas." National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form. 1985. Filed at the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office. Available online at: [http://www.kshs.org/resource/national\\_register/mps.htm](http://www.kshs.org/resource/national_register/mps.htm)

Lungren, A. V. (Pete). "General History of Lake Wabaunsee." Lake Wabaunsee Sportsmen Association, 1970. Dedicated to the Wabaunsee County Historical Society, Alma, KS. Available online at: [www.lakewabaunsee.com/Communities/History/GenHist.html](http://www.lakewabaunsee.com/Communities/History/GenHist.html)

Rosin, Elizabeth, et. al. "New Deal-era Resources of Kansas." National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form. 2002. Filed at the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office. Available online at: [http://www.kshs.org/resource/national\\_register/mps.htm](http://www.kshs.org/resource/national_register/mps.htm)

Wabaunsee County Historical Society. *New Branches From Old Trees*. Alma, KS: Wabaunsee County Historical Society, ND.

Wabaunsee County Historical Society. *Stories of the Past: Third Edition of Wabaunsee County History*. Alma, KS: Wabaunsee County Signal Enterprise, 2000.

Works Progress Administration project rolls. Compiled by the National Archives and accessible via microfilm at the Kansas Historical Society's State Archives and Library.

East Stone Arch Bridge – Lake

Wabaunsee

Name of Property

Wabaunsee County, Kansas

County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 744095 4304050  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ron D. Martinek

organization Lake Wabaunsee Arch Bridge Committee

date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 258 Ponderosa

telephone 785-449-2790

city or town Alma

state KS

zip code 66401

### Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Wabaunsee County, Kansas (Attn: Norbert C. Marek, Jr. – County Attorney)

street & number 215 Kansas

telephone 785-765-2406

city or town Alma

state KS

zip code 66401

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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**National Park Service**

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Southeast Stone Arch Bridge – Lake Wabaunsee  
Wabaunsee County, Kansas

Section number 10 & Photos Page 7

Masonry Arch Bridges of KS / New Deal-era Resources of KS

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The Southeast Bridge is located on East Flint Hills Drive 2.2 miles south of K-4 in NW quarter of Section 9, Township 14S, Range 11E.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property includes the bridge and the right-of-way, which totals less than one acre.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

Property: Southeast Stone Arch Bridge, Lake Wabaunsee  
Location: East Flint Hills Drive 2.2 miles south of K-4  
Date: 18 September 2009  
Photographer: Sarah Martin, KSHS Staff

Location of Digital Negatives: Cultural Resources Division, Kansas State Historical Society

Photo 1: Looking east along roadway

Photo 2: South side of bridge, view from roadway looking south

Photo 3: North-facing elevation, looking

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Southeast Stone Arch Bridge - Lake Wabaunsee  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KANSAS, Wabaunsee

DATE RECEIVED: 11/20/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/09/09  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/24/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/03/10  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09001171

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 12.30.09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

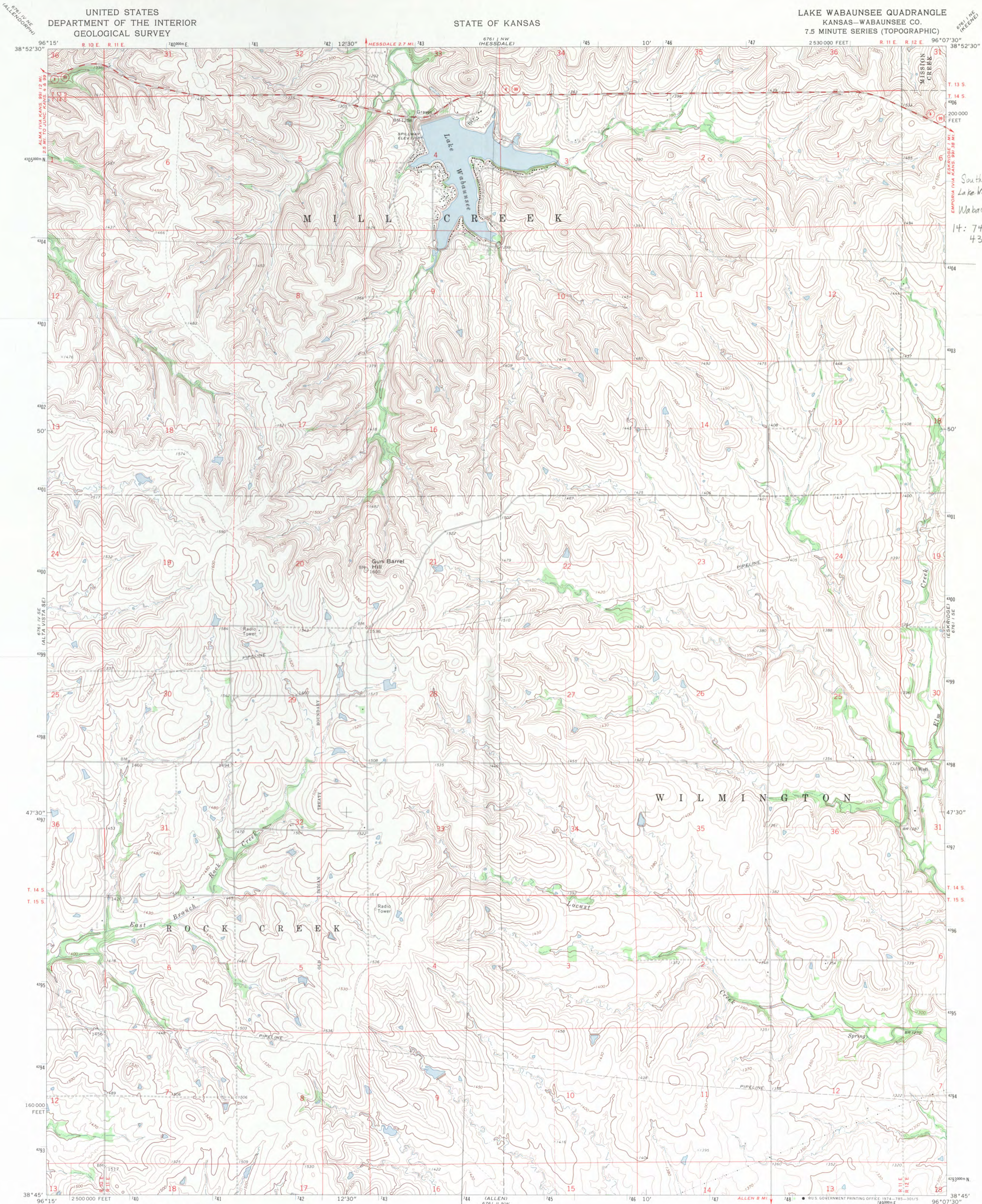












Southeast Bridge -  
Lake Wabaunsee  
Wabaunsee Co., KS  
14: 744095 E  
4304050 N

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
in cooperation with State of Kansas agencies  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1970. Field checked 1971  
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Kansas coordinate system, north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 14, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

UTM GRID AND 1971 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface  
Secondary highway, hard surface  
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface  
Unimproved road  
Interstate Route  
U. S. Route  
State Route

LAKE WABAUNSEE, KANS.  
N3845-W9607.5/7.5  
1971  
AMS 6761 I SW-SERIES V878



# KANSAS



Kansas Historical Society  
Cultural Resources Division

MARK PARKINSON, GOVERNOR

November 19, 2009

Dr. Janet Matthews  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, N. W.  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor (MS 2280)  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Dr. Matthews:

Please find enclosed the following National Register nominations (all new submissions):

- Fairview Apartments – Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas
- Fairmount Apartments – Wichita, Sedgwick Co., Kansas
- Independence Junior High School – Independence, Montgomery Co., Kansas
- Cossaart Barn – Republic Co., Kansas
- Transue Brothers Blacksmith & Wagon Shop – Summerfield, Marshall Co., Kansas
- Topeka Council of Colored Women's Clubs Building – Topeka, Shawnee Co., Kansas
- Southeast Stone Arch Bridge – Lake Wabaunsee – Wabaunsee Co., Kansas
- East Stone Arch Bridge – Lake Wabaunsee – Wabaunsee Co., Kansas

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I may be reached at 785-272-8681 ext. 216 or [smartin@kshs.org](mailto:smartin@kshs.org).

Sincerely yours,

Sarah J. Martin  
National Register Coordinator

Enclosures