

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

DRAFT

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street & number East Flint Hills Drive 2.2 miles south of K-4 (Lake Wabaunsee) not for publication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 significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

_____	buildings
_____	sites
_____	structures
_____	objects
_____	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)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Road Related (Vehicular)

Transportation: Road Related (Vehicular)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

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

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.)

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.

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 # _____

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

East Stone Arch Bridge – Lake

Wabaunsee County, Kansas

Wabaunsee

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>14</u> Zone	<u>744095</u> Easting	<u>4304050</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Southeast Stone Arch Bridge – Lake Wabaunsee
Wabaunsee County, Kansas

Section number 7 Page 2

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

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Southeast Stone Arch Bridge – Lake Wabaunsee
Wabaunsee County, Kansas
Masonry Arch Bridges of KS / New Deal-era Resources of KS

Section number 8 Page 3

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.¹ 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.² 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*³

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)

¹ 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

² 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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Southeast Stone Arch Bridge – Lake Wabaunsee
Wabaunsee County, Kansas
Masonry Arch Bridges of KS / New Deal-era Resources of KS

Section number 8 Page 4

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.⁴ 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.⁵ 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 20th century line the perimeter. New Deal-era camp buildings are no longer extant and modern development prevents listing the entire lake site

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Southeast Stone Arch Bridge – Lake Wabaunsee
Wabaunsee County, Kansas
Masonry Arch Bridges of KS / New Deal-era Resources of KS

Section number 8 Page 5

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 6 Southeast Stone Arch Bridge – Lake Wabaunsee
Wabaunsee County, Kansas
Masonry Arch Bridges of KS / New Deal-era Resources of KS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Southeast Stone Arch Bridge – Lake Wabaunsee
Wabaunsee County, Kansas
Masonry Arch Bridges of KS / New Deal-era Resources of KS

Section number 10 & Photos Page 7

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

