

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

JUL 02 2008

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 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Bridge #640 - Federal Aid Highway System Bridge
Other name/site number Bridge #640 - Federal Aid Highway System Bridge - Barton County, Kansas

2. Location

Street & number NE 60 Avenue - 1/8 mile north of NE 210 Road not for publication
City or town Beaver vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Barton Code 009 Zip code _____

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 forth 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.)

Patrick Zollner

5/16/08

Patrick Zollner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Kansas State Historical Society

Date

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 commenting official /Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- 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:) _____

Bridge #640 - Federal Aid Highway System Bridge
Name of Property

Barton 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 the 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.)

New Deal-era Resources of Kansas 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: Work Projects Administration (WPA)

Stone Bridge

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: STONE: Limestone

Walls: STONE: Limestone

Roof:

Other: CONCRETE

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)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- SOCIAL HISTORY, GOVERNMENT, ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1938-1941

Significant Dates

1938-1941

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Works Projects Administration

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):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, designated landmark, recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey, recorded by Historic American Engineering.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

Barton County

Bridge #640 - Federal Aid Highway System Bridge
Name of Property

Barton County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	4	9	8	3	9	5	1	3	8	4	0	0	0	3
Zone		Easting					Northing							

2

Zone		Easting					Northing							

3

Zone		Easting					Northing							

4

Zone		Easting					Northing							

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 Janet Crane, Financial Officer

Organization Barton County, Kansas Date 11/5/2007

Street & number 1400 Main Room 107 Telephone 620-793-1800

City or town Great Bend State KS Zip code 67530

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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Barton County, Kansas

Street & number 1400 Main Room 107 Telephone 620-793-1800

City or town Great Bend State KS Zip code 67530

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 listings. 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 20503

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

Bridge #640
Beaver vicinity, Barton County, Kansas

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

This limestone and concrete bridge is located on a north-south rural county road, NE 60 Avenue, just one-eighth mile north of NE 210 Road in northeast Barton County, Kansas, and crosses a tributary of Beaver Creek. Bridge construction began in 1938 as a Works Projects Administration job and final concrete work was completed in 1941. "WPA 1941" is stamped in the cement curb on the bridge. The bridge supports and foundation are made of native limestone, and the deck is made of concrete. Concrete bridge rails span the length of the bridge on each side. Pasture and crop land surround the bridge. Limestone beds can be seen on the ridges of the hills dotting the countryside.

The bridge is located on a well-maintained county asphalt road in Barton County. Due to the dimensions of the bridge, repair and maintenance is the responsibility of the Barton County Road and Bridge Department. The bridge is also required to be inspected by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT).

This bridge is very similar in design and dimension to two other nearby WPA bridges that are also being nominated to the National Register: Bridge #222 and Bridge #650. Bridge #640 is located at the same intersection as Bridge #222, while Bridge #650 is just one mile north.

Elaboration

The superstructure of the bridge is comprised of concrete beams and guardrails. The bridge substructure – the wingwalls, foundation, and single central support – is made of cut limestone blocks and mortar. The limestone blocks have a rusticated face and many retain the tool markings from when they were quarried by skilled WPA construction workers. The deck of the bridge is 26 feet long and the roadway is 24 feet wide. The bottom of the deck sits four feet off the ground. There are 10 feet between each stone bridge support. The only features visible from the roadway are the concrete banisters that serve guardrails. The wingwalls are built into the roadside embankment and protect the structure from erosion during high water flows.

We do not know who specifically designed this bridge. We do know that then-Barton County Engineer Harry Hunsley, II, designed many of the county's bridges.

While showing some deterioration from erosion of the limestone and mortar joints, the bridge has remained in use for public vehicular traffic since its construction in 1938 to the present time. It is listed on the bridge inventory of Barton County. Routine repairs and maintenance have been made to the bridge to comply with KDOT bridge inspections.

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Section Number 8 Page 2

Bridge #640
Beaver vicinity, Barton County, Kansas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Bridge #640 is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its construction under the supervision of the Work Projects Administration (WPA) and Criterion C for its architectural significance as a native limestone bridge. The bridge, with limestone abutments, crosses a tributary of Beaver Creek in northern Barton County, north of Beaver. The bridge's native limestone construction is typical of structures built in this area and is representative of the master stone builders and craftsmanship of bridge construction workers trained by the WPA. The bridge is being nominated as part of the New Deal-era Resources of Kansas MPS.

History

Beaver -area History

"During the summer of 1918, Mr. Piester was named as local sales agent for the sale of town lots for the present town of Beaver. During this summer, Mr. Piester assisted in the organization of a bank to be known as the Farmers National Bank, to be located in the future town of Beaver. The Board of Directors of the Farmers National Bank were also the owners of the Farmers State Bank at Redwing, including the building housing it. It was voted to move the building and business of the Bank of Redwing to a site eight miles north. The building was placed on a moving outfit and was placed in Block 10 of the new Town of Beaver, and opened for business on Monday, August 10, 1918. Thus, was born the Town of Beaver, Kansas."¹

*New Deal-era Historic Context*²

Through the Works Progress Administration (later reorganized as the Works Projects Administration), Kansas realized many new public building and recreational facilities. Between July 1, 1935 and June 1, 1939 the WPA either built or improved 619 buildings in the state. That figure includes 36 administrative buildings, 16 auditoriums, 45 barns and stables, 58 community buildings, 59 dormitories, three firehouses, 35 garages, 12 gymnasiums, two hospitals, three jails and reformatories, ten other institutional buildings, seven libraries, 142 schools, 52 stadiums, and 16 warehouses. In addition, there were 121 WPA recreational facilities, including 59 athletic fields, 91 parks, five fairgrounds, 92 playgrounds, 40

¹ Calvin Piester, *Family Heritage Album of Barton County, Kansas – Founding and Early History of Beaver, Kansas*. Written for the 1961 Diamond Jubilee of Hoisington.

² The following historic context regarding the Works Progress Administration is included in Elizabeth Rosin's "New Deal-era Resources of Kansas" Multiple Property Document, filed at the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office, Topeka, Kansas: p. E20-22.

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Bridge #640

Beaver vicinity, Barton County, Kansas

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swimming and wading pools, 14 band shells, five outdoor theaters, and 140 golf courses, tennis courts, handball courts and horseshoe courts.³

In 1939, Clarence Nevins, the state WPA Administrator, commended the people of Kansas. He observed,

“Your attention is called to the fact that practically all of the projects in Kansas have been sponsored by your local governments, and we take this opportunity to commend the counties, the cities, boards of education and other local governmental units in the State for the high type of projects submitted to this agency...”

Nevins concluded by commenting that in June of 1939 there were roughly 30,000 Kansans on the WPA rolls. He observed that over 47 percent were employed on highway or road and street projects; seven percent on public buildings; nine percent on recreational buildings; five percent on utility projects; three percent on road conservation projects; and two percent on airport and airway projects.⁴

Bridge History Context

Although this bridge is not nominated under the “Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas” MPS document, it offers important contextual information. As is noted in the MPS document, “Little historical information, such as the designer, builder, and date of construction, is available on many of small rural bridges. Often bridge plaques that may have contained historical information have been removed or the county’s records are not complete.”⁵

There is no record of who designed this particular bridge, but it is known that then-Barton County Engineer Harry Hunsley, II, was integrally involved in the planning and execution of this and other similar local bridge projects. Fortunately, this bridge retains its “WPA 1941” stamp on the cement curb of the bridge noting its construction as part of a WPA project. More than likely this same bridge design was used multiple times. This bridge is very similar in design and dimension to two other nearby WPA bridges that are also being nominated to the National Register: Bridge #222 and Bridge #650. Bridge #640 is located at the same intersection as Bridge #222, while Bridge #650 is just one mile north.

The “Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas” MPS document also discusses the use of limestone arched bridges well before the New Deal programs of the 1930s. It suggested that the use of limestone was common because “the stone was often available locally. Thus, a larger amount of the money expended

³ Works Projects Administration, Federal Works Agency, (Topeka, KS: n.p., 1939), 1, 10. Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS. This document provides only aggregate numbers of projects. While it is illustrated by photos of selected projects, there is no comprehensive list of projects for Kansas communities.

⁴ Eric Foner and John A. Garraty, The Reader’s Companion to American History (Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1991), 1168.

⁵ The following historic context regarding the Works Progress Administration is included in Elizabeth Rosin’s “New Deal-era Resources of Kansas” Multiple Property Document, filed at the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office, Topeka, Kansas: p. E20-22.

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Bridge #640
Beaver vicinity, Barton County, Kansas

for the construction could be retained within the area than would be true with the purchase of a metal structure. It was also often possible to use local workers on the project. This approach sometimes had its drawbacks as the quality of local stone and workers would vary widely.”⁶

Construction Process

The current Barton County Engineer, Clark Rusco and Financial Officer, Janet Crane interviewed Harry Hunsley, III, about several area WPA bridges. The following excerpt on the construction process was compiled from this interview and Mr. Hunsley's personal notes:

During the late 1930s and early 1940s, the WPA began a massive public works program to provide living wages for the unemployed. A part of this program was the construction of hundreds of small drainage structures of native limestone in Kansas. The stone bridges built throughout North Central Kansas during the WPA era were generally built close to the quarry. Evidence of these old quarries can normally be found within a half mile of the structure location. The difficulty of transporting stone by man and animal made it mandatory that quarries be located near the job site. Each of the seven nominated WPA limestone bridges of Barton County has evidence of abandoned quarries within a short distance of the site.

The limestone ledges would be stripped of overburden by use of mules/horses pulling a drag or “tumble bug”; the cleaned surface would then have a series of holes manually drilled at even spaces approximately 12” apart by use of a star drill. The holes would be carefully filled with water and allowed to freeze overnight. The freezing process would open a seam in the rock, and men would carefully break out the rock using pry bars specially made for this operation.

The stones were sometimes cut into proper sizes at the quarry and transported to the job site by wagons. Other times, the stone would be taken to the job site in long (8'-10') lengths which were carefully attached to the undercarriage of wagons by block and tackle accompanied by serious physical labor. It is a general assumption that the decision as to whether to take cut stones or long slabs depended on where the stone masons wanted to perform the finish operation of dressing the individual stones to fit the plans for the structure.

Most, but not all, of these structures were built as arches. Bridges employing only compression are relatively inefficient structurally, but may be highly cost efficient where suitable materials are available near the site and the cost of labor is low. For medium spans, trusses or box beams are usually most economical, while in some cases, the appearance of the bridge may be more important than its cost efficiency. This is very true of construction during the WPA era; the purpose was to create jobs for the unemployed, not the practicality of the project.

⁶ Ibid.

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Bridge #640
Beaver vicinity, Barton County, Kansas

Summary

The bridge remains a part of the public transportation system for Barton County and is used by typical rural traffic. The bridge is routinely inspected to comply with KDOT safety standards and, with rehabilitation, should retain its structural integrity and be preserved as an example of local stone arch bridge building skill.

Barton County is the lead governmental agency for the Kansas Wetlands and Wildlife National Scenic Byway. There is an increased historic awareness of the architectural significance of projects built under the Work Projects Administration. The bridge is also unique in that native limestone was used in the construction. We realize that tourists and travelers enjoy the cultural and historic aspects of local communities. Developing a listing of historic WPA bridges will enhance the travelers' experience of our local region.

Our local citizens want to protect our historic resources to preserve our own cultural heritage for generations to come. Most importantly, the bridge is beautiful and aesthetically charming in the rural countryside setting.

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Section Number 9 Page 6

Bridge #640
Beaver vicinity, Barton County, Kansas

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barton County Commission Minutes dated July 8, 1941.

Conversations with Harry Hunsley, III - Russell, Kansas.

Harry Hunsley, III, is the son of a prior Barton County Engineer, Harry Hunsley, II. Harry Hunsley, II was the Barton County engineer during the WPA era. His work for the County spanned for the period 1936 – 1956.

Jochims, Larry. "Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas." National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form. 1985. Filed at the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office.

Piester, Calvin. Family Heritage Album of Barton County, Kansas - Founding and Early History of Beaver, Kansas. Written for the 1961 Diamond Jubilee of Hoisington.

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.

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Section Number 10 & Photos Page 7 Bridge #640
Beaver vicinity, Barton County, Kansas

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The bridge is centered on a point whose longitude is 98° 39' 51" and latitude is 38° 40' 3". There is a 50-foot right-of-way width surrounding this area. The nominated property includes the entire right-of-way.

SE ¼ SEC 8, T 16 S, R 12W
NW ¼ SEC 9, T 16 S, R 12 W

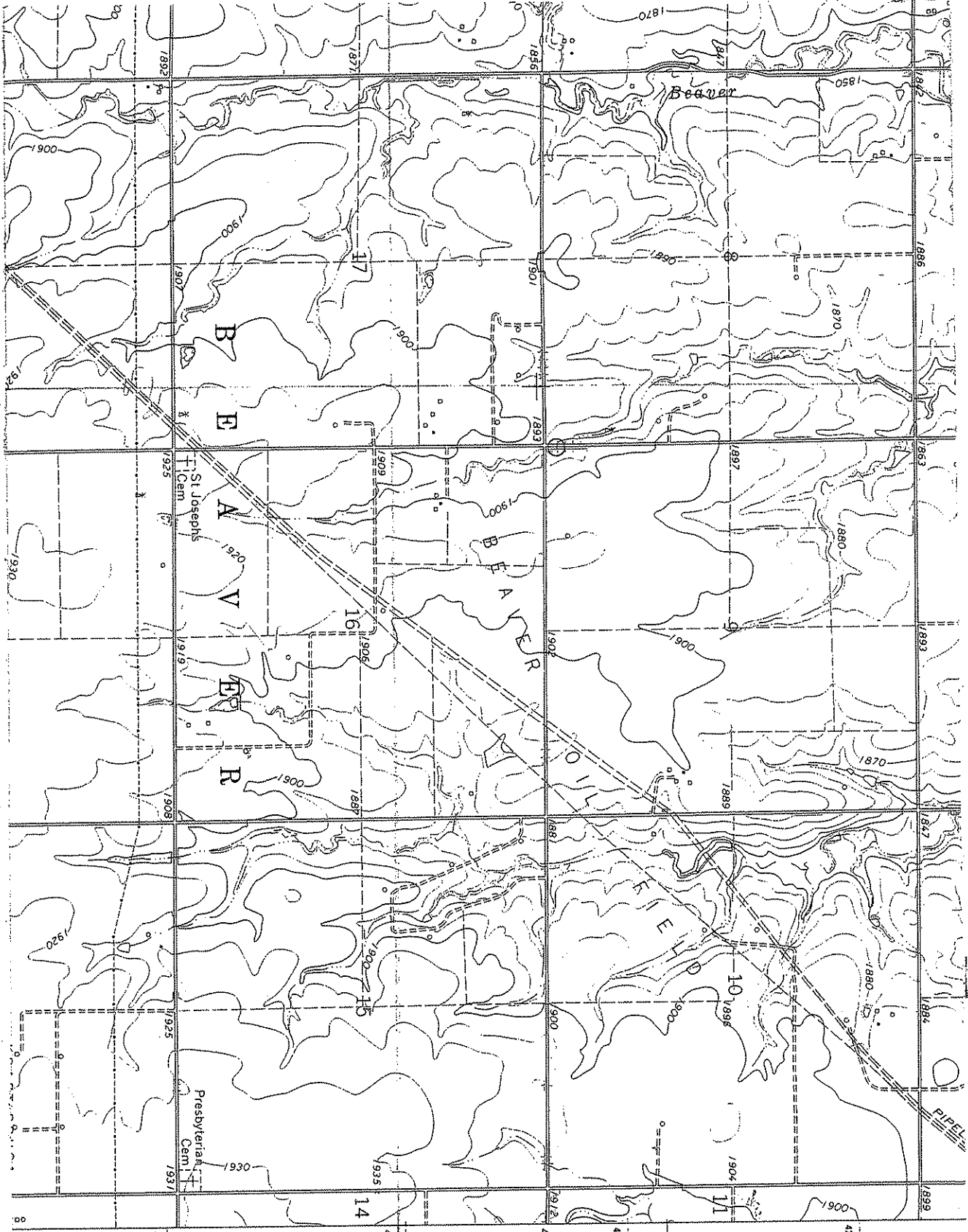
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

These boundaries were selected to encompass the entire right-of-way surrounding the bridge.

PHOTOGRAPIC INFORMATION

Property Name: Bridge # 640 – Federal Aid Highway System Bridge
Location: Beaver vicinity, Barton County, Kansas
Photographer: Clark Rusco
Date: 3 January 2008
Location of Digital Images or Negatives: Kansas State Historical Society

Photo 1: Distant, overall view, facing NW
Photo 2: East side of bridge showing supports and embankment, facing N
Photo 3: Southeast wingwall, facing W
Photo 4: West concrete guardrail, facing N



14: S29255 E
 4279710 N
 ←
 Bridge # 640
 Barton Co, KS