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 "NA" 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  East Stone Arch Bridge – Lake Wabaunsee
other names/site number  197-0000-0153

2. Location

street & number  East Flint Hills Drive .9 miles south of K-4 (Lake Wabaunsee)  □ not for publication
city or town  Eskridge
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]
[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.
□ determined eligible for the National Register.
□ removed from the National Register.
□ other, (explain:)

[Signature of the Keeper]
[Date of Action]

[Continuation sheet for additional comments]
### 5. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Check as many boxes as apply)</td>
<td>(Check only one box)</td>
<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in count)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ private</td>
<td>□ building(s)</td>
<td>Contributing buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ public-local</td>
<td>□ district</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ public-State</td>
<td>□ site</td>
<td>Noncontributing buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ public-Federal</td>
<td>✓ structure</td>
<td>sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ object</td>
<td>structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>objects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.)
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

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
East Stone Arch Bridge – Lake Wabaunsee

Wabaunsee County, Kansas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  Less than one acre

UTM References
(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Zone  Easting  Northing
1  14  744770  4305090
2
3 Zone  Easting  Northing
4

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
street & number  215 Kansas  telephone  785-765-2408
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.
PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Summary

The East Stone Arch Bridge at Lake Wabaunsee (1937-1938) is located .9 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 the lake and lake silt problems, the Conservation District built containment ponds. There is a containment pond is 9,000 feet from the bridge.

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

The bridge measures thirty feet in length from north to south, with a deck width (curb-to-curb) measurement of thirty feet. The bridge has approaches on the north and south of eleven feet each. The bridge spans the waterway with three stone arches measuring seven feet in width. The materials of the settings of the arches, as well as underground components, are unknown. The vertical stone face extends thirteen feet from the water’s surface and extends six feet above each arch, creating a bridge rail the length of the bridge extending four 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 consists 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 structure 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.
The bridge has natural ground disturbing activity that involves the creek’s hydrodynamics and distribution of a raft at the east face and two southern arches footings. The raft interrupts flow; thereby creating eddies that have weakened and washed out a portion of the arch support over time. 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 East 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

East 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

The East Stone Arch Bridge at Lake Wabaunsee (1937-1938) is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its 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 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.

Elaboration³

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) 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.

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

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. 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. 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 in the National Register. Both the East Bridge and Southeast Bridge remain an integral part of the historic road system encircling Lake Wabaunsee. The bridges are owned and maintained by Wabaunsee County. County Commissioners slated this bridge for replacement between now and

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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 succeeded 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.
2012 under a KDOT five-year bridge plan; however, they are interested in researching was to save this bridge due to the preservation concerns of local and county citizens.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


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

The East Stone Arch Bridge at Lake Wabaunsee is located on East Flint Hills Drive .9 miles south of K-4 in the SW quarter of Section 3, Township 14S, Range 11E.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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

Property: East Stone Arch Bridge at Lake Wabaunsee
Location: East Flint Hills Drive .9 miles south of K-4, Wabaunsee County
Date: 18 September 2009
Photographer: Sarah Martin, KSHS Staff

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

Photo 1: West elevation of bridge viewed from a distance, looking SE
Photo 2: View of bridge from roadway, looking NE
Photo 3: Looking west toward the lake, showing west wall along roadway
Photo 4: West elevation of bridge, looking S