SOUTH FORK BRIDGE 1928
VICINITY OF FOUNTAIN LAKE
ARKANSAS

ELEVATION

PLAN

LOCATION MAPS

The 44-foot closed spandrel concrete arch bridge over the South Fork of the Saline River in Garland County was erected in response to the devastating Missouri floods of April, 1927. In November of the year, County Judge Charles A. Davis appropriated $500 from county funds to build the South Fork bridge and its approach roads. The bridge was built by the county road crew, supervised by F.M. Kelley to designs by the engineer H.S. Moreland. A dedicatory plaque, now removed was mounted on the bridge to commemorate its completion in October 1928.

South Fork Bridge, decommissioned in 1985, has a striking similarity to its design. While the gravel deck continues the horizontal line of the road, the parapet walls curve to echo the rise of the arches. The bridge exhibits its significance not only from the success of this original design, unique in Arkansas, but also from its status as a documented county bridge erected outside the jurisdiction of the Arkansas State Highway Commission.

The South Fork Bridge was documented during the summer of 1988, as part of the Arkansas Historic Bridge Recording Project, by the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), a long-range program of the National Park Service to document nationally significant engineering and industrial structures in the United States. The Arkansas Historic Bridge Recording Project was co-sponsored by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program and the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department.

The field work, measured drawings, historic reports and photographs were prepared under the direction of Robert D. Neace, Chief, Historic American Building Survey (Local Historical Engineering Record), and John M. Seabury, Chief of HAER. Michael Snowdon, Survey Coordinator, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, and Normy McClure, Archaeological Historian, Environmental Division, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department served as project advisors.

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