

NR LISTED

SEP 11 1995

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AHPP

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Cove Lake Spillway Dam/Bridge; Ozark-St. Francis National Forest

other name/site number: L00057

2. Location

street & number: State Highway 309, 9 miles south of Paris

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Corley

vicinity: X

state: AR county: Logan code: AR 083

zip code: 72855

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-Federal

Category of Property: Structure

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
<u>1</u>	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Anthony J. Slater 9-20-93
Signature of commenting or other official Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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 Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Outdoor recreation
TRANSPORTATION Road-related (vehicular)

Current : RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Outdoor recreation
TRANSPORTATION Road-related (vehicular)

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Other

Other Description: Rustic

Materials: foundation Stone/Concrete roof N/A
walls Stone other Earthen dam

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1937-1942

Significant Dates: 1937

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Works Progress Administration

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Interview with Olin Payne (former area resident), 09/15/93.

Workers of the Writers' Program. *The WPA Guide to 1930's Arkansas*, with a new introduction by Elliot West. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1987 (original copyright 1941).

___ See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 4

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 442760 3898850

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point on the western edge of State Highway 309 located approximately 300 feet north of its intersection with the northern edge of Forest Service Road #2601, proceed westerly along a line running perpendicular to the roadway for a distance of approximately 85 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the roadway; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 800 feet to its intersection with a line running perpendicular with the roadway; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of 200 feet to its intersection with a line running parallel to the roadway; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 800 feet to its intersection with a line running perpendicular with the roadway; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 115 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically-associated with the spillway dam/bridge.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 09/17/93

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

Located on Arkansas Highway 309 nine miles south of Paris in Logan county is Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) bridge #18115, also known as the Cove Lake Spillway Dam/Bridge. The total length of the structure is 850 feet and approximately 50 yards in width at the widest point. The dam is constructed of earth and stone and is oriented in a general north to south direction.

Elaboration

Located on Arkansas Highway 309 nine miles south of Paris in Logan county is Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) bridge #18115, also known as the Cove Lake Spillway Dam/Bridge. The total length of the structure is 850 feet and approximately 50 yards in width at the widest point. The dam is constructed of earth and stone and is oriented in a general north to south direction. The only feature of the dam other than the road across the top is the gate opening which controls the level of the lake. The controlling feature is located in the lake on the eastern side of the dam and the exit opening is located at the base of the dam on the western side. The bridge itself is 116 feet in length and is constructed of stone and concrete. The bridge is simply designed with Rustic style influences and consists of five arches. These arches are supported by stone piers which form the upper portion of the spillway. The bridge is 25 feet in width and has a deck material of asphalt and concrete. Each side of the bridge has a concrete guardrail which is 31 inches in height above the deck surface. The maximum span of the arches is 25 feet and the maximum height of the bridge above the spillway is 10 feet 5 inches. The spillway is constructed of concrete and is a total length of 580 feet and is 116 feet in width. The spillway begins at the lake's edge approximately 90 feet east of the bridge. The height of the spillway varies from 82 inches to 118 inches. Near the middle of the spillway is a 9 foot drop in elevation which begins the final descent of the water to a pool that feeds into Cove Creek.

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Summary

The Cove Lake Spillway Dam/Bridge (Ozark-St. Francis National Forest) is eligible under Criteria A and C with local significance. It is considered significant under Criterion A by virtue of its direct associations with the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Depression-era public works agency that actually supervised the construction and provided the labor to build it. Under Criterion C its bridge is significant as a particularly good example of an ashlar-faced stone masonry arch bridge designed with clear Rustic-style influences.

Elaboration

The Cove Lake Spillway Dam/Bridge (Ozark-St. Francis National Forest) was constructed in 1937 by the Works Progress Administration as part of its effort to create the small recreation area at the western end of the man-made Cove Lake. As was typical of most such Depression-era recreational lakes projects in Arkansas, the shallow basin that would become Cove Lake was nothing more than an eroded water channel formed by the confluence of four small streams descending from the surrounding hills; however, it provided a good natural basin for a small shallow recreational lake, and thus its selection for this WPA project.

These resources were constructed within this relatively remote area for the purpose of providing developed recreational facilities for both local residents and tourists. The abundance of natural drainage channels that converge here in this shallow basin created a site well-suited to the creation of a recreational lake.

The onset of the Great Depression in 1929 and the subsequent advent of such federal public works programs as the Works Progress Administration (WPA) brought a new recreational area to this rural section of Logan County in 1937. The WPA -- an organization that hired unemployed adult men and women to work on a variety of public projects throughout the nation -- was established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his administration as part of the federal response to the dire economic circumstances brought upon the American people by the Great Depression. The WPA was but one of many such public works organizations instituted by the Roosevelt Administration and managed under the aegis of the umbrella agency in charge of all such public works efforts, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA); other agencies under its direction included the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the short-lived Public Works and Civilian Works Administrations (PWA and CWA), and such regional projects as the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Rural Colonization Projects in Arkansas established by the Resettlement Administration at such places as Dyess, Clover Bend and Plum

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Bayou. Among its various other projects, the WPA constructed a small number of rural recreation areas throughout the state -- though this was not their principal emphasis -- and the Cove Lake Recreation Area was constructed as part of this effort.

The source of the heavy, Rustic-influenced style employed in the construction of the Cove Lake Bridge is unclear. While virtually all of the public works agencies in Arkansas during the Depression carried out their construction projects with locally-available materials whenever possible, the design of the bridge at Cove Lake is reminiscent not only of the materials favored by the CCC, but also of the low, stone masonry Rustic style that became their trademark. Other known WPA-constructed projects around the state -- including school buildings, courthouses, dams, etc. -- do not uniformly or reflect the influence of *any* particular stylistic tradition, apparently relying instead on both materials and construction expertise that were available locally. It is certainly possible that the men working for the WPA were directed by construction supervisors and architects already familiar with typical Civilian Conservation Corps construction, of which there was an abundance in the immediate vicinity by the time this project began (e.g., Mt. Nebo State Park, located approximately twenty-two miles to the northeast, and the various recreational facilities in the Ouachita National Forest located immediately to the south). However, no documentation survives directly connecting any other public agencies to this WPA project.

Nevertheless, the design of the Cove Lake Bridge remains one of the better examples of masonry arch bridge that, though it presents a fairly clean and finished aspect, was nevertheless designed with the clear influence of the Rustic style. The use of the five shallow arches to support the roadway above and to provide a spillway for the 170-acre Cove Lake to the east, combined with the rough texture of the ashlar-faced stone used to face the bridge's sides and arches combine to create a bridge structure that is both functional and handsome (the solid concrete balustrade above is certainly a later addition, though its exact date is not known; yet it does not sufficiently detract from the bridge's original aspect to render it ineligible).

The Cove Lake Spillway Dam/Bridge remains locally significant under Criterion A through its associations with the contributions to American social history made by the Works Progress Administration and its associations with the emphasis upon putting the nation's unemployed to work on a variety of projects for the public good. It is also significant under Criterion C by virtue of the its bridge being the best local example of such a structure designed in the Rustic style of architecture.

