

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**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 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name North Sylamore Creek Bridge
other names/site number Site #ST0324

2. Location

street & number FSR 1102 over North Sylamore Creek not for publication
city or town Fifty-Six vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Stone code 137 zip code 72533

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
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
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: 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): _____

North Sylamore Creek Bridge
Name of Property

Stone County, Arkansas
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 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.)

Historic Bridges of Arkansas

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/Road-Related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/Road-Related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Baltimore Deck Truss

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls STEEL

roof N/A
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

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B.** removed from its original location.
- C.** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- 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.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ENGINEERING
TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

1931-1960

Significant Dates

1931

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Lyle and McWilliam, Builder

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):

- 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:

Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>570955</u> Easting	<u>3983748</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 Evan Silva, Intern

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date June 29, 2009

street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9787

city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

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

street & number telephone

city or town state AR zip code

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.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: North Sylamore Creek Bridge

County and State: Stone County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Historic
Bridges of Arkansas

Section number: 7 Page: 1

SUMMARY

The North Sylamore Creek Bridge crosses North Sylamore Creek along FSR 1102 to the northeast of Fifty-Six, in Stone County. The North Sylamore Creek Bridge is a one-lane, Baltimore deck truss bridge built on concrete piers in 1931 by Lyle and McWilliam. It has two spans with a length of one-hundred ten (110) feet, a span width of fifteen (15) feet, and a total length of three-hundred fifty-seven (357) feet.

ELABORATION

The North Sylamore Creek Bridge was constructed as a Baltimore deck truss bridge out of steel, with a concrete deck, in 1931. The bridge was constructed in the middle of the Ozark National Forest by Lyle and McWilliam, who were based in Mena. This bridge is unique in that it is the only example of this style of construction in Arkansas. The North Sylamore Creek Bridge has two spans of one-hundred ten feet, with a span width of fifteen feet, and the total length of three-hundred fifty-seven feet.

The Baltimore truss, which was introduced in 1871, is a sub-trussed Pratt truss in which the stresses are statically determinate. Many of the subdivided Pratt configurations acquired specific names such as Baltimore, Pennsylvania, Petit, and Parker. The Baltimore truss changed the basic Pratt configuration by adding additional, auxiliary members, like the Pennsylvania truss, but it does not have an inclined upper chord. The upper and lower chords of a Baltimore truss are parallel, like the Pratt truss. Both the Baltimore and Pennsylvania truss types were developed by engineers of the Pennsylvania Railroad in the 1870s, and both types were also used for highway bridges.¹

Originally constructed on part of the Forest Highway System, the North Sylamore Creek Bridge crosses North Sylamore Creek in the center of the Ozark National Forest. The metal truss style of construction was common throughout Arkansas in this time as it was cheap. However this bridge is the only representation of a Baltimore truss bridge with a concrete deck identified in the state.

Integrity

The North Sylamore Creek Bridge retains excellent integrity. The Transportation Department and Forest Service have maintained the bridge enough to ensure its reliability. There have been no major repairs to the bridge, nor any major modifications. The road remains in good condition. The bridge is in similar condition and undisturbed setting to that of its construction in 1931.

¹ Information found at: <http://www.iowadot.gov/historicbridges/construction.asp> : Historic Bridges of Iowa, "Baltimore Truss," Date Accessed: 29 July 2009.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: North Sylamore Creek Bridge

County and State: Stone County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Historic
Bridges of Arkansas

Section number: 8 Page: 1

SUMMARY

The North Sylamore Creek Bridge is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as an excellent example of Baltimore deck truss bridge. The North Sylamore Creek Bridge is the only remaining bridge of this style identified in Arkansas to date. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its associations with the development of the roadway infrastructure in the Ozark National Forest. The North Sylamore Creek Bridge is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple property listing "Historic Bridges in Arkansas."

ELABORATION

The North Sylamore Creek Bridge is located on FSR 1102 and crosses North Sylamore Creek roughly two miles northeast of Fifty-Six in Stone County. The bridge is oriented north and south.

During the Civil War, many men from what is now Stone County left their homes to join the war effort. There was little Civil War action in the county, but a few Confederate units were in the area and continued hit-and-run attacks on Union troops throughout the war. In 1862, the Peace Society was organized at Sylamore and was made up of seventy-six to eighty men from the area of Searcy and Izard counties, which includes present-day Stone County. The men did not want to become involved in the war for either side but were eventually chained and sent to Little Rock (Pulaski County) to the Confederate authorities and given the option of joining the Confederate cause or being shot. All but two joined the Confederacy. In January 1864, a few skirmishes took place along the Sylamore Creek as the Union army searched for Confederate Colonel Thomas R. Freeman and his troops and met with resistance. Despite the search efforts, Freeman remained elusive.²

The legislature created Stone County on April 21, 1873, as the seventy-third county from parts of Independence, Izard, Searcy, and Van Buren counties. One reason for the creation of the new county was the natural barrier of the White River, which made it difficult for residents to reach the county seat. Local businessman Elijah Chappell named Mountain View the county seat. He had submitted the name, which subsequently was drawn out of a hat full of contenders. Mountain View was incorporated in 1890. The first federal census to include Stone County, in 1880, reported a population of more than 5,000, with ninety-nine of those in Mountain View. In the county's early days, the economy was based on small acreage cash crops such as grain and cotton along with timber, trapping, and livestock.³

Education in Stone County began in Mountain View in the late 1800s with the first subscription school. In 1894, the Stone County Academy opened its doors. The academy was replaced in 1928 when the Mountain View

² Information found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=811> : Stone County, Information Accessed: 28 July 2009. Referenced through document as: (S.C.)

³ (S.C.)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: North Sylamore Creek Bridge

County and State: Stone County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Historic
Bridges of Arkansas

Section number: 8 Page: 2

Special School District No. 30 building was built. At one time, there were seventy-one school districts in Stone County. In the 1940s, most of these one-room schools consolidated with the five major schools: Fifty-Six, Mountain View, Pleasant Grove, Rural Special, and Timbo. Pleasant Grove lost its high school to fire in 1965, beginning its consolidation with Mountain View. In 1974, its elementary students were bused to Mountain View as well. Fifty-Six eventually became part of the Tri-County School, which closed its doors in 1993. In 2005, both Rural Special and Timbo annexed with Mountain View. Presently, each school maintains its own campus as part of the Mountain View School District.⁴

The 131,000-acre Ozark National Forest, Sylamore District, encompasses the northern portion of the county, providing recreational opportunities such as swimming, hiking, camping, biking, and hunting. Recent additions include the Syllamo Mountain Bike Trail and the Sylamore Shooting Range. Within the national forest is Blanchard Springs Caverns, a living cave administered by the U.S. Forest Service. The White River forms the county's northeast border. Many spring-fed creeks, including the South Sylamore, are tributaries. A familiar tributary of the North Sylamore is Blanchard Springs. Known for cool, clear water that is a haven for trout and bass, the White River provides recreational opportunities in fishing and canoeing and is the source for the county's public water system. Hell Creek Cave, near the White, is home to the endangered *Cambarus zophonastes*, a blind crayfish. This is the only known population in the state.⁵

The highways serving national forests are, for administrative and other purposes, divided into two groups; namely Forest Highways and Forest Developmental Roads. The latter group includes roads of comparatively narrow width commonly known as trails. Forest Service Road 1102 was laid out as a Forest Highway through the Ozark National Forest.⁶ The North Sylamore Creek Bridge was constructed by Lyle and McWilliam, whose company was based in Mena, in 1931 for a total cost of 16,152.36 dollars. Metal truss bridges were common in the 1900s because of their ease of construction and low cost. This bridge, however, is rare as this Baltimore steel truss with a concrete deck is the only known of its type in Arkansas.

The Baltimore truss, which was introduced in 1871, is a sub-trussed Pratt truss in which the stresses are statically determinate. Many of the subdivided Pratt configurations acquired specific names such as Baltimore, Pennsylvania, Petit, and Parker. The Baltimore truss changed the basic Pratt configuration by adding additional, auxiliary members, like the Pennsylvania truss, but it does not have an inclined upper chord. The upper and lower chords of a Baltimore truss are parallel, like the Pratt truss. Both the Baltimore and Pennsylvania truss types were developed by engineers of the Pennsylvania Railroad in the 1870s. Both types were also used for highway bridges.⁷

⁴ (S.C.)

⁵ (S.C.)

⁶ Tenth Biennial Report of the State Highway Commission, "National Forest Roads and Trails," 1932: p.61

⁷ Information found at: <http://www.iowadot.gov/historicbridges/construction.asp> : Historic Bridges of Iowa, "Baltimore Truss," Date Accessed: 29 July 2009.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: North Sylamore Creek Bridge

County and State: Stone County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Historic
Bridges of Arkansas

Section number: 8 Page: 3

The North Sylamore Creek Bridge was constructed as a reliable crossing to satisfy local and tourist traffic through the Ozark National Forest in Stone County in 1931. Bridges like the North Sylamore Creek Bridge were important in providing easy access to the National Forest lands for tourists, locals, and Forest Service staff. The North Sylamore Creek Bridge is also important as an example of a Baltimore Deck Truss, and it is the only example of the style in Arkansas.

Statement of Significance

The North Sylamore Creek Bridge is a good example of a Baltimore deck truss in Arkansas. Constructed in 1931 on a Forest Service Road, the bridge is the only remaining example to date identified of its style in Arkansas.

The North Sylamore Creek Bridge is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as an excellent example of Baltimore deck truss bridge. The North Sylamore Creek Bridge is the only remaining bridge of this style identified in Arkansas to date. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its associations with the development of the roadway infrastructure in the Ozark National Forest. The North Sylamore Creek Bridge is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple property listing “Historic Bridges in Arkansas.”

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: North Sylamore Creek Bridge

County and State: Stone County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Historic
Bridges of Arkansas

Section number: 9 Page: 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Historic Bridges of Iowa, "Baltimore Truss," <http://www.iowadot.gov/historicbridges/construction.asp> :
Information accessed on: 29 July 2009.

Stone County, <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=811> :
Information Accessed: 28 July 2009.

Tenth Biennial Report of the State Highway Commission, "National Forest Roads and Trails," 1932: p. 61.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: North Sylamore Creek Bridge

County and State: Stone County, Arkansas

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable): Historic
Bridges of Arkansas

Section number: 10 Page: 1

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point ten feet south of the southern end of the North Sylamore Creek Bridge, proceed north to a point ten feet north the northern end of the bridge. The boundary includes twenty feet on each side of the highway centerline.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all of the land historically associated with the North Sylamore Creek Bridge, and its immediate surroundings.