

**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 Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge

other names/site number Bridge #18668/Huntsville Road Bridge/Site #WA0964

**2. Location**

street & number Goff Farm Road approximately 1/2 mile east of Dead Horse Mountain Road  not for publication

city or town Fayetteville  vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Washington code 143 zip code 72704

**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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge  
Name of Property

Washington 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/Bridge  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/Road-Related/Bridge  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

MASONRY ARCH/DECK  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
walls STONE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**

c.1860-1960  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

c.1860  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation** (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/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



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge

County and State: Washington County, Arkansas

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

Section number: 7 Page: 1

SUMMARY

Bridge #18668, the Huntsville Road Bridge, or the Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge, crosses an unnamed creek along Goff Farm Road to the southeast of Fayetteville, in central Washington County. The Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge is a masonry deck arch built of cut stone in the mid-to-late nineteenth century. It has a single span with a length of twenty-one (21) feet, a span width of twenty (20) feet, and a total length of one-hundred fifty (150) feet.

ELABORATION

The Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge was constructed as a masonry arch deck bridge out of dry-laid, split stone, and based solely on physical evidence, the bridge likely dates to c.1860. Its rustic, yet intricate, split-stone masonry construction is strikingly similar to that of a stone bridge that once spanned Spring Creek near Bluff Cemetery at Springdale, just north of Fayetteville. That bridge’s date and builder are unknown, but an early twentieth century image of the bridge in a pastoral setting, reminiscent of early twentieth century artists who hoped to record the passing of rural America, suggesting that the photographer considered it an old structure.<sup>1</sup> The Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge has a single span of twenty-one feet, with a span width of twenty feet, and the total length of one-hundred fifty feet. The bridge is not skewed in its construction.

The arch is an ancient structural form, probably a refinement of the even earlier practice of corbelling stones or timbers to span a void. The defining characteristic of an arch is its reliance on compression to transfer gravity loads to the supporting foundations. While arch bridges can be built of any material, an arch is the only efficient way to span long distances with stone. Since the stones in a masonry arch rely on each other for support, wooden falsework is used to support the arch until all the stones are fitted together. The structure becomes self-supporting when the final stone is wedged into place at the crown of the arch. Well-built stone arch bridges are extremely strong and durable. America’s oldest stone arch bridge, Pennypack Creek Bridge built in 1697 in Philadelphia, still carries traffic more than three centuries after its construction.<sup>2</sup>

Bridge #18668, as numbered by the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department, connects parts of the old Fayetteville-Huntsville Road, now Goff Farm Road, over a small, unnamed creek that runs from a pond south of the West Fork White River. Despite their strength and longevity, stone arch bridges were not commonly built in Arkansas. By the time the population had increased enough for counties to begin building bridges in earnest, it was generally easier and less expensive to erect pre-fabricated metal truss bridges. Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge is one of six surviving examples of this type identified to date.

<sup>1</sup> Lola Bennett, “Huntsville Road Bridge,” Historic American Engineering Record, (2007):3

<sup>2</sup> Lola Bennett, “Huntsville Road Bridge,” Historic American Engineering Record, (2007):3/4

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Name of Property: Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge

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**Integrity**

The Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge retains excellent integrity. The county transportation department has maintained the bridge enough to ensure its reliability. There have been no major repairs to the bridge, and the only modification to the original has been the addition of modern guard rails and modern pavement, but they do not diminish the integrity of the structure. The roads between have since been repaved and upgraded, and remain in good condition. The bridge is in similar condition and setting to that of its construction in the mid-to-late nineteenth century.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge

County and State: Washington County, Arkansas

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

Section number: 8 Page: 1

### SUMMARY

The Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **statewide significance** under **Criterion C** as an excellent example of a masonry arch deck bridge construction. The Goff Farm Road Bridge is the oldest masonry arch bridge in the state and one of six remaining masonry arch bridges in Arkansas. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its associations with the development of the roadway infrastructure in the community of Fayetteville in the mid 1800s. The Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple property listing "Historic Bridges in Arkansas."

### ELABORATION

Bridge #18668, also known as the Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge, is located on Goff Farm Road and crosses an unnamed creek roughly three miles southeast of Fayetteville, in central Washington County. The bridge is oriented east to west.

Washington County was created October 17, 1828, from the remnants of Lovely County, which was abolished three days earlier, from much of the land that was left in Arkansas Territory. The county was named after George Washington, the nation's first President. Washington County has grown from small settlements of farms, mills, and orchards into one of the most affluent and prosperous counties in the state. Throughout the 1830s and 1840s, Washington County started to attract more affluent citizens. This is probably due to the good climate and availability of inexpensive land. Archibald Yell may be the most famous man from early Washington County. In the 1830s, President Andrew Jackson appointed him a circuit court judge in the region. Yell built his home, Waxhaw, in Fayetteville and practiced law in and around Fayetteville. In 1836, he was Arkansas's first congressman, and in 1840, he became Arkansas's second governor.<sup>3</sup>

The early settlers of Washington County placed great value on education, as evidenced by the many schools that dotted the county. The Cane Hill School was founded in 1835 for young men who planned to enter the ministry. The school first met in a log cabin but grew into Cane Hill College by 1850. In 1836, the Fayetteville Female Seminary was established for prominent young women of the city. The University of Arkansas, originally known as Arkansas Industrial University, formally opened on January 22, 1872. The university started with eight students, a dozen books, acting president Noah P. Gates, and one teacher, Charles H. Leverett. By the end of the year, enrollment had reached 101 students from towns throughout the county and the state.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Information found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=813#> : Washington County. Accessed on 21 July 2009. Referenced throughout document as (W.C.)

<sup>4</sup> (W.C.)

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge

County and State: Washington County, Arkansas

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

Section number: 8 Page: 2

On February 18, 1861, the citizens of Washington County were asked to vote for or against a state convention that would consider secession. They rejected the proposal to secede by almost a three-to-one margin. Unionist sentiment rang strong in the county. Arkansas seceded in May 1861, which was approved by a majority of other counties throughout the state. At the May statewide convention on the issue of secession, delegates from Washington County voted to remain loyal to the Union. During the Civil War, Washington County represented a coveted prize for both sides. It was only a day's ride into Unionist Missouri, where both the Union and Confederate soldiers might find aid and support. The two great battles fought in northwest Arkansas—Pea Ridge on March 6–8, 1862, and Prairie Grove on December 7, 1862—involved attempts by Confederates to solidify their control over the area and seize control of southern Missouri. The Federal forces won both engagements and were thus able to keep Missouri in the Union. Fayetteville changed hands several times throughout the war. After the war, men returned to find schools burned, fields in disarray, orchards destroyed, and fences and barns razed for firewood. Fayetteville, as well as the entire county, lost a great deal in trade, commerce, men, and material throughout the bloody conflict.<sup>5</sup>

By the beginning of 1866, shops began to reopen, and life seemed to improve. The stage from Springfield, Missouri, resumed operation, and the mills were rebuilt at Rhea, Clear Creek, and Cane Hill. Cane Hill College was rebuilt and opened in 1868 by its long-serving president, Fontaine R. Earle. The first public school for freed slaves, the Mission School, opened in 1866. From the 1870s to the 1900s, the county population increased steadily, as did farm yields. In 1870, the population was 17,266; by 1900, it grew to more than 34,000. Arable land also greatly increased as it was cleared. By 1870, there were only 73,145 acres under cultivation. The average acreage increased to almost 238,000 by 1900. Apples, grapes, strawberries, corn, and assorted livestock provided the fundamental agricultural base throughout the twentieth century.<sup>6</sup>

The city of Fayetteville has been the county seat of Washington County since its formation by the state legislature. The first settlers in Fayetteville were George McGarrah and his sons James, John, and William. Around 1828, they settled near the spring in an area that was to become the Masonic Addition to Fayetteville, the eastern part of which is at the base of Mount Sequoyah. On February 27, 1835, President Jackson issued a patent for 160 acres forming the original settlement. Upon a petition by more than two-thirds of the taxpayers, the county court granted their incorporation request in 1841. In 1859, the legislature granted a city charter.<sup>7</sup>

In the years leading to the Civil War, Fayetteville and the county gained a reputation as the state's cultural and educational center. The Fayetteville Female Academy, founded under the guidance of Robert Mecklin, was incorporated on October 26, 1836, and was the second school chartered by the state. Sophia Sawyer established the Fayetteville Female Seminary and began teaching on July 1, 1839, with fourteen Cherokee girls as pupils.

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<sup>5</sup> (W.C.)

<sup>6</sup> (W.C.)

<sup>7</sup> Information found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=1006#> : Fayetteville (Washington County). Date Accessed: 21 July 2009. Referenced through document as: (Fay)



## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property: Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge

County and State: Washington County, Arkansas

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

Section number: 8 Page: 3

Robert Graham started an academy in 1850, chartered as Arkansas College of Fayetteville on December 14, 1852. The first bachelor's degrees in the state were granted by the college, and the college was given the power to confer doctoral degrees. On December 16, 1858, the state chartered the Fayetteville Female Institute, headed by T. B. Van Horne.<sup>8</sup>

Fayetteville was little affected by military activity until February 1862, when Confederate troops moving south destroyed their arsenal in the Van Horne school building, burning and looting much of the town rather than letting any materials fall into the hands of Union forces. During the war, the town was alternately possessed by both sides. Although there were skirmishes, the Action at Fayetteville on April 18, 1863, was the only major conflict. Union Colonel Marcus LaRue Harrison made his headquarters in what had been Judge Jonas Tebbetts's home at College and Dickson streets. Confederate General William L. Cabell tried to retake the town, with the battle centering on the Tebbetts home. The effort failed.<sup>9</sup>

The Morrill Act, passed by Congress during the war, provided land grants to each state to establish agricultural and mechanical colleges. Upon reentering the Union, Arkansas became eligible for the grants. Washington County proposed a \$100,000 bond issue, and Fayetteville offered another \$30,000, including individual land donations, to build a college. Fayetteville's proposal was selected, and Arkansas Industrial University opened on January 22, 1872. In 1899, the legislature changed the name to the University of Arkansas (UA). The town's economy after the war centered on timber, apples, tomatoes, and other fruits and vegetables that were processed, packed, and shipped out. Production of wood products and of bricks made from native clay met the growing need for construction of houses and public buildings.<sup>10</sup>

Transportation continued to be by wagon, stagecoach, horse, and buggy for the rest of the nineteenth century, except for rail service furnished primarily by the St. Louis & San Francisco Railway Co. (SLSF), built over a period of fourteen years. The Pacific & Great Eastern Railroad Co., incorporated on October 23, 1884, built a line to Wyman twelve miles east of Fayetteville. The line was doomed when the SLSF built a branch line to St. Paul and Pettigrew in Madison County. The St. Paul branch provided a great amount of hardwood for processing into railroad ties, furniture, handles, and various other wood products. About 1900, construction started on a railroad to the west, known as the Ozark & Cherokee Central Railway. It was first completed to Westville, Oklahoma, and later extended to Tahlequah and Muskogee, Oklahoma. The line was later purchased by the SLSF. For many years, the railroads were a major boost to the economic growth of Fayetteville, providing a faster and more efficient method of moving commodities in and out of the area, as well as passenger service to distant destinations.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> (Fay)

<sup>9</sup> (Fay)

<sup>10</sup> (Fay)

<sup>11</sup> (Fay)

Present day Goff Farm Road was originally laid out in 1844 as part of the Fayetteville-Huntsville Road. The road crossed a stream near a small pond south of the West Fork of the White River, but no evidence of earlier crossings exist, as they were most likely fords until the Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge was constructed, possibly as early as the mid-nineteenth century. William Dugan owned and operated a water-powered mill near this site in 1835, which indicates that a substantial crossing was necessary as soon as the mid-eighteen thirties. The possibility of the bridge's construction occurring after 1873, when the Arkansas Legislature authorized counties to build and maintain bridges, wanes as the counties generally constructed bridges of the metal truss design, as they were less expensive and easier to build than their masonry arch counterparts.<sup>12</sup> Bridges in similar design and condition around the nation date back to the mid-eighteen hundreds, taking into account the presence of the mill and this trend, the Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge was likely constructed by local private interests in the early-to-mid 1860s; as in the second half of the nineteenth century, many stone arches were built just downstream from mill dams. Bridges in these locations were in danger of being washed out by flood waters bursting through the dams. Because of their durability, stone arches were favored.<sup>13</sup>

The arch is an ancient structural form, probably a refinement of the even earlier practice of corbelling stones or timbers to span a void. The defining characteristic of an arch is its reliance on compression to transfer gravity loads to the supporting foundations. While arch bridges can be built of any material, an arch is the only efficient way to span long distances with stone. Since the stones in a masonry arch rely on each other for support, wooden falsework is used to support the arch until all the stones are fitted together. The structure becomes self-supporting when the final stone is wedged into place at the crown of the arch. Well-built stone arch bridges are extremely strong and durable. America's oldest stone arch bridge, Pennypack Creek Bridge built in 1697 in Philadelphia, still carries traffic more than three centuries after its construction.<sup>14</sup>

The Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge was built as a reliable crossing to satisfy local travel to and from the towns of Fayetteville and Huntsville through the mid-nineteenth century. That this bridge was built by traditional methods using local materials and was located along early transportation corridors suggests the probability of its mid-1800s construction, and it still stands as a rare surviving example of a dry-laid stone arch bridge in Arkansas.

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## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

<sup>12</sup> Donald C. Jackson, "Great American Bridges and Dams," The Preservation Press (1988): 19, 104, 106, 184, 186, 198, 205, 207  
*Other book consulted:* Dixie Legler, "Historic Bridges of Maryland," Maryland Historical Trust Press (2002): 53, 54, 74, 99, 103, 107, 109, 111-15

<sup>13</sup> Bruce Clouette and Matthew Roth, "Connecticut's Historic Highway Bridges," Connecticut Transportation Department (1991): 24

<sup>14</sup> Lola Bennett, "Huntsville Road Bridge," Historic American Engineering Record, (2007): 3, 4

Name of Property: Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge

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County and State: Washington County, Arkansas

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

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## Statement of Significance

The Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge, #18668, is an excellent example of masonry deck arch design in Arkansas. While it is unknown who constructed the bridge and when, all physical evidence conveys that it was built by local private interests in the mid-nineteenth century. A masonry arch bridge made of cut stone, this bridge are one of six surviving masonry arch bridges in Arkansas.

The Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **statewide significance** under **Criterion C** as an excellent example of a masonry arch deck bridge construction. The Goff Farm Road Bridge is the oldest masonry arch bridge in the state and one of six remaining masonry arch bridges in Arkansas. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its associations with the development of the roadway infrastructure in the community of Fayetteville in the mid 1800s. The Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple property listing "Historic Bridges in Arkansas."

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Name of Property: Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge

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County and State: Washington County, Arkansas

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

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Name of Property: Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge

County and State: Washington County, Arkansas

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

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### Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point ten feet west of the western end of the Goff Farm Stone Bridge, proceed east to a point ten feet east of the east 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 Goff Farm Road Stone Bridge, and its immediate surroundings.