NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

FINAL

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 Stone arch bridge over McCormick's Creek

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number McCormick's Creek State Park N/A not for publication

city or town Spencer ☒ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Owen code 119 zip code 47460

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 forth 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.)

Patrick R. Ralston 2/3/93

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State of 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:)

Stone arch bridge over Corrick's Creek
Name of Property

O. n County, Indiana
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 the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

New Deal Resources in Indiana State Parks

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION: Outdoor Recreation

TRANSPORTATION: Road-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION: Outdoor Recreation

TRANSPORTATION: Road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Park Rustic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls STONE: Limestone

roof N/A

other n/a

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

stone arch bridge over McCormick's Creek
Name of Property

Owen County, Indiana
County and State

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.)

- [x] **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.
- [x] **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** 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)

ARCHITECTURE
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1934-1942

Significant Dates

1934

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Civilian Conservation Corps

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibilography
(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:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Name of repository:

Stone arch bridge over McCormick's Creek
Name of Property

Owen County, Indiana
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	524400	4388220
2			
3			
4			

☐ 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 Glory-June Greiff, Consulting Historian

organization _____ date 11 August 1992

street & number 1753 South Talbott telephone 317-637-6163

city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46225

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 Indiana Department of Administration/Indiana Department of Natural Resources

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ 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 listings. 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 20503.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The stone arch bridge spans McCormick's Creek above the falls, taking a road that was originally a switchback extension of the main park road running east northwestward over the creek. (The original park road has since been extended further east and another bridge crosses the creek further upstream to take visitors to the Nature Center and the swimming pool, both constructed in the 1970s.) Above the usually shallow, rapid creek, the bridge nestles in a stony canyon roughly thirty feet deep amidst hilly, wooded terrain (see photo 1). The paved (originally gravel) roadway, running northwest-southeast, is twenty feet wide between solid stone masonry walls about two feet high above the road surface (see photo 2). The bridge is slightly humped in the center. At the south end of the easternmost wall is a cornerstone inscribed "Erected under direction of Indiana Department of Conservation/C.C.C. Co. 589/McCormicks Creek Camp S.P. 4--1934." (See photo 3.) The walls extend at about a 45 degree angle down and around to form retaining walls against the canyon at either end of the bridge (see photo 4). The bridge is solidly constructed of mortared roughcut limestone throughout, faced with sawn stone for a more attractive appearance. The round arch spans 54 feet and is approximately 25 feet at its highest point.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Settled above the stone canyons of rocky McCormick's Creek, the stone arch bridge at McCormick's Creek State Park is the best example of an arched bridge constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in any Indiana state park. It is the only such vehicular bridge built completely of stone, not simply faced with the material over a formed concrete core. It stands as a splendid material record of an important area of New Deal public works and recreational development in Indiana state parks during the 1930s, as described in the historic context "New Deal Work Programs in Indiana State Parks." As noted in the associated property type identified as "Properties associated with New Deal work projects related to infrastructure development," the stone arch bridge, a resource related to public access, is eligible under Criterion A (in the areas of recreation and in social history) because it is associated with the New Deal's work programs and park development in the 1930s. The structure is also eligible under Criterion C because it is an outstanding example of the work and the style of architecture typical of the CCC. The bridge meets all the standards of integrity established in the multiple property nomination "New Deal Resources in Indiana State Parks." The bridge stands in its original location in its original setting, the design and materials intact. The structure is representative of and associated with typical CCC workmanship, that is, stone masonry. The integrity of the property's feeling is strong.

McCormick's Creek State Park was the first of Indiana's state parks, established in 1916 even before the Indiana Department of Conservation was created. Within a few years, an existing building was remodeled into a park inn, some picnic areas established, and a few trails built. The park was very popular, and the Department of Conservation saw to the construction of a swimming pool and bath house near the inn in the late 1920s. McCormick's Creek also boasted group camping facilities. But with the continuously growing usage of the park, clearly more of it needed to be made accessible to visitors. The establishment of CCC Company 589 at Camp SP-4 from November 1933 until July 1935 brought to fruition an ambitious and much-needed new development program at McCormick's Creek. The CCC boys worked on reforestation, landscaping, the construction of numerous outdoor recreational facilities, and the supporting infrastructure, which included additional trails and roads. The stone arch bridge falls into the category of infrastructure, albeit far beyond merely functional in its design. By constructing the bridge across McCormick's Creek at this point, the area known as Beech Grove (presently part of the campground) became accessible to park visitors by way of a scenic road that essentially paralleled the creek past Echo Canyon and then veered northward. The area above Echo Canyon, too, was now able to be developed as a picnic area.

Records do not indicate why the CCC constructed no other stone masonry bridges in the state parks, although they built several arched bridges faced with stone, even a triple-arched bridge at Spring Mill. Cost was probably the most important consideration. (See Outdoor Indiana, August 1934, p. 21) Most of the stone came from a quarry east of Ellettsville, salvaged from the grout pile, stone which the milling companies had rejected. The sawed facing stone was donated by a company in Bloomington. It took six months, using hand tools, to prepare the stone for the bridge under the watchful eyes of a foreman from Bloomington, Joe Dalton, and a Gosport stonemason named Carter. The bridge was completed in the latter part of 1934. That this was an unusual project is perhaps evidenced by the fact that the cornerstone on the bridge contains photographs and the names of everyone who worked on it. Certainly the Department of Conservation must have been immensely pleased with the structure, as its photograph appears frequently in Outdoor Indiana and general publicity material throughout the 1930s and to this day. The use of native stone was in keeping with both NPS guidelines and the policy of the state Department of Conservation. The material harmonizes visually with the specific setting and the park environment as a whole. While the rusticated limestone is in keeping with the general park rustic mode, the stone arch bridge seems also to have been influenced by the Romanesque Revival, a popular style for vehicular and railroad bridges in Indiana well into the 1930s.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archival Collections

National Archives, Washington, D.C.
Records of the National Park Service: Civilian Conservation Corps
Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps

Indiana Division, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis
Clipping Files, CCC
Clipping Files, Indiana State Parks
Outdoor Indiana, 1934-1942

Archival Files, park office, McCormick's Creek State Park

Government Publications

"Annual Report of Department of Conservation," Yearbook of Indiana, 1925-1945.

United States Department of Interior, National Park Service. Park and Recreation Structures. 3 Vol. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1938.

Other

Barnes, Karl. Hand-written reminiscences about the CCC's quarry and stone work for the bridge. Hopkins, Minnesota, 22 February 1992.

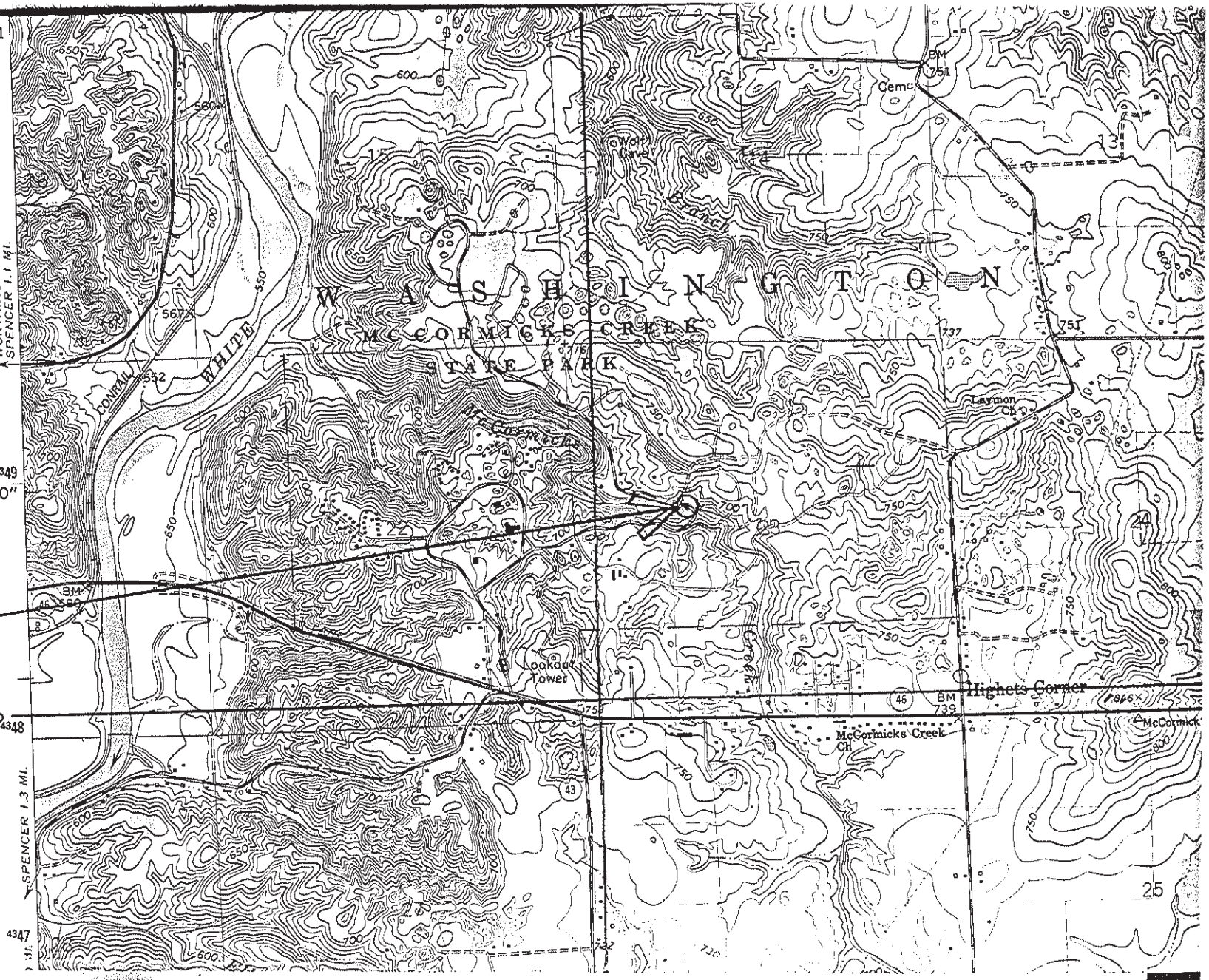
Greiff, Glory-June. "New Deal Resources in Present Indiana State Parks." June 1990-May 1991. Sponsored by Indiana University, Indianapolis, and on file with the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA), 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis IN 46204. Field survey and inventory of existing CCC- and WPA-constructed buildings, structures, and sites.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

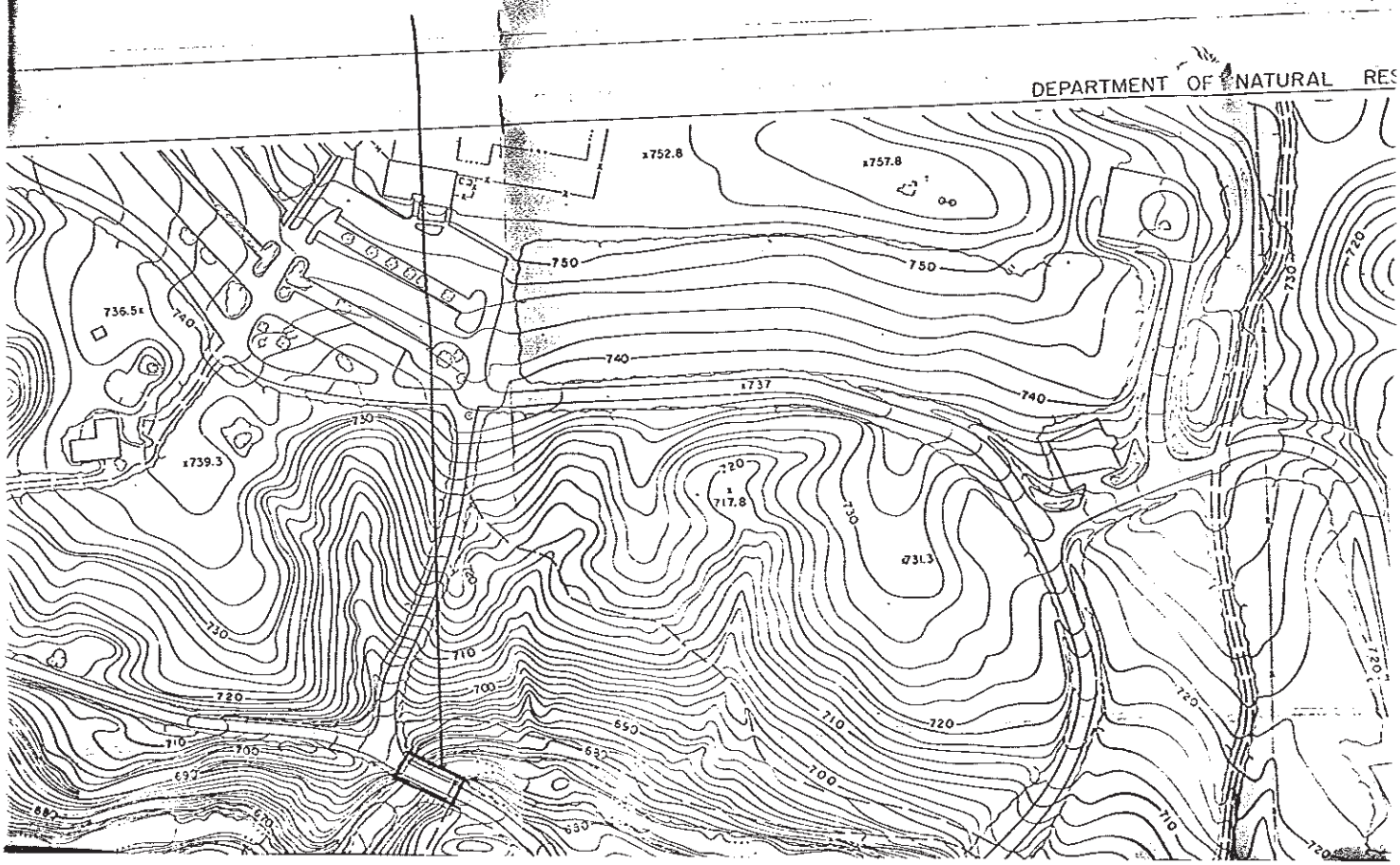
Bounded by a rectangle whose sides encompass the bridge and its abutments with a margin of ten feet. Also refer to scale map with boundaries.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Encompasses the resource and its approaches.



stone arch bridge

STONE ARCH BRIDGE OVER McCORMICK'S CREEK
OWEN Co., IN
16524400 4348820

BOUNDARY- STONE ARCH BRIDGE OVER McCORMICK'S CREEK
OWEN CO., IN
BOUNDARY IS SOLID LINE