## **Historic Sites Survey**



State of Mississippi Department of Archives & History P. O. Box 571, Jackson, MS. 39205

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Measuring 300' in length, the twin-tower swinging suspension bridge has a central span of 200' and two 50' spans between the towers and the North Fork Coles Creek bank. Iron-sheathed concrete towers support the 25-foot wide wooden deck, which consists of creosoted float beams, stringers, and decking.

The Coon Box Fork Bridge was constructed in 1919 at a cost of \$3,498.99 and repaired in 1927 by W.H. Groome and Son at a cost of \$1,058.38. The bridge incorporates the Schuster and Jacob cable anchoring system design (patent \$s 6203,729591; dated June 2, 1903).

**ALTERATIONS:** 

None (routine maintenance consists of replacement of the wood deck approximately every fifteen years).

**DUTBUILDINGS:** 

\_ANDSCAPE FEATURES:

Forested, wilderness setting; gravel road.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Coon Box Fork Bridge is a highly successful technological product of the early twentieth century that met rural transportation needs in southwestern Mississippi. Easier to maintain than wooden bridges and less expensive than iron bridges, swinging suspension bridges similar to the Coon Box Fork Bridge proliferated in Jefferson County after 1900. The patented Schuster and Jacob anchoring system allowed for a simple yet secure method for anchoring bridge cables in the ground. The substitution of concrete infill inacable anchoring system by W.H.Groome and Son was hastened after the frequent deterioration of the wood infill used according to the Schuster and Jacob patent. The Schuster and Jacob bridge design was used by local contractors in Jefferson county such as Robert Taylor, J.K. Gallbreath and W.H. Groome and Son. Although originally constructed by Robert Taylor in 1919, the repair of the Coon Box Fork bridge in 1927

NAME: Coon Box Fo

Coon Box Fork Bridge

STREET NO: Coon Box Road

TOWN/VIC: Coon Box

COUNTY: Jefferson

BLOCK/LOT:

**ADDRESS** 

PRESENT OWNER:

Board of Supervisors

Jefferson County Courthouse

PRESENT USE:

P.O. Box 145

Fayette, Mississippi 39069

FORMER USE:

DATE: 1919

STYLE:

ARCH/BUILDER:

Schuster and Jacob, engineers

Robert Taylor, builder

SOURCE OF DATE: Minutes Books, Board of Supervisors,

Jefferson County, Fayette, Mississippi.

**ENVIRONMENT:** 

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LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

**NEIGHBORHOOD** 

LOCAL

STATE X

NATIONAL

**PHOTOS** 

NEG. #

| YSICAL | CONDI | TION |
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fair

IREATS:

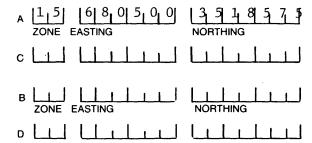
deterioration

## **ERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

Swinging suspension bridge and county road right-of-way along Coon Box Road where the said bridge crosses North Fork Coles Creek.

REAGE: two acres

M REF:



RM PREPARED BY:

DATE

Jack A. Gold Architectural Historian Division of Historic Preservation 9 September 1978

## CONTINUATION:

by Groome incorporated the improved anchoring system. All of the bridges constructed in Jefferson county were financed by bonds issued by the county. The Coon Box Fork Bridge served the agricultural transportation needs of local farmers in nearby Coon Box, a settlement situated approximately one mile northeast of the bridge.



SWINGONG SUSPENS, ON BRILES HEMALOC Coon Box, Jefferson County, Jack A. Gold September 7, 1978 Mississippi Department of Archives and History View to the west. Photo 1 of 3

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COON BOX FORK BRIDGE Coon Box, Jefferson County, Mississippi Jack A. Gold September 7, 1978 Mississippi Department of Archives and History View to the east. Photo 2 of 3



Swinging Suspension Budge COON BOX FORK BRIDGE Coon Box, Jefferson County, Jack A. Gold September 7, 1978 Mississippi Department of Archives and History View to the northwest. Photo 3 of 3