

CLARKE BAYOU BRIDGE  
(Bridge Recall No. 012200)  
Carries U.S. Route 80 (US 80) over Clarke Bayou  
Fillmore vicinity  
Bossier Parish  
Louisiana

HAER No. LA-28

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

**HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD**  
**CLARKE BAYOU BRIDGE**  
**(Bridge Recall No. 012200)**

**HAER No. LA-28**

**Location:** Carries U.S. Route 80 (US 80) over Clarke Bayou near Fillmore, Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

The Clarke Bayou Bridge (Bridge Recall No. 012200) is located at latitude 32.567899 north, longitude -93.485655 west.<sup>1</sup> The coordinate represents the center of the bridge. It was obtained in 2016 by plotting its location in Google Earth. The location has no restriction on its release to the public.

**Present Owner:** State of Louisiana.

**Present Use:** Vehicular traffic.

**Significance:** The Clarke Bayou Bridge is a culvert consisting of a stacked, multi-cell design that demonstrates distinctive design features. This culvert exhibits a unique design where two rows of box culvert cells are stacked, one atop the other. The Clarke Bayou Bridge was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) in 2013 under *Criterion C: Engineering* at the state level of significance.<sup>2</sup>

**Historian:** Katherine Haun Schuring, Cultural Resource Specialist; Mead & Hunt, Inc., 2017.

**Project Information:** This documentation was prepared as mitigation to fulfill Stipulation IX.5 of the *Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Highway Administration, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Management of Historic Bridges in Louisiana*, dated August 18, 2015, and executed September 21, 2015. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) retained Mead & Hunt, Inc. (Mead & Hunt) to prepare this document. It was prepared by cultural resource specialist Katherine Haun Schuring of Mead & Hunt, Inc. Dietrich Floeter completed the photography.

---

<sup>1</sup> The bridge is also known as Structure No. 04080010316232.

<sup>2</sup> Mead & Hunt, Inc., *National Register Eligibility Determination Report, Pre-1971 Louisiana Highway Bridges* (prepared for the Louisiana Department of Transportation, September 2013).

## Part I. Historical Information

### A. Physical History:

1. **Date(s) of construction:** 1926; modified ca. 1948.
2. **Engineer:** Louisiana Highway Commission.
3. **Builder/Contractor/Supplier:** Girault & Le Gaurdeur, Shreveport, La.
4. **Original plans and construction:** Plans identified for the culvert include a standard plan and a general plan specific to the Clarke Bayou Bridge. Plans were prepared by the Louisiana Highway Commission (LHC) and are available in the General Files room at the LADOTD's Baton Rouge headquarters. The standard plan, titled "Multiple Concrete Box Culverts" (Standard plan B-2-46) is in poor condition and a date is illegible. A final tracing titled, "General Plan for Culverts at Sta. 23+00 and Sta. 123+15, Project 75A," for the culvert was prepared by the LHC and is dated November 1925. Construction was completed in 1926.
5. **Alterations and additions:** A second row of box culverts and concrete bi-rail was added to the structure ca. 1948. Other alterations to the Clarke Bayou Bridge include removal of two of the bottom horizontal concrete rails on the north elevation. Additionally, the southwest wingwall was replaced ca. 2012 with timber cribbing.<sup>3</sup> At an unknown date, guardrail was added to both sides of the east end of the culvert.

### B. Historical Context:

#### *Historical background*

The Clarke Bayou Bridge was constructed as part of large federal-aid road improvement project undertaken by the LHC in the 1920s.<sup>4</sup> In 1923 the LHC made formal plans to complete improvements on US 80 (also historically State Road [SR] 4), a trans-continental highway that extends through the northern portion of the state and on which the subject culvert is located. This effort continued earlier LHC-initiated improvement work on the federal-aid highway, and by 1923 only a 6-mile stretch between Shreveport and Minden in Bossier and Webster Parishes was left to improve.<sup>5</sup> LHC engineers prepared plans for the proposed road work, including straightening and realigning the road, realigning creeks and improving

---

<sup>3</sup> *Bridge Inspection Report*, Recall No. 012200, November 16, 2012, available in Bridge Maintenance and Inspection Division, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Baton Rouge, La.

<sup>4</sup> The Clarke Bayou is also referred to as the Clark Bayou on road development plans.

<sup>5</sup> Louisiana Highway Commission, *Biennial Report of the Louisiana Highway Commission of the State of Louisiana 1922-1924* (Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana Highway Commission, 1924), n.p.; Louisiana Highway Commission, "Plan and Profile of Proposed State Highway: Minden-Shreveport Highway, La. Federal Aid Project No 75, Bossier Parish," 1923, final tracings, available on microfilm at the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

drainage, grading, and gravelling the route.<sup>6</sup> At the Clarke Bayou, engineers planned for a new multi-cell culvert to replace a timber frame structure.

As part of the road realignment and drainage improvement efforts, LHC engineers planned for 28 new drainage structures, comprised of 19 box culverts and nine pipe culverts along the 6-mile stretch of highway.<sup>7</sup> To meet hydraulic needs at individual sites, box culverts had spans of between 2'-0" and 8'-0" and were constructed with two to 12 cells. Each cell is a monolithic, four-sided concrete structure. The LHC utilized one of two department-prepared standard plans—B-2-5b or B-2-46, plans for a double or multiple-cell culverts, respectively—for each of the culverts along the highway.<sup>8</sup> In addition to the standard plan, the LHC prepared a plan sheet specific to two of the largest culverts along the route.

In early 1926 contractors Girault & LeGardeur of Shreveport began construction on the Clarke Bayou Bridge.<sup>9</sup> Construction closely followed Standard Plan B-2-46, titled "Multiple Concrete Box Culverts | Flaring Wing Walls | 6 Ft to 8 Ft Spans | 3 Ft to 8 Ft Heights." The plan provided details to construct a reinforced-concrete box culvert with multiple horizontal cell openings ranging in length from 3'-0" to 8'-0" and could have up to six cells per span.<sup>10</sup> The LHC also prepared a specific general plan for the Clarke Bayou Bridge titled "General Plan for Culverts at Sta. 123+00 and Sta. 123+15, Project 75A," dated November 1925. This plan provided specific construction details for the culvert, including steel and concrete quantities and a detail of the expansion joints, which was required for culverts over six cells wide.<sup>11</sup>

In order to achieve the necessary length for the crossing, the LHC designed the Clarke Bayou Bridge with 12, 8'-0" by 8'-0" cells. The 12 cells were broken into three "clear spans" comprised of four cells per span. Clear spans were joined using a special "expansion joint" detailed on the general plan sheets. This

---

<sup>6</sup> Louisiana Highway Commission, "Plan and Profile of Proposed State Highway: Minden-Shreveport Highway, La. Federal Aid Project No 75, Bossier Parish."

<sup>7</sup> L.D. Asmus, "Final Inspection Report Louisiana 75-A Parish: Bossier," November 14, 1926, available in Bridge Inventory files, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

<sup>8</sup> Louisiana Highway Commission, "Plan and Profile of Proposed State Highway: Minden-Shreveport Highway, La. Federal Aid Project No 75, Bossier Parish"; George LeGardeur to the Louisiana Highway Commission, "Re: Additional Plans, Federal Aid Project 75 'A,'" November 15, 1925, available in Bridge Inventory files, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

<sup>9</sup> George LeGardeur to the Louisiana Highway Commission, "Re: Additional Plans, Federal Aid Project 75 'A.'"

<sup>10</sup> Louisiana Highway Commission, "Multiple Concrete Box Culverts, Flaring Wing Walls, 6 Ft to 8Ft Spans, 3 Ft to 8 Ft Heights," n.d., final tracings, available on microfilm at the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Louisiana Highway Commission, "Plan and Profile of Proposed State Highway: Minden-Shreveport Highway, La. Federal Aid Project No 75, Bossier Parish."

<sup>11</sup> "General Plan for Culverts at Sta. 123+00 and Sta. 123+15, Project 75A," available in Bridge Inventory files, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

expansion joint (contemporarily called a keyway) connected the clear spans together and also allowed for correct vertical alignment of the structure.<sup>12</sup>

By June 1926 contractors completed work on the Clarke Bayou Bridge.<sup>13</sup> As evidenced by a historic photograph, in its finished form the culvert was comprised of a single level with 12 cells, four concrete wingwalls, concrete curbing, and a gravel deck. It did not have a railing.<sup>14</sup>

At approximately 108' in length, the Clarke Bayou Bridge was the largest of the 28 culverts constructed for the 6-mile road project. The second largest culvert along the route was a 10-cell culvert located just west of the Clarke Bayou Bridge. Final inspection of the culvert occurred in November 1926. The finishing work on the channel and removal of the former 74'-0"-long frame bridge over the bayou occurred in the spring of 1927.<sup>15</sup>

A second row of box cells, measuring 6'-0" by 8'-0", and a concrete bi-rail were added to the structure. It is likely that the improvement to the culvert occurred between 1943 and 1948 based on contracts listed in biennial reports. In 1943 the LHC let a contract on SR 4/US 10 between Bossier City and the Webster Parish line.<sup>16</sup> The project, which was project number SPN 932-00-04, for advanced engineering along the route was listed in the 1946-1947 biennial report as active.<sup>17</sup> By the publication of the 1948-1949 supplement to the biennial report, the project was listed as inactive.<sup>18</sup> Therefore, a ca. 1948 date has been assigned to the construction of the second row of box cells. A set of 1954 plans associated with improvement of US 10 to a divided highway confirms that the culvert was modified with a second row by this time.<sup>19</sup>

While it is unknown why the LHC improved the culvert, the additional cells increased the overall hydraulic capacity of the structure. An elevation diagram of the culvert found in the 1954 US 80 improvement plan

---

<sup>12</sup> Research did not reveal any other correspondence between the LHC and contractors or additional construction details for the culvert. Louisiana Highway Commission, "Multiple Concrete Box Culverts, Flaring Wing Walls, 6 Ft to 8Ft Spans, 3 Ft to 8 Ft Heights."

<sup>13</sup> L.D. Asmus, "Construction Report Louisiana 75-A Parish: Bossier," June 9, 1926, available in Bridge Inventory files, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

<sup>14</sup> Louisiana Highway Commission, "12 8x8 Openings Station 123," August 25, 1926, available in Bridge Inventory files, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

<sup>15</sup> L.D. Asmus, "Final Inspection Report Louisiana 75-A Parish: Bossier"; Louisiana Highway Commission, "Plan and Profile of Proposed State Highway: Minden-Shreveport Highway, La. Federal Aid Project No 75, Bossier Parish."

<sup>16</sup> Louisiana Highway Commission, *Twelfth Biennial Report of the Louisiana Highway Commission* (Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana Highway Commission, 1943), 32–33.

<sup>17</sup> Louisiana Highway Commission, *Fourteenth Biennial Report of the Louisiana Highway Commission* (Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana Highway Commission, 1947), 170.

<sup>18</sup> Louisiana Highway Commission, *Fifteenth Biennial Report of the Louisiana Highway Commission* (Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana Highway Commission, 1949), 91.

<sup>19</sup> Louisiana Highway Commission, "Plans of Proposed State Highway F.I.-75(9) & F.I.-116(11) State Project No. 1-03-21 & 1-04-17 Fillmore - McIntyre Hwy. Bossier & Webster Parish," 1":2000' ([Baton Rouge, La], March 1954).

notes “Heavy Rains F.L. 192.41” pointing to the lower row of the culvert cells and “Extra Heavy Rain” to the top row of cells.<sup>20</sup> Therefore, the hydraulic needs for the bayou may have been a chief concern when the LHC modified the culvert.

Other alterations to the Clarke Bayou Bridge include removal of two of the bottom horizontal concrete rails on the north elevation. Additionally, the southwest wingwall was replaced ca. 2012 with timber cribbing.<sup>21</sup> At an unknown date, guardrail was added to both sides of the east end of the culvert.

## Part II. Structural/Design Information

### A. General Statement:

**1. Character:** The Clarke Bayou Bridge is a reinforced-concrete, multi-cell box culvert. The culvert is of unusual design with two rows of box cells vertically stacked.

**2. Condition of fabric:** Good.

**B. Description:** The Clarke Bayou Bridge carries two lanes of westbound US 80 traffic in an east-west alignment across Clarke Bayou, near the Bossier and Webster Parish lines. It has an overall length of approximately 108' and an out-to-out deck width of approximately 28', equal to the culvert's barrel length. The deck accommodates a 24'-0" bituminous-surfaced roadway, narrow shoulders, and railings. The culvert does not have any approach spans or slabs.

#### *Design of structure*

The Clarke Bayou Bridge is a reinforced-concrete, cast-in-place, multi-cell box culvert. It is comprised of two stacked rows of 12 cells (for a total of 24 cells). Each cell has an opening 8'-0" wide (measured from the inside of the cell walls) with a 9" wall between cells. The cell is the structural unit or hydraulic opening through which water flows. In the case of the Clarke Bayou Bridge, cells have been stacked vertically in two rows to create a larger structure.

The culvert overall was cast in three distinct sections. Each section, referred to as a “clear span” on standard plans, is comprised of a block or unit that is four cells wide. The culvert was modified ca. 1948 with a second row of cells, for a total of eight cells per section. All cells in a section share common walls. To connect adjacent sections and retain correct vertical alignments, the section joints incorporate keyways (called expansion joints on plans). The interlocking keyways were formed when each section was poured and are designed to maintain the alignment of the entire culvert top or driving surface.

---

<sup>20</sup> Louisiana Highway Commission, “Plans of Proposed State Highway F.I.-75(9) & F.I.-116(11) State Project No. 1-03-21 & 1-04-17 Fillmore - McIntyre Hwy. Bossier & Webster Parish.”

<sup>21</sup> *Bridge Inspection Report*, Recall No. 012200.

There are four wingwalls, comprised of three cast-in-place, reinforced-concrete walls and one replacement timber wall. The wingwalls taper diagonally to the concrete floor.

### *Railing*

The Clarke Bayou Bridge features a simple concrete railing that extends the length of the culvert on both sides. The railing is divided into three sections that correspond to the culvert clear-span sections. Each section is made up of cast 2'-6"-high concrete posts aligned directly above cell walls, connected with a pair of horizontal rails. The upper rail is cast in a "T" section; the lower rail is a rectangle. The railing was added ca. 1948 when the culvert was modified with a second row of cells. At an unknown time two of the bottom horizontal concrete rails on the north elevation were removed and guardrail was added to both sides of the east end of the culvert's railing.

**C. Site Information:** The Clarke Bayou Bridge carries two lanes of westbound US 80 traffic over the Clarke Bayou in Bossier Parish, Louisiana. The culvert is located approximately 1.7 miles east of the community of Fillmore and approximately 0.25 of a mile south of Interstate Highway 20. It is located in a rural area; a stand of trees is to the north and a modern concrete girder bridge that carries eastbound US 80 traffic is directly south.

## **Part III. Sources of Information**

### **A. Primary Sources:**

*Bridge Inspection Report.* Recall No. 012200, November 16, 2012. available in Bridge Maintenance and Inspection Division, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Baton Rouge, La.

"General Plan for Culverts at Sta. 123+00 and Sta. 123+15, Project 75A." Baton Rouge, La: Louisiana Highway Commission, November 1925.

George LeGardeur to the Louisiana Highway Commission. "Re: Additional Plans, Federal Aid Project 75 'A,'" November 15, 1925. Available in Bridge Inventory files, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

L.D. Asmus. "Construction Report Louisiana 75-A Parish: Bossier," June 9, 1926. Available in Bridge Inventory files, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

———. "Final Inspection Report Louisiana 75-A Parish: Bossier," November 14, 1926. Available in Bridge Inventory files, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

Louisiana Highway Commission. "12 8x8 Openings Station 123," August 25, 1926. Available in Bridge Inventory files, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

———. *Biennial Report of the Louisiana Highway Commission of the State of Louisiana 1922-1924.* Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana Highway Commission, 1924.

- . *Fifteenth Biennial Report of the Louisiana Highway Commission*. Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana Highway Commission, 1949.
- . *Fourteenth Biennial Report of the Louisiana Highway Commission*. Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana Highway Commission, 1947.
- . “Multiple Concrete Box Culverts, Flaring Wing Walls, 6 Ft to 8Ft Spans, 3 Ft to 8 Ft Heights,” n.d. Final tracings, available on microfilm at the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- . “Plan and Profile of Proposed State Highway: Minden-Shreveport Highway, La. Federal Aid Project No 75, Bossier Parish,” 1923. Final tracings, available on microfilm at the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- . “Plans of Proposed State Highway F.I.-75(9) & F.I.-116(11) State Project No. 1-03-21 & 1-04-17 Fillmore - McIntyre Hwy. Bossier & Webster Parish.” 1":2000'. [Baton Rouge, La], March 1954.
- . *Twelfth Biennial Report of the Louisiana Highway Commission*. Baton Rouge, La.: Louisiana Highway Commission, 1943.

#### **B. Secondary Sources:**

- Mead & Hunt, Inc. *Historic Context for Louisiana Bridges*. Prepared for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, December 2013.
- . *National Register Eligibility Determination Report, Pre-1971 Louisiana Highway Bridges*. Prepared for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, September 2013.

# HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

## INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

### CLARKE BAYOU BRIDGE

HAER No. LA-28

(Bridge Recall No. 012200)

Carries U.S. Route 80 (US 80) over Clarke Bayou

Fillmore vicinity

Bossier Parish

Louisiana

## INDEX TO BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Dietrich G. Floeter, photographer, February and March 2016

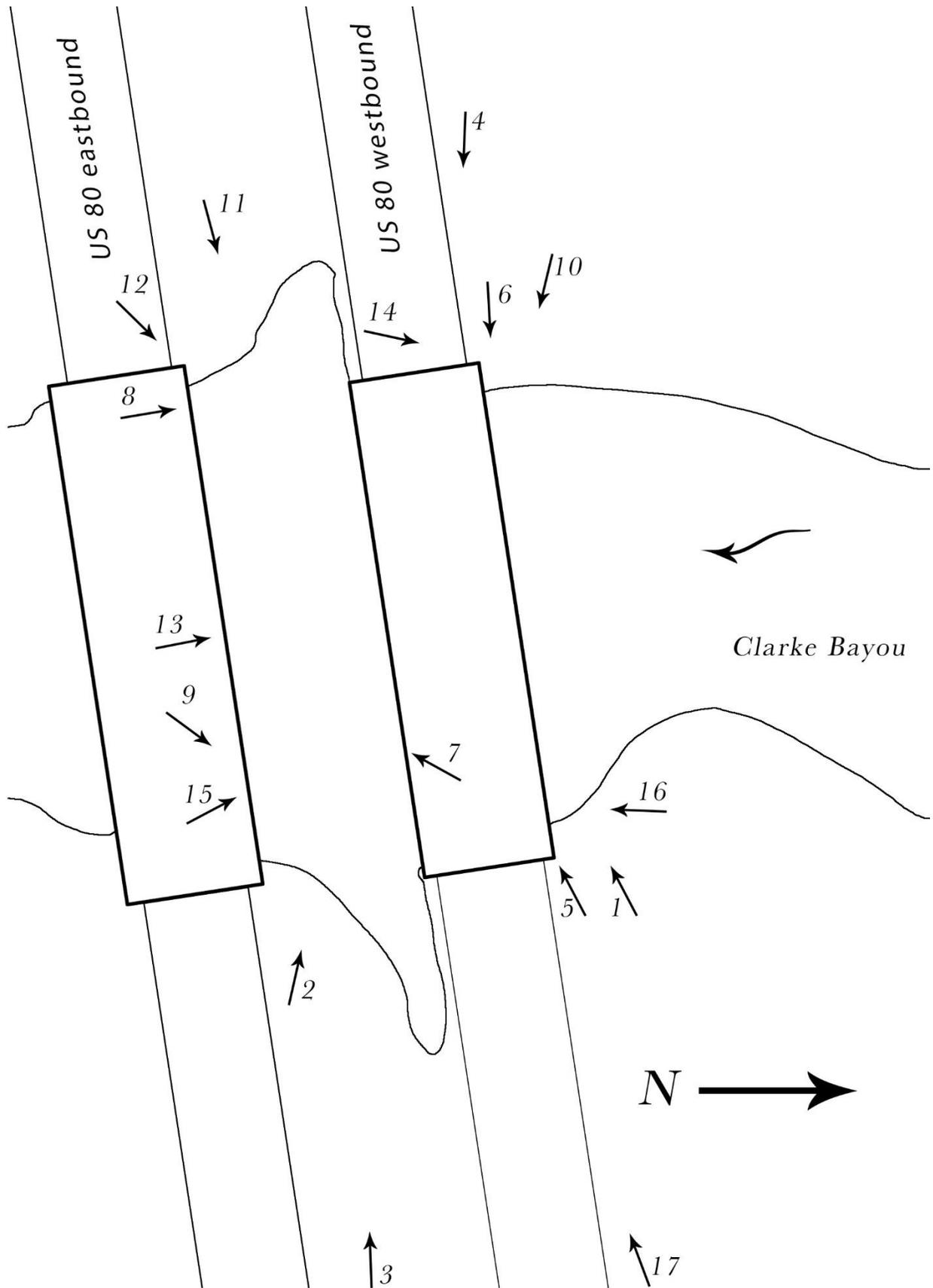
Scale Device 8 Feet Long

LA-28-1	North elevation, from northeast
LA-28-2	South elevation, from southeast
LA-28-3	Approach, from east
LA-28-4	Approach from west
LA-28-5	Bridge deck, from east
LA-28-6	View from bridge to north
LA-28-7	View from bridge to south
LA-28-8	Detail view of southwest abutment, from south
LA-28-9	Detail view of southeast abutment, from southwest
LA-28-10	Detail view of north side, from northwest
LA-28-11	Detail view showing proximity to new highway bridge, from west
LA-28-12	Detail view of south side, from southwest
LA-28-13	Detail view of south side with 8-foot scale device, from south
LA-28-14	Detail inner view of railing, from south

CLARKE BAYOU BRIDGE  
HAER No. LA-28  
INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

- LA-28-15      Detail outer of railing, from south
- LA-28-16      Detail view of barrel, from northeast
- LA-28-17      Overview, from east

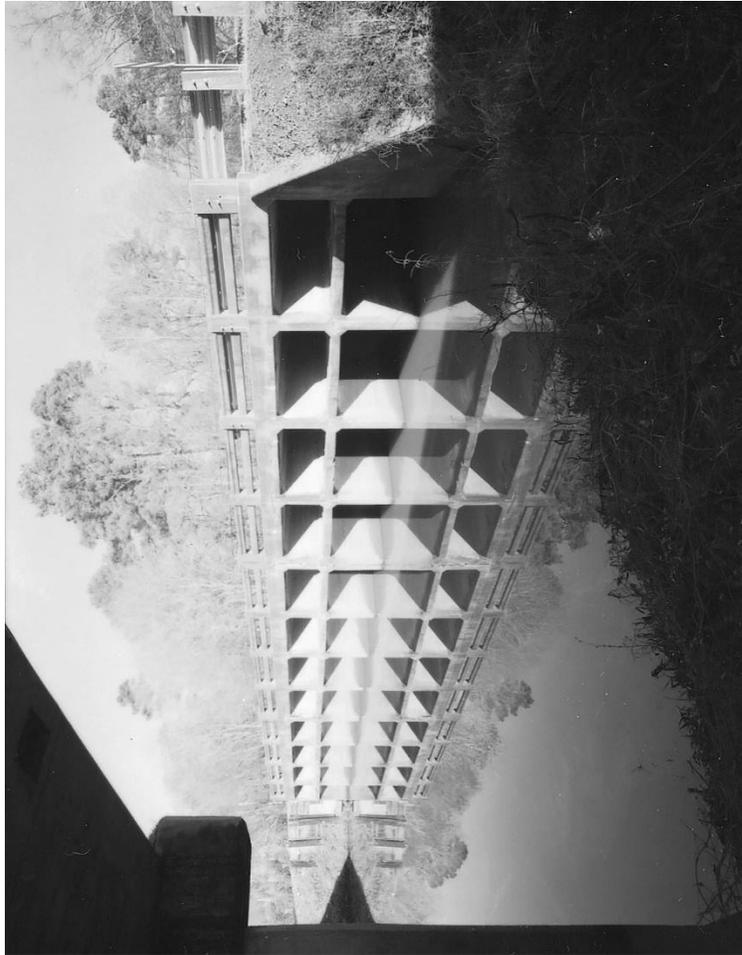
CLARKE BAYOU BRIDGE  
HAER No. LA-28  
INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS



HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
See Index to Photographs for Caption  
HAER NO. LA-28-1



HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
See Index to Photographs for Caption  
HAER NO. LA-28-2



HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
See Index to Photographs for Caption  
HAER NO. LA-28-3



HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
See Index to Photographs for Caption  
HAER NO. LA-28-4



HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
See Index to Photographs for Caption  
HAER NO. LA-28-5



HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
See Index to Photographs for Caption  
HAER NO. LA-28-6



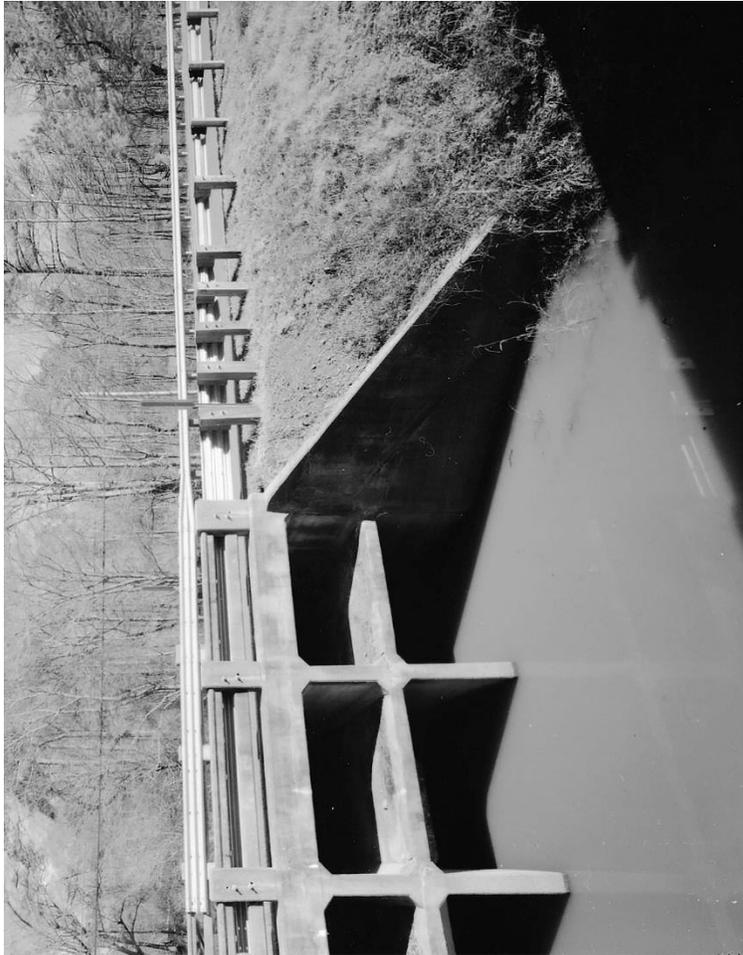
HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
See Index to Photographs for Caption  
HAER NO. LA-28-7



HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
See Index to Photographs for Caption  
HAER NO. LA-28-8



HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
See Index to Photographs for Caption  
HAER NO. LA-28-9



HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
See Index to Photographs for Caption  
HAER NO. LA-28-10



HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
See Index to Photographs for Caption  
HAER NO. LA-28-11



HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

See Index to Photographs for Caption

HAER NO. LA-28-12



HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

See Index to Photographs for Caption

HAER NO. LA-28-13



HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
See Index to Photographs for Caption  
HAER NO. LA-28-14



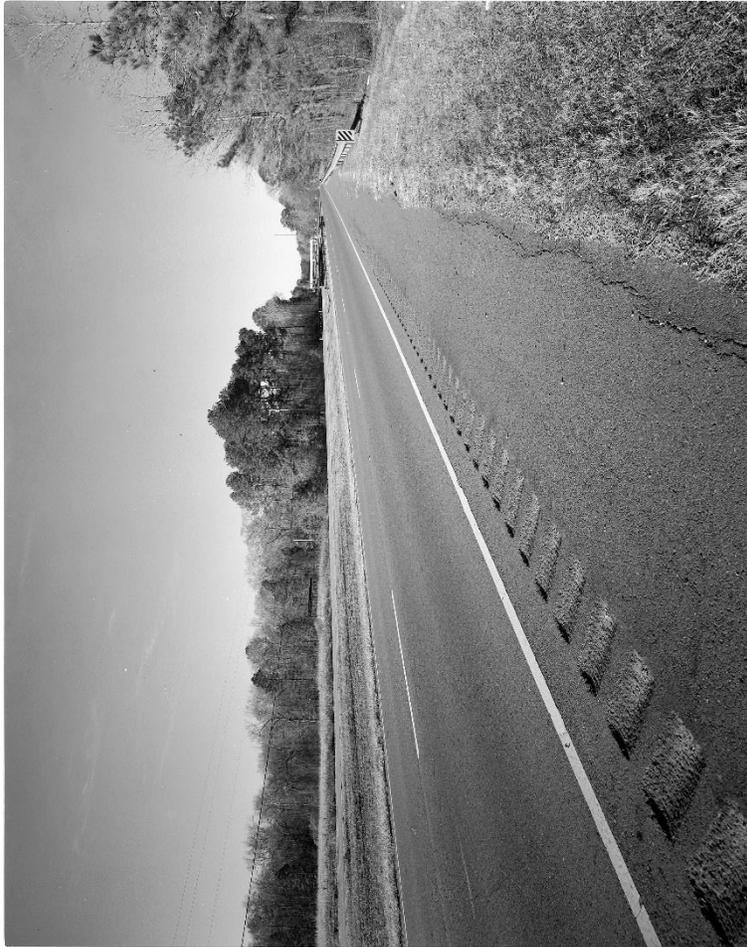
HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
See Index to Photographs for Caption  
HAER NO. LA-28-15



HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
See Index to Photographs for Caption  
HAER NO. LA-28-16

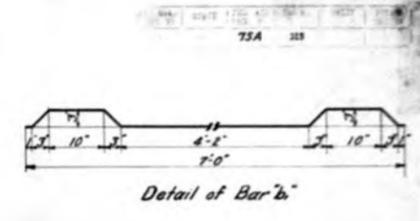
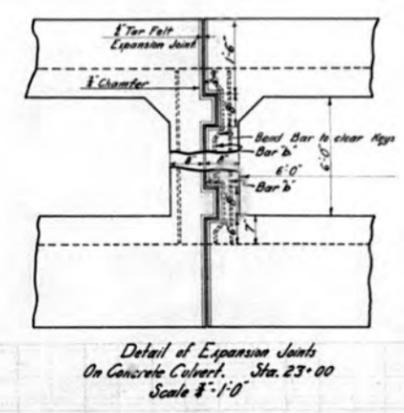
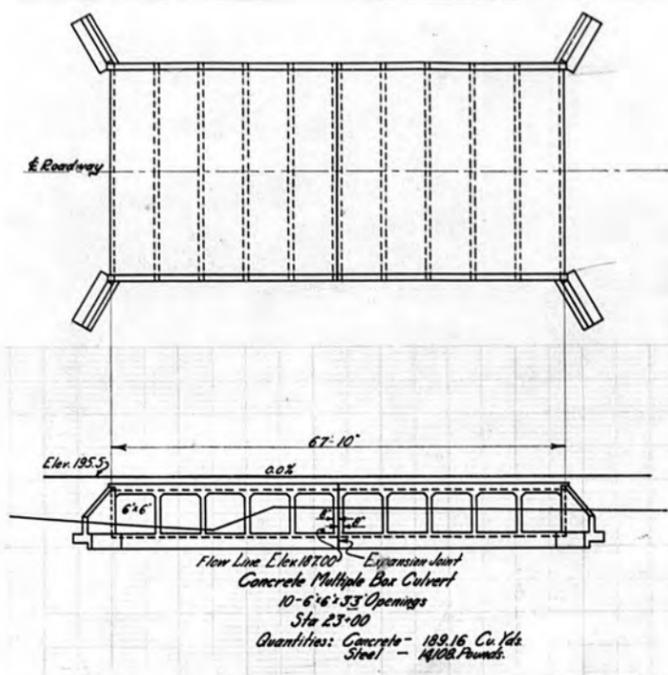


HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
See Index to Photographs for Caption  
HAER NO. LA-28-17



25

200  
190  
180  
170

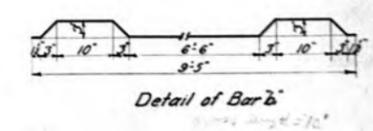
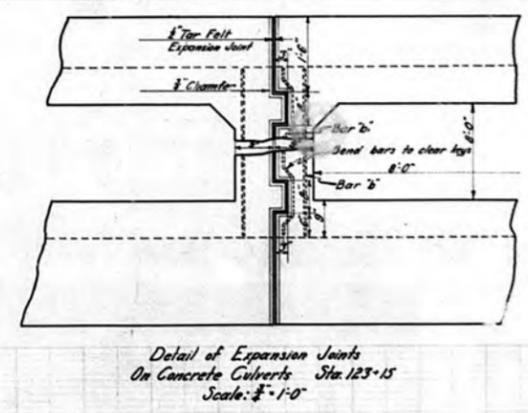
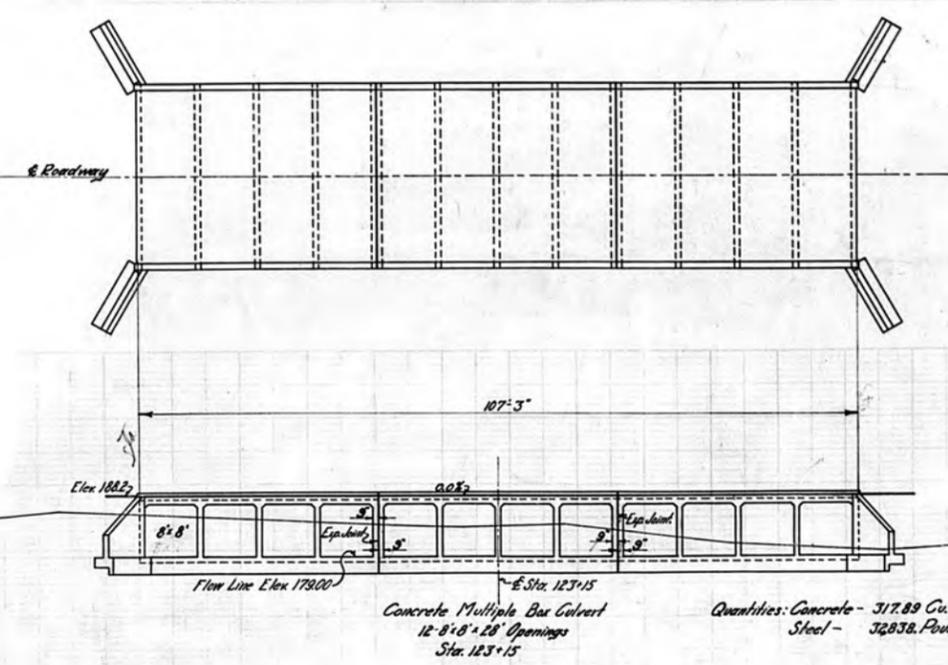


DESIGNED	CHAS. E. B.
CHECKED	W. H. B.
APPROVED	J. P. B.
DATE	NOV. 25, 1925

23

24

190  
180  
170



GENERAL PLAN FOR CULVERTS  
AT  
Sta. 23+00 and Sta. 123+15  
PROJECT 75A  
LOUISIANA HIGHWAY COMMISSION  
BATON ROUGE, LA.  
Scale: 1" = 10'-0" except as noted. Nov. 25, 1925

B-10-26

FINAL TRACINGS

