



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greene County dedicates Sac River Arch Bridge as historic site



SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – The Greene County Commission on Monday dedicated the Sac River Arch Bridge on Farm Road 128 in Bois D'Arc as an official Greene County historic site.

A proclamation recognized the structure's place in the county's history, tracing its origins to May 25, 1906, when 46 registered landowners near Section 15, Township 29, Range 24 submitted a road petition asking for a crossing over the Sac River. The Greene County Court, the predecessor to today's County Commission, issued the contract for the 50-foot "Sac River Bridge" on April 14, 1908, and awarded it to the Canton Bridge Co. of Kansas City. The Springfield News-Leader reported on Jan. 26, 1909, that construction would begin.

The bridge spans the Sac River in western Greene County. Outside of crossings at Interstate 44 and state routes to the west, it remains the only crossing over the waterway on adjacent county farm roads. It is also recognized as one of only four functional arch bridges in the state of Missouri.



The Historic Sites Board recommended the nomination to the commission after finding the bridge met criteria for age, significance in county history, significance in design and craftsmanship, and integrity of its original appearance.

"The most remarkable thing about this bridge is how little we know about its early days and how much it has quietly done since," said Dave Coonrod, Historic Sites Board member and former presiding commissioner, who prepared the nomination. "More than 50 years of county inspection records tell the story of a structure that has simply kept working."

An extensive search of records at the Springfield-Greene County Library Center turned up no reports of the bridge's completion or an opening dedication, and no original plans, photographs or construction documents have been located. Federal bridge inspection records list a construction year of 1900, a placeholder the Missouri State Bridge Inventory assigns to bridges with unknown build dates.

The Greene County Highway Department manufactured and installed the new site signage bearing the name "Sac River Arch Bridge". Highway department personnel have logged inspections on the bridge for more than 50 years under federal bridge inspection standards to maintain its structural integrity.

"The bridge is still carrying traffic today. Recognizing it as a historic site honors both the people who asked for it and the generations who have maintained it," said Commissioner Rusty MacLachlan.



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Greene County is the State of Missouri's fourth most populous county, serving approximately 308,000 people. Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service, unparalleled dedication, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.

For additional information contact the Greene County Commission's Public Information Office at 417-844-4311 or pio@greenecountymo.gov.