

SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE  
Spanning Spring River  
Miami vicinity  
Ottawa County  
Oklahoma  
JP Numbers 24272(04) & 24278(04)  
Structure Number 5824 0831X  
NBI Number 12853

PHOTOGRAPHS  
COPIES OF PLANS  
AND  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
*Final*

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Submitted to:  
Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office  
Oklahoma Historical Society  
Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Dr.  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105  
June 2015  
SHPO File No. 0267-11/MOA #379



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PHOTOGRAPHS



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### **INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS**

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### **INDEX TO BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**

Kelli Gaston, Photographer, May 2014

1. OVERALL VIEW, LOOKING SOUTHWEST
2. WEST END OF BRIDGE, LOOKING SOUTHWEST
3. DETAIL VIEW OF UNDERSIDE AND SUPPORT, LOOKING WEST
4. BRIDGE SIDE VIEW, LOOKING NORTHWEST
5. BRIDGE TRUSS, LOOKING NORTHWEST
6. DECK AND RAILINGS, LOOKING WEST
7. RAILING AND TRUSS, LOOKING WEST
8. DETAIL OF RAILING, LOOKING SOUTHWEST



SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE  
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION  
PHOTO 1





SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE  
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION  
PHOTO 2



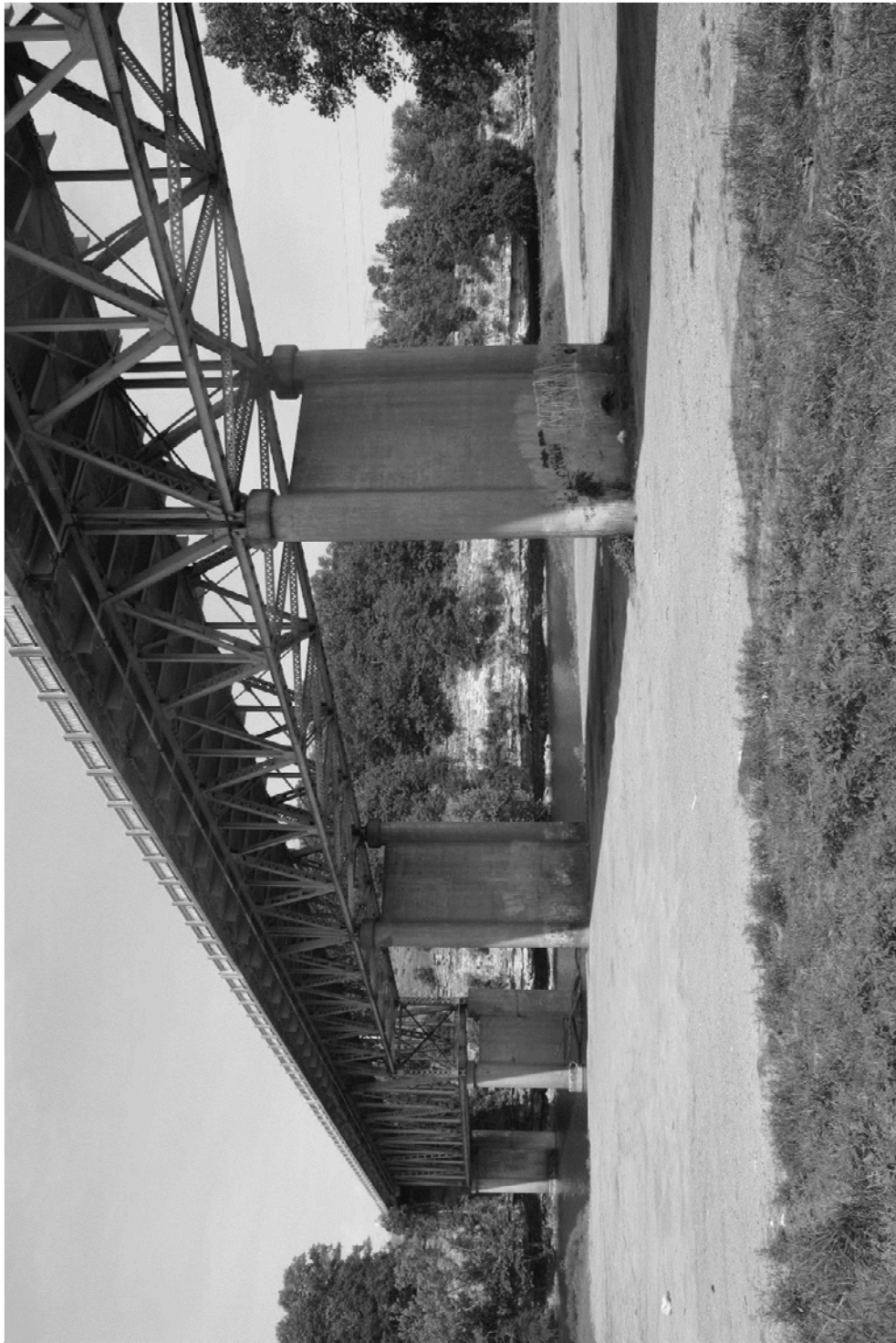


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SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION  
PHOTO 3





SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE  
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PHOTO 4





SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE  
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION  
PHOTO 5



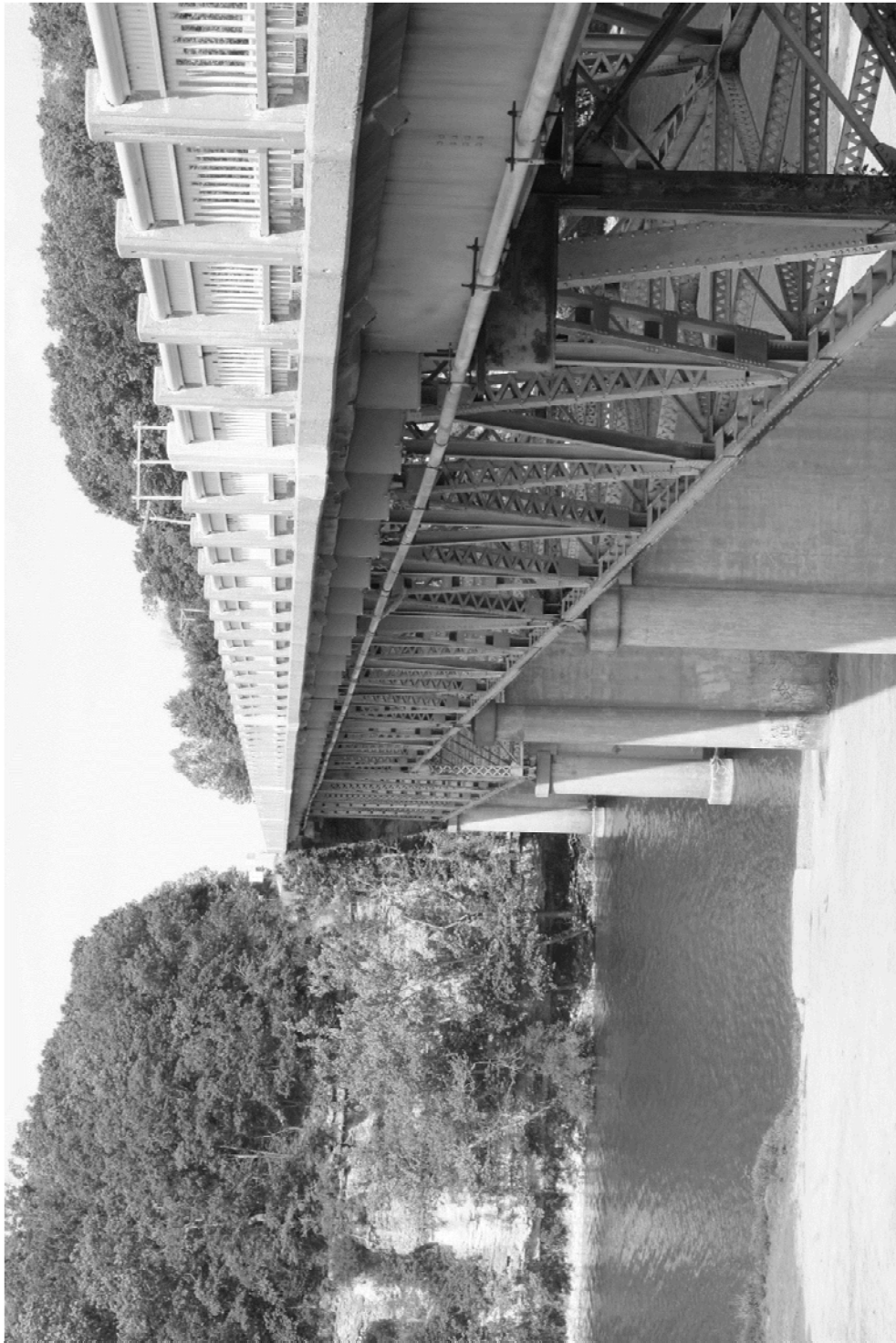


SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE  
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION  
PHOTO 6





SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE  
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PHOTO 7





SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE  
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PHOTO 8





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COPIES OF PLANS



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Plans obtained from Oklahoma Department of Transportation Reproduction Services, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, April 15, 2015.

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STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

PLAN AND PROFILE OF AS BUILT  
STATE HIGHWAY  
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NO. F-379(1)  
STATE HIGHWAY NO. 10-58-2-4  
OTTAWA COUNTY

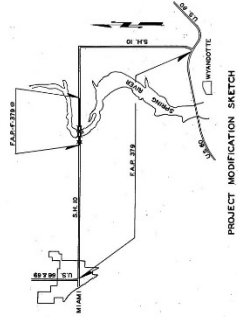
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SHEET NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	PROPOSED HIGHWAY COMMISSION, STD. NO. 3-2
2	PROPOSED HIGHWAY COMMISSION, STD. NO. 3-2
3	PROPOSED HIGHWAY COMMISSION, STD. NO. 3-2
4	PROPOSED HIGHWAY COMMISSION, STD. NO. 3-2
5	PROPOSED HIGHWAY COMMISSION, STD. NO. 3-2
6	PROPOSED HIGHWAY COMMISSION, STD. NO. 3-2
7	PROPOSED HIGHWAY COMMISSION, STD. NO. 3-2
8	PROPOSED HIGHWAY COMMISSION, STD. NO. 3-2
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19	PROPOSED HIGHWAY COMMISSION, STD. NO. 3-2
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48	PROPOSED HIGHWAY COMMISSION, STD. NO. 3-2
49	PROPOSED HIGHWAY COMMISSION, STD. NO. 3-2
50	PROPOSED HIGHWAY COMMISSION, STD. NO. 3-2

SCALES

- PLAN 1"=100'
- PROFILE 1"=100'
- CROSS SECTION 1"=10'
- CONVENTIONAL SIGNS 1"=10'
- USCGS LEVEL DATUM
- BEARINGS BY OBSERVATION ON POLARS
- CONVENTIONAL SIGNS
- PROPOSED ROAD
- RAILROADS
- RANGE & TOWNSHIP LINES
- SECTION LINES
- QUARTER SECTION LINES
- BASE LINE
- RIGHT-OF-WAY LINES
- GROUND LINES
- GRADE LINE
- TRAVELLED ROADS
- CULVERTS & BRIDGES
- TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH
- POWER LINES
- BUILDINGS
- UNLOADING POINTS
- OIL WELLS
- RIGHT OF WAY MARKERS

STATE STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS GOVERN AND  
STATE STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS GOVERN APPROVED Nov. 1, 1937



As Built Plans  
Completed By F.L. Gaines  
W Car 113 Brown Res. Eng.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY \_\_\_\_\_  
DIVISION ENGINEER \_\_\_\_\_  
RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY \_\_\_\_\_  
DIVISION ENGINEER \_\_\_\_\_

ROADWAY LENGTH 0.6833 FT. 1736 MI.  
BRIDGE LENGTH 1.6355 FT. 0.224 MI.  
PROJECT LENGTH 1.960 MI.  
EXCEPTIONS NONE

DATE	11/1/37
BY	F.L. Gaines
CHECKED	W. Car 113 Brown
REVIEWED	W. Car 113 Brown



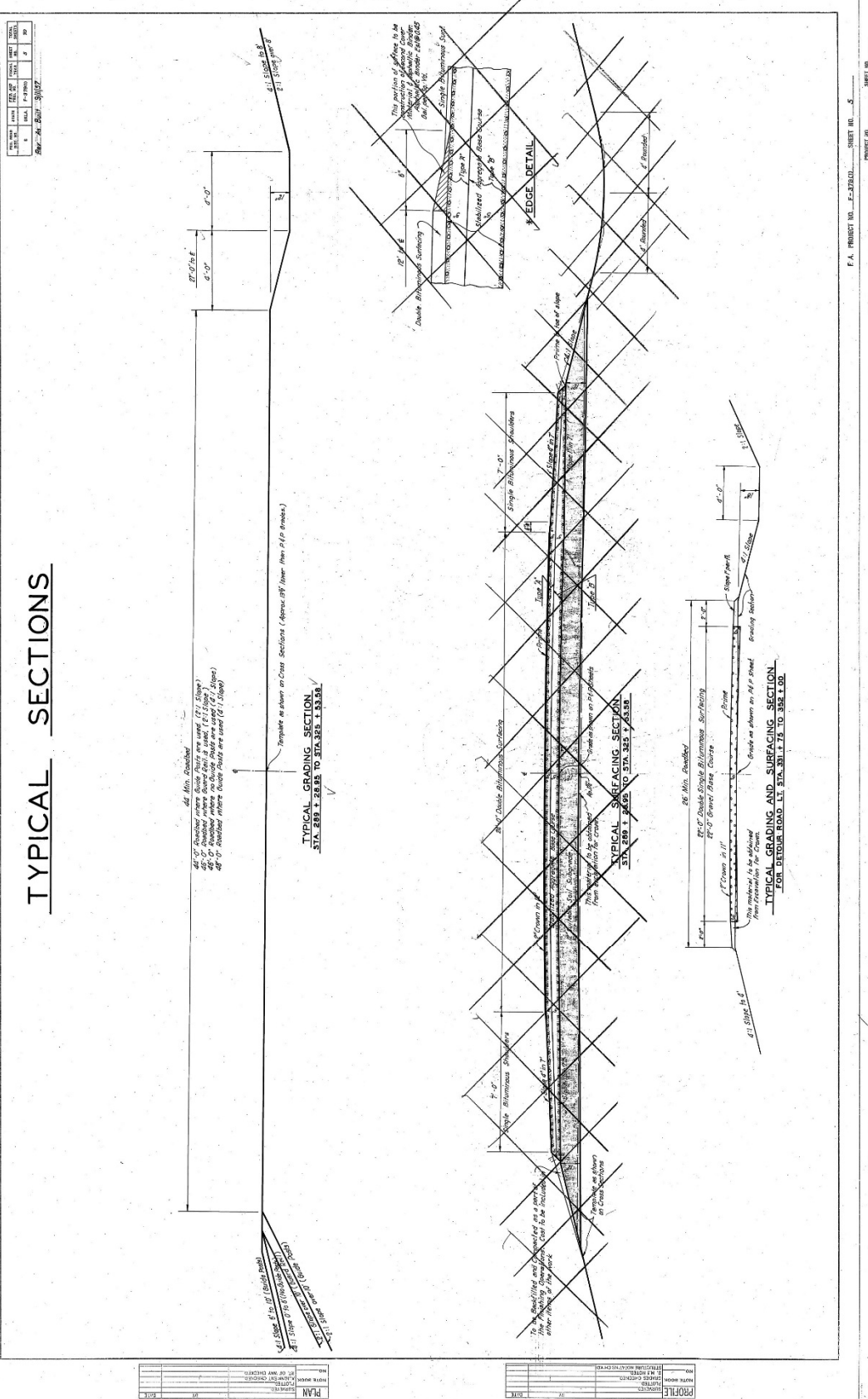
## TYPICAL





## SHEET 5

## TYPICAL      SECTIONS





## SHEET 6

## SUMMARY SHEET

REVISIONS							
Description	Sy.	Date					
Change Str. No. 14-015 after Const. Date 4-10-51							

FED. ROAD DIST. NO.	STATE	FED. AID PROJ. NO.	FISCAL YEAR	BORROW TOTAL BORROWS
6	OCLA.	F-979(1)	6	70

*Ref. As Built 9/1/57*

[illegible][illegible]



## PAY QUANTITIES- BRIDGES - F-379(D)

[illegible]

Note: Construction Joint on Str. No. 5 to be placed as directed by Res. Engr., so as to permit placing of Pipe for

## BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION NOTES

### ROADWAY CONSTRUCTION NOTES

Backfill around all structures and embankment in Dikes, inaccessible to Rollers, shall be compacted with Mechanical Tampos. Cost to be included in other items of the work.

Guide Posts to be Removed and Stored" shall be stored on the R/W as directed by the Res. Engr.

## ROADWAY CONSTRUCTION NOTES

**CONTRACT NO. 2**

① Include SPECIFICATION for Minor Residential Construction.

② \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

③ \_\_\_\_\_

④ Location of 8" Pipe Underdrain, if and where required, to be determined by the Resident Engineer. Quantities estimated only.

⑤ Estimate J. 2.1 Part 20 Sq. Yds. (Surface) (Detour - Road 1 (\$ 01) Sq. Yds.) each classification.

\* NOTE: See Spec Prox for Const. of Emb in Lanes That Controlled Connection"

—

CONTRACT NO. 5

Est. @ 0.35¢ per sq. ft. of members (p. 555, Vol. 1), includes

© E.P. Claver 70 No. Vd. of Novato 6. (12, 2005 No. Vd.) includes  
Industrial Construction  
© 1995 by the 100 No. Vd. of Chelmsford 12, 2005 No. Vd. of

Incidental instruction ...  
Esp. 0.00 gal. per Sq. ft. of Base course (20/81 Sq. ft.)

Est. of Social Sec. Va. of Curran (1999-2000) 100% (100% of total)  
 per Md. ed. (1999-2000) 100% (100% of total)  
 Est. of C.V. 100% (100% of total) 100% (100% of total)

Est @ 1.0¢ per sq. yd. of surface (20.98 sq. yd.) @ 1.0¢ per sq. yd. = 20.98

Est. @ 100 lbs. per Cu. Ft. - Includes Incidental Construction.  
© Includes Incidental Construction & Acquiring of Property.

Includes incidental construction of the road. An Project.  
Estimated \$100,000 per mile of pipeline. Estimated (1983) Miles.  
Estimated 100,000 and over miles. Estimated (1983) Miles.

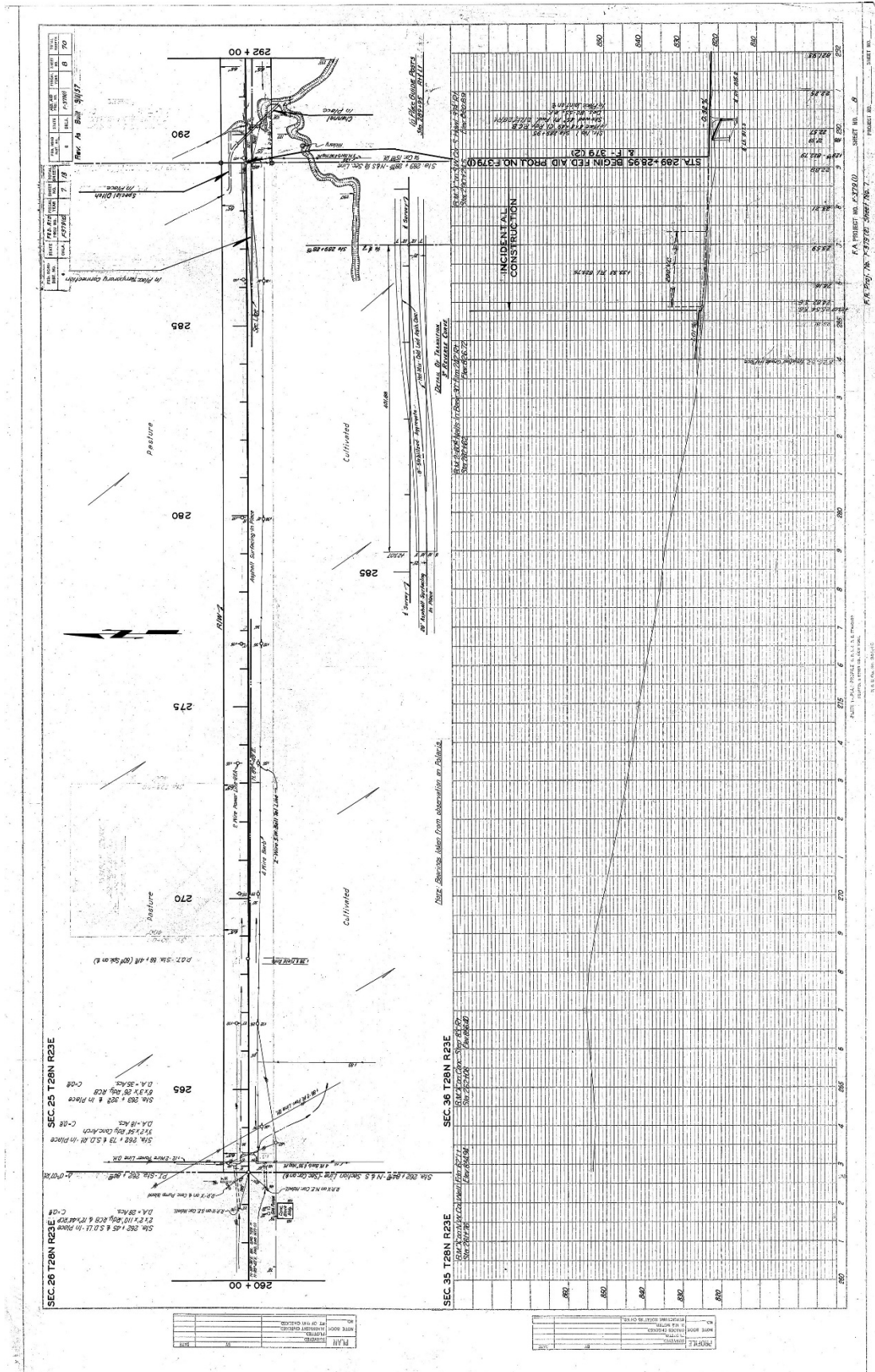
1871

100

100



SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE  
 SEE INDEX TO COPIES FOR CAPTION  
 SHEET 8





**PLAN**

290+00 295 300 305 310 315 320 322+00

**PROFILE**

600 620 640 660 680 700 720 740 760 780 800

Stationing: 290+00, 295, 300, 305, 310, 315, 320, 322+00

Vertical Axis: 600, 620, 640, 660, 680, 700, 720, 740, 760, 780, 800

Horizontal Axis: 290+00, 295, 300, 305, 310, 315, 320, 322+00

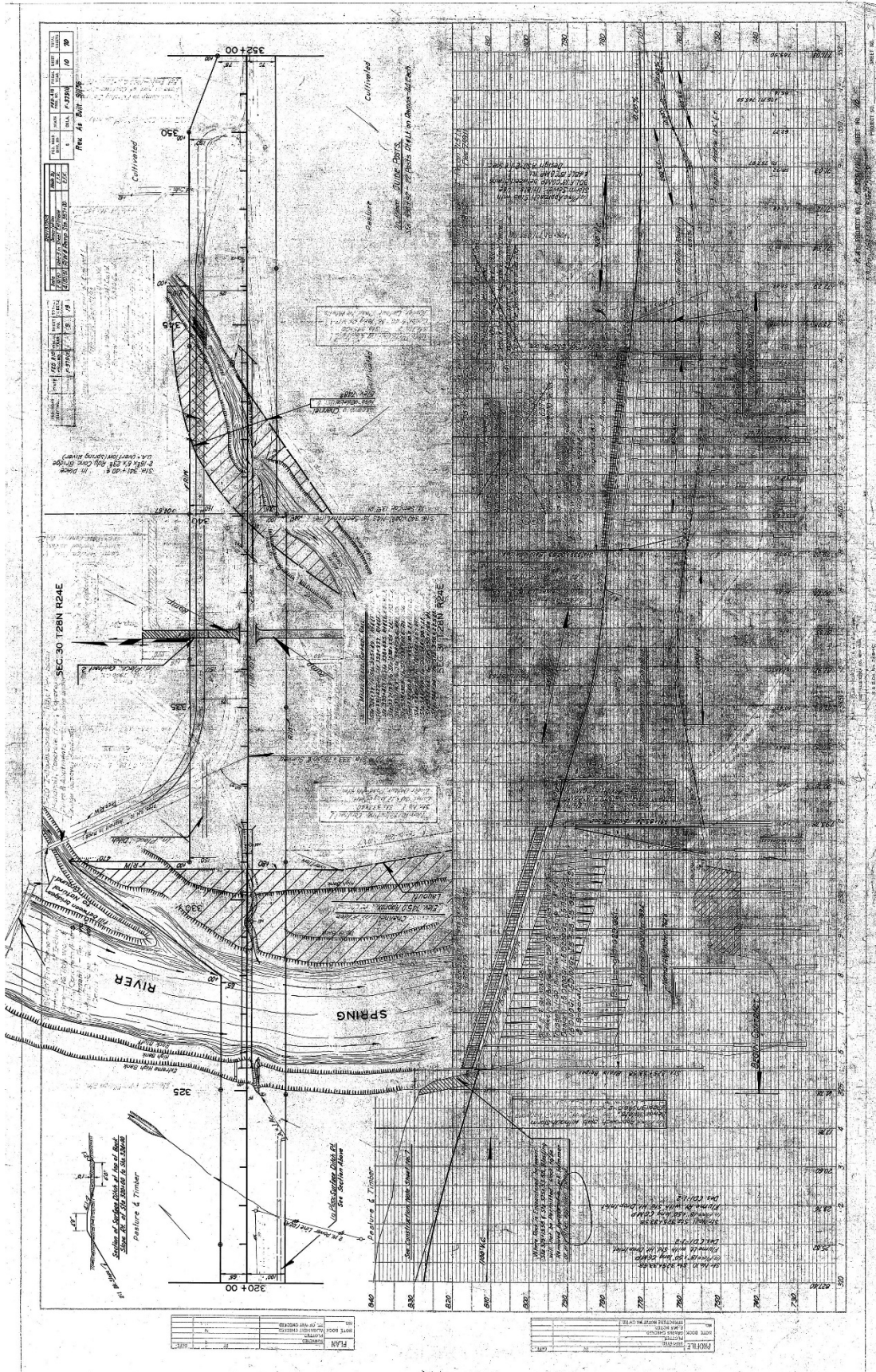
Labels: Pasture & Timber, Ditch, Canal, Structure, Elevation, Stationing

Scale: 1" = 40' (Horizontal), 1" = 20' (Vertical)

Project Details: Proposed Canal, Stationing, Elevation, Scale



SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE  
SEE INDEX TO COPIES FOR CAPTION  
SHEET 10





**PLAN**

350+00 360 370 380 382+00

**Profile**

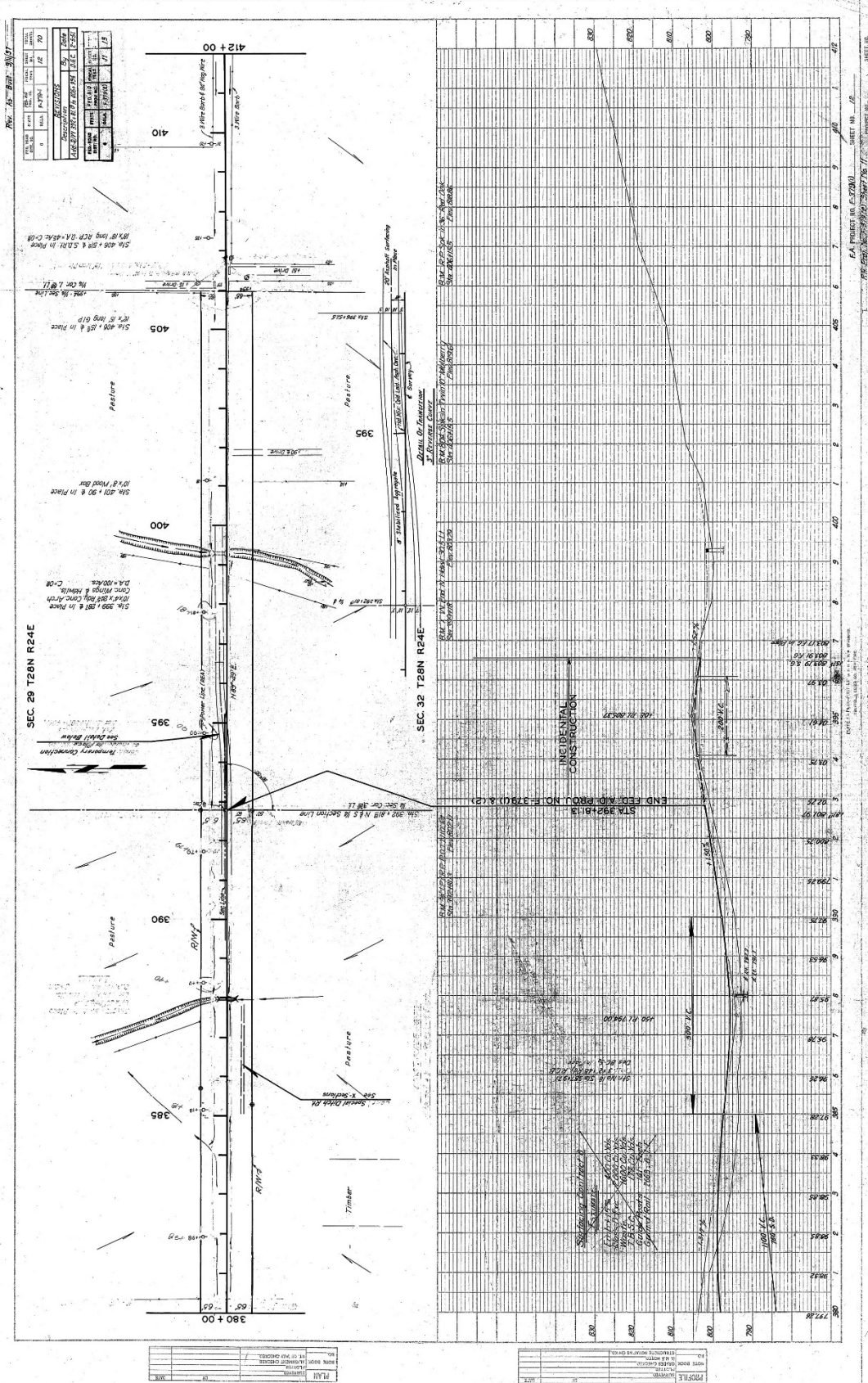
700 710 720

**PROFILES**

Profile No.	Profile Name	Profile Description	Profile Stationing	Profile Elevation
1	SEC. 28 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 350+00 to 382+00	350+00 to 382+00	700 to 720
2	SEC. 30 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 382+00 to 390+00	382+00 to 390+00	700 to 720
3	SEC. 32 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 390+00 to 400+00	390+00 to 400+00	700 to 720
4	SEC. 34 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 400+00 to 410+00	400+00 to 410+00	700 to 720
5	SEC. 36 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 410+00 to 420+00	410+00 to 420+00	700 to 720
6	SEC. 38 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 420+00 to 430+00	420+00 to 430+00	700 to 720
7	SEC. 40 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 430+00 to 440+00	430+00 to 440+00	700 to 720
8	SEC. 42 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 440+00 to 450+00	440+00 to 450+00	700 to 720
9	SEC. 44 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 450+00 to 460+00	450+00 to 460+00	700 to 720
10	SEC. 46 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 460+00 to 470+00	460+00 to 470+00	700 to 720
11	SEC. 48 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 470+00 to 480+00	470+00 to 480+00	700 to 720
12	SEC. 50 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 480+00 to 490+00	480+00 to 490+00	700 to 720
13	SEC. 52 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 490+00 to 500+00	490+00 to 500+00	700 to 720
14	SEC. 54 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 500+00 to 510+00	500+00 to 510+00	700 to 720
15	SEC. 56 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 510+00 to 520+00	510+00 to 520+00	700 to 720
16	SEC. 58 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 520+00 to 530+00	520+00 to 530+00	700 to 720
17	SEC. 60 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 530+00 to 540+00	530+00 to 540+00	700 to 720
18	SEC. 62 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 540+00 to 550+00	540+00 to 550+00	700 to 720
19	SEC. 64 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 550+00 to 560+00	550+00 to 560+00	700 to 720
20	SEC. 66 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 560+00 to 570+00	560+00 to 570+00	700 to 720
21	SEC. 68 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 570+00 to 580+00	570+00 to 580+00	700 to 720
22	SEC. 70 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 580+00 to 590+00	580+00 to 590+00	700 to 720
23	SEC. 72 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 590+00 to 600+00	590+00 to 600+00	700 to 720
24	SEC. 74 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 600+00 to 610+00	600+00 to 610+00	700 to 720
25	SEC. 76 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 610+00 to 620+00	610+00 to 620+00	700 to 720
26	SEC. 78 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 620+00 to 630+00	620+00 to 630+00	700 to 720
27	SEC. 80 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 630+00 to 640+00	630+00 to 640+00	700 to 720
28	SEC. 82 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 640+00 to 650+00	640+00 to 650+00	700 to 720
29	SEC. 84 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 650+00 to 660+00	650+00 to 660+00	700 to 720
30	SEC. 86 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 660+00 to 670+00	660+00 to 670+00	700 to 720
31	SEC. 88 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 670+00 to 680+00	670+00 to 680+00	700 to 720
32	SEC. 90 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 680+00 to 690+00	680+00 to 690+00	700 to 720
33	SEC. 92 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 690+00 to 700+00	690+00 to 700+00	700 to 720
34	SEC. 94 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 700+00 to 710+00	700+00 to 710+00	700 to 720
35	SEC. 96 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 710+00 to 720+00	710+00 to 720+00	700 to 720
36	SEC. 98 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 720+00 to 730+00	720+00 to 730+00	700 to 720
37	SEC. 100 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 730+00 to 740+00	730+00 to 740+00	700 to 720
38	SEC. 102 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 740+00 to 750+00	740+00 to 750+00	700 to 720
39	SEC. 104 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 750+00 to 760+00	750+00 to 760+00	700 to 720
40	SEC. 106 T28N R24E	Profile of road from station 760+00 to 770+00		

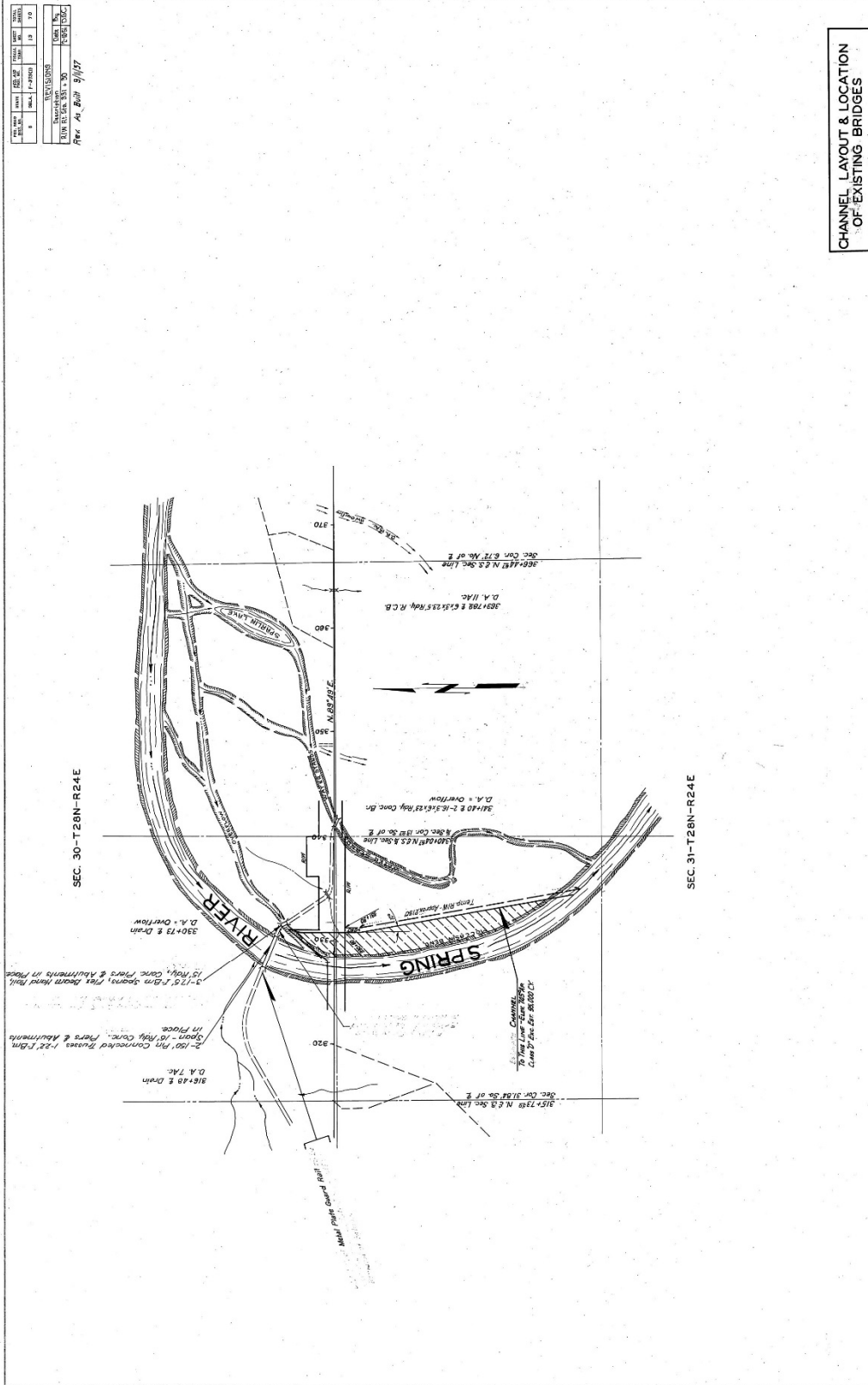


SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE  
 SEE INDEX TO COPIES FOR CAPTION  
 SHEET 12





SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE  
 SEE INDEX TO COPIES FOR CAPTION  
 SHEET 13



CHANNEL LAYOUT & LOCATION  
 OF EXISTING BRIDGES

E.A. PROJECT NO. 7-23602 SHEET NO. 13  
 PROJECT NO. 7-23602 SHEET NO. 13

PLAN	DATE
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**REVISIONS**

NO.	DATE	BY	CHKD.	REMARKS
1	10/1/54	W. J. H.	J. H. H.	REVISED 2/1/55
2	2/1/55	W. J. H.	J. H. H.	"
3	2/1/55	W. J. H.	J. H. H.	"
4	2/1/55	W. J. H.	J. H. H.	"
5	2/1/55	W. J. H.	J. H. H.	"

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

PROJECT NO. F-3750 SHEET NO. 22

STRUCTURE NO. 12

GENERAL ELEVATION 8

PLAN

STA. 328 + 68.41

APPROXIMATE

FAP E-379 (1)

**BRIDGE DATA**

BRIDGE NO. 12

BRIDGE TYPE: TRUSS

BRIDGE LENGTH: 100.00

BRIDGE WIDTH: 20.00

BRIDGE ELEVATION: 8

BRIDGE PIER NO. 1

BRIDGE PIER NO. 2

BRIDGE PIER NO. 3

BRIDGE PIER NO. 4

BRIDGE PIER NO. 5

BRIDGE PIER NO. 6

BRIDGE PIER NO. 7

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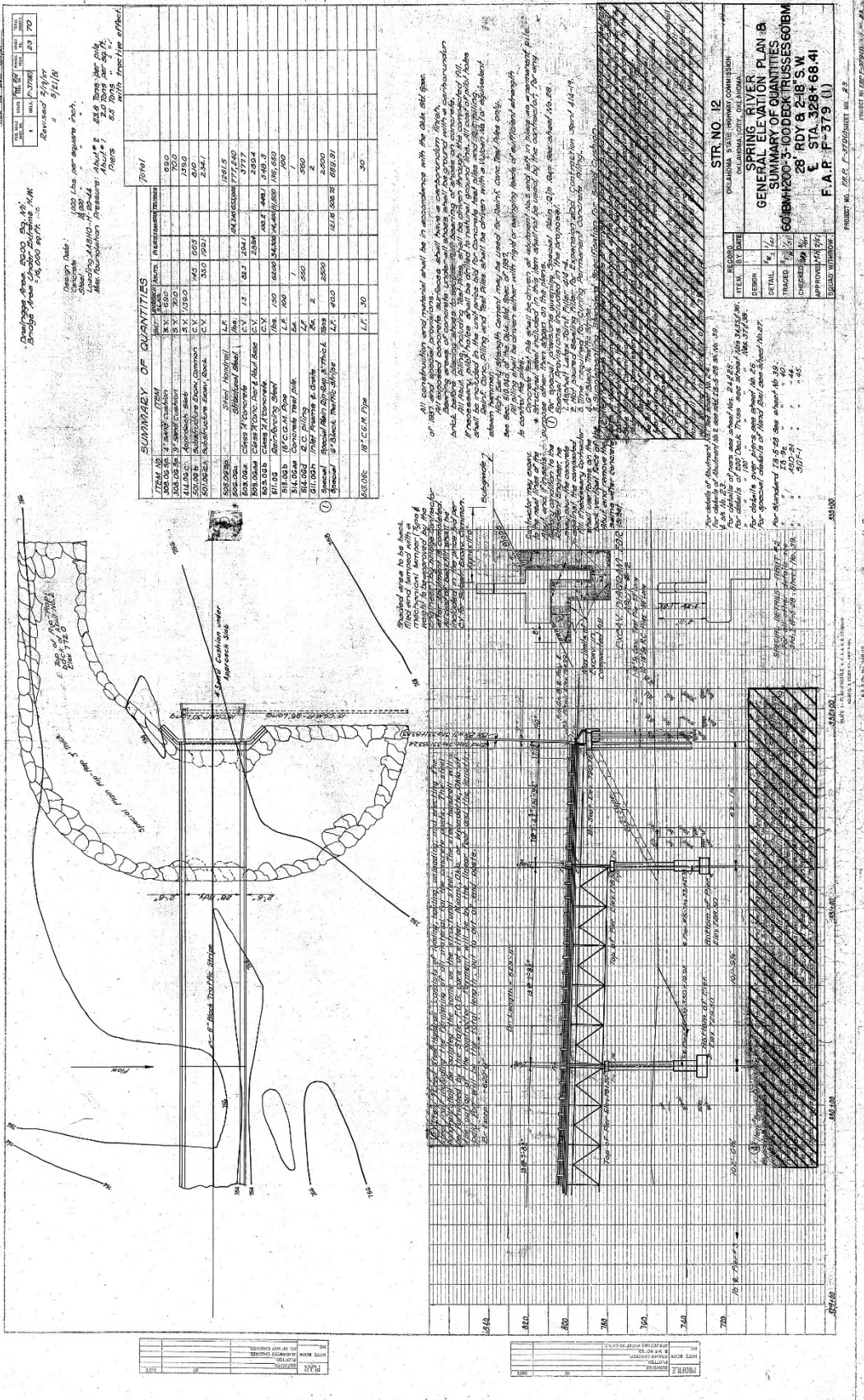
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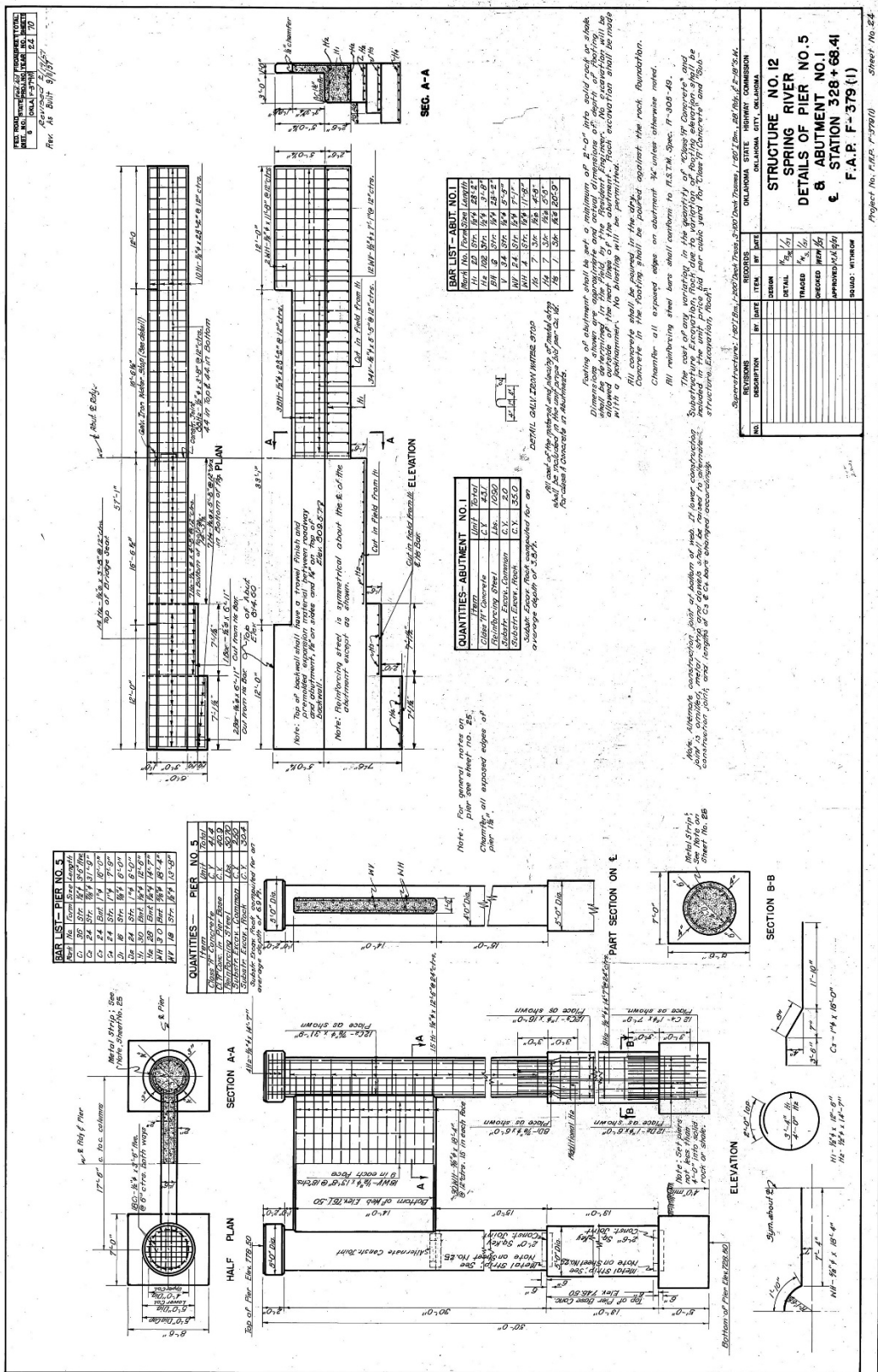


SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE  
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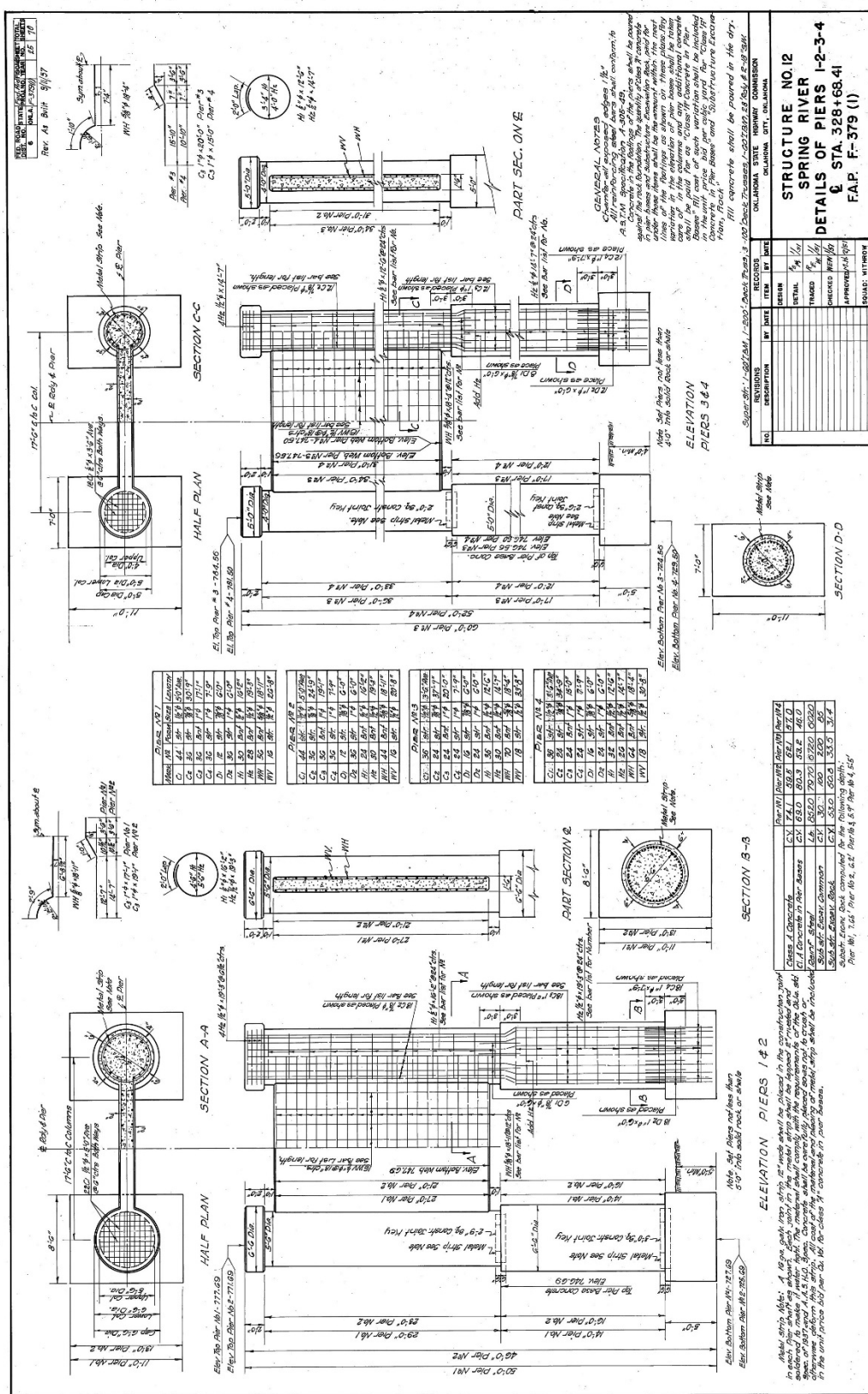




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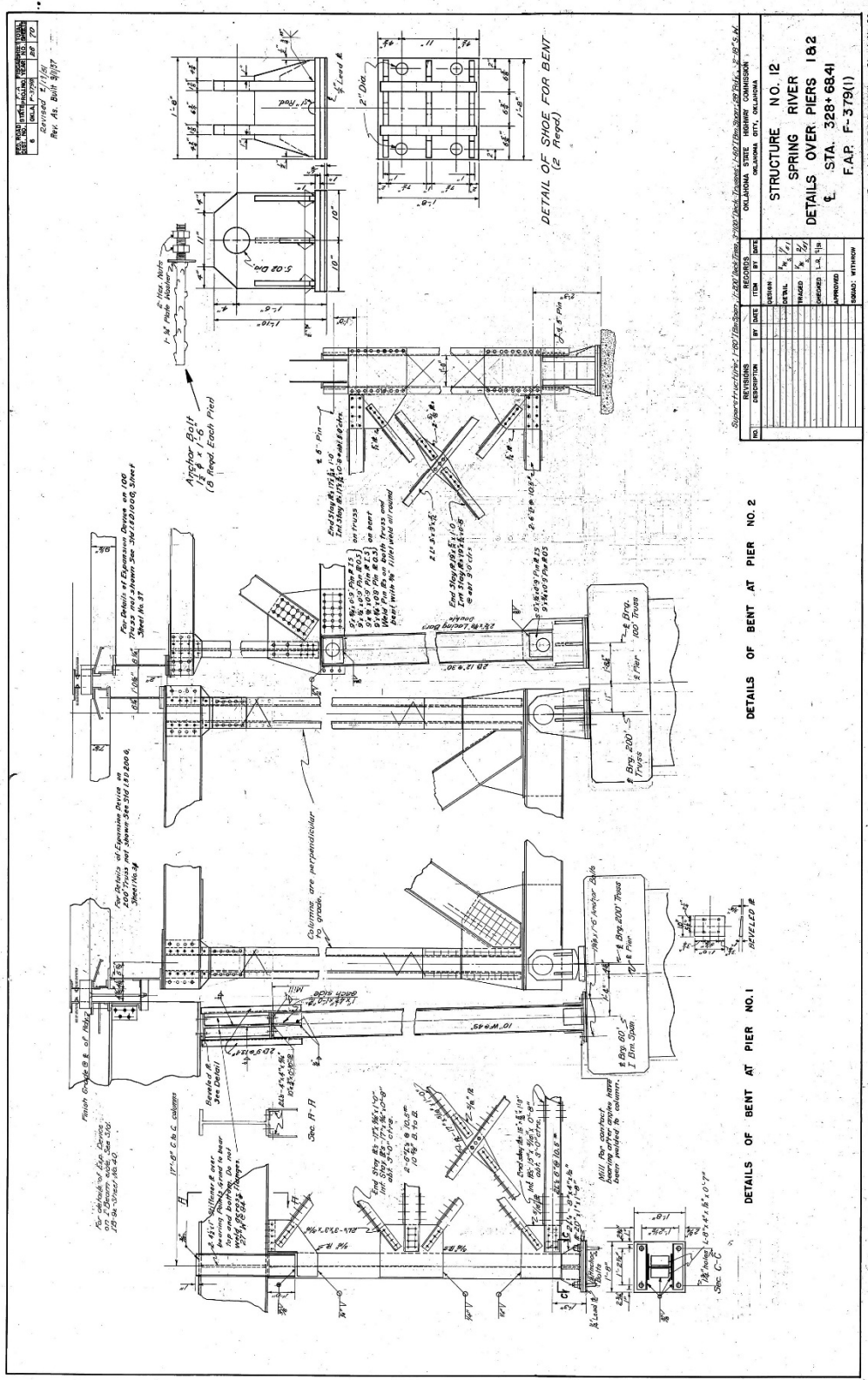








SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE  
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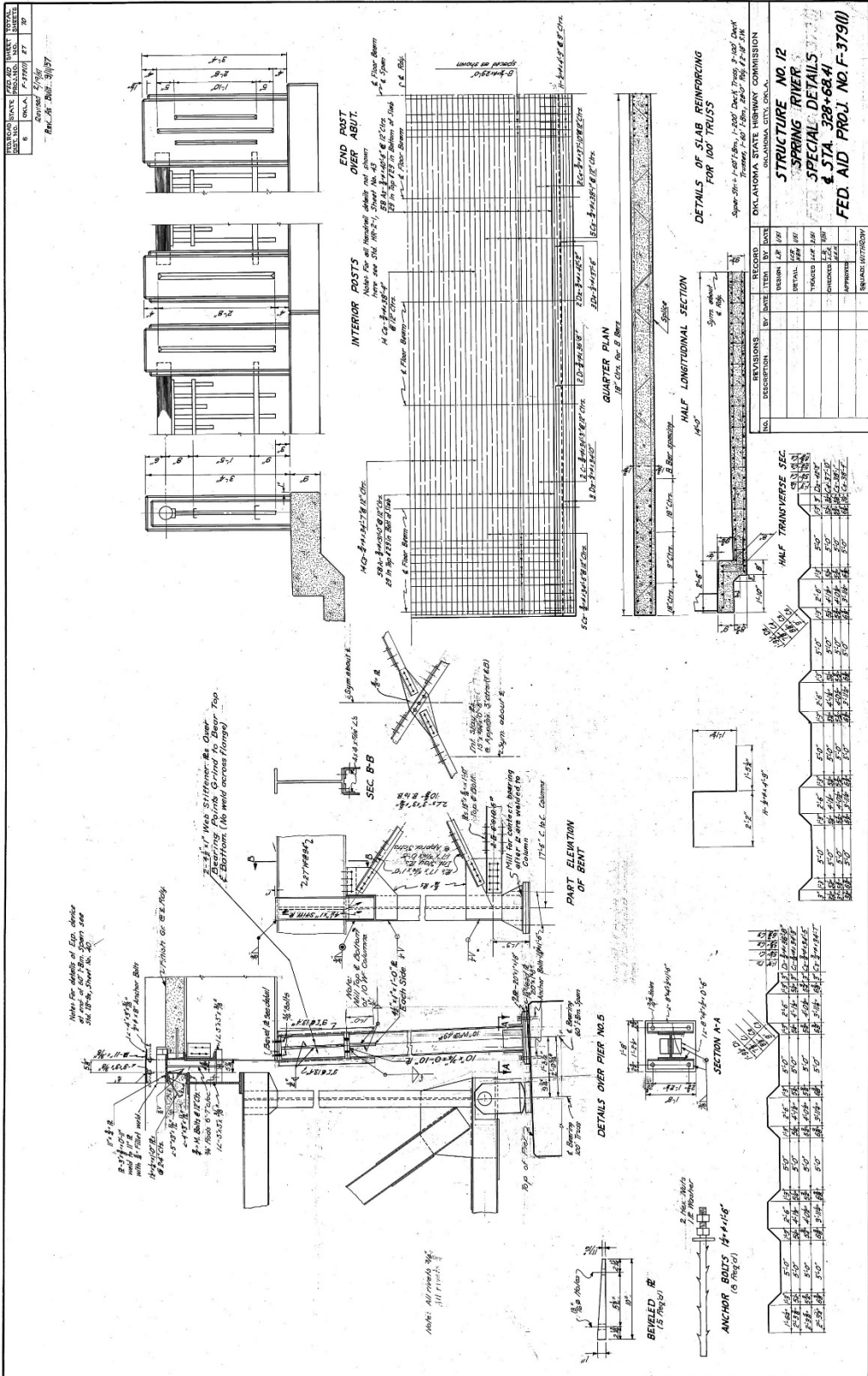
DETAILS OF BENT AT PIER NO. 1

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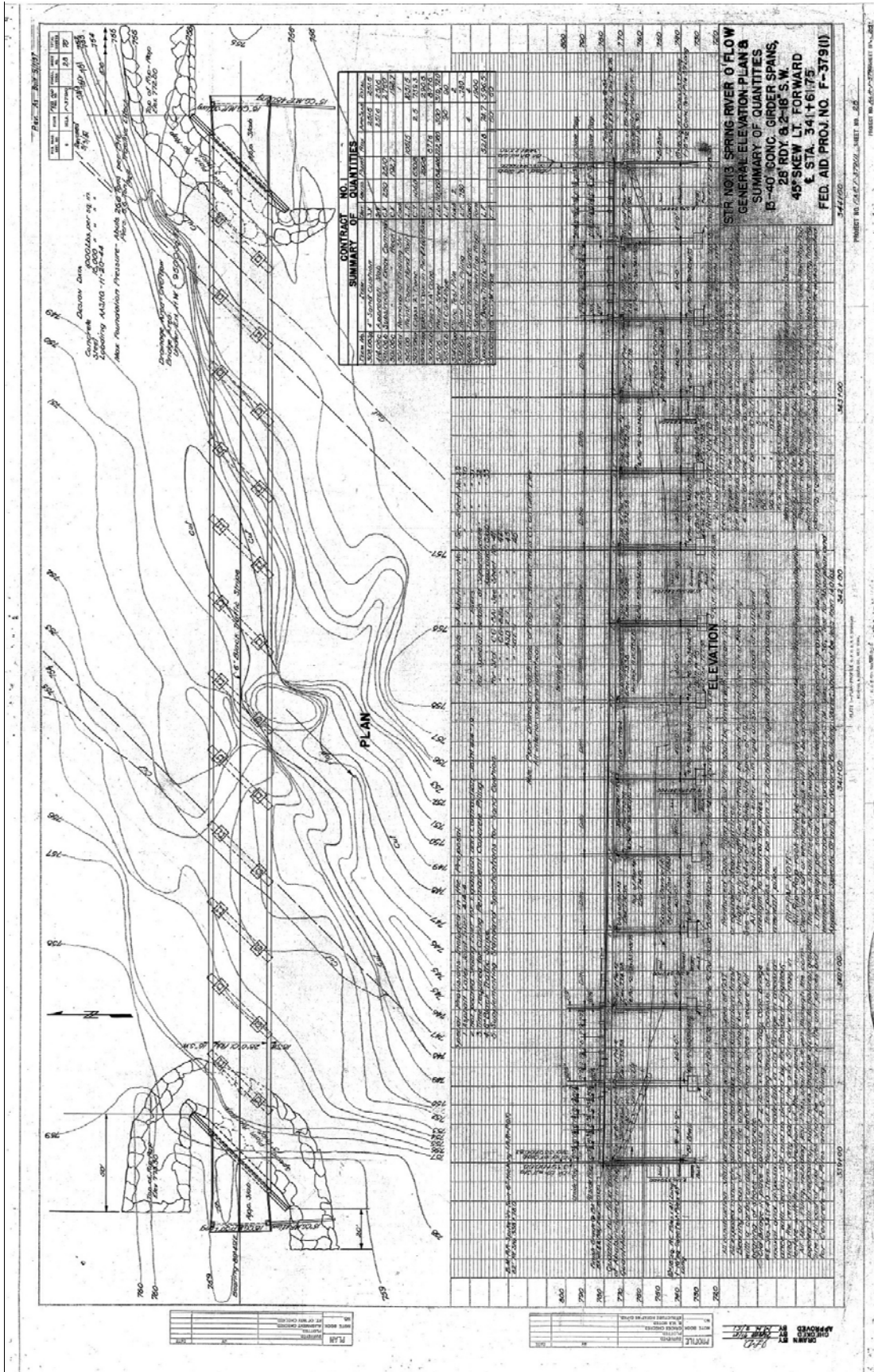


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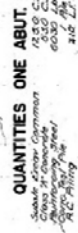




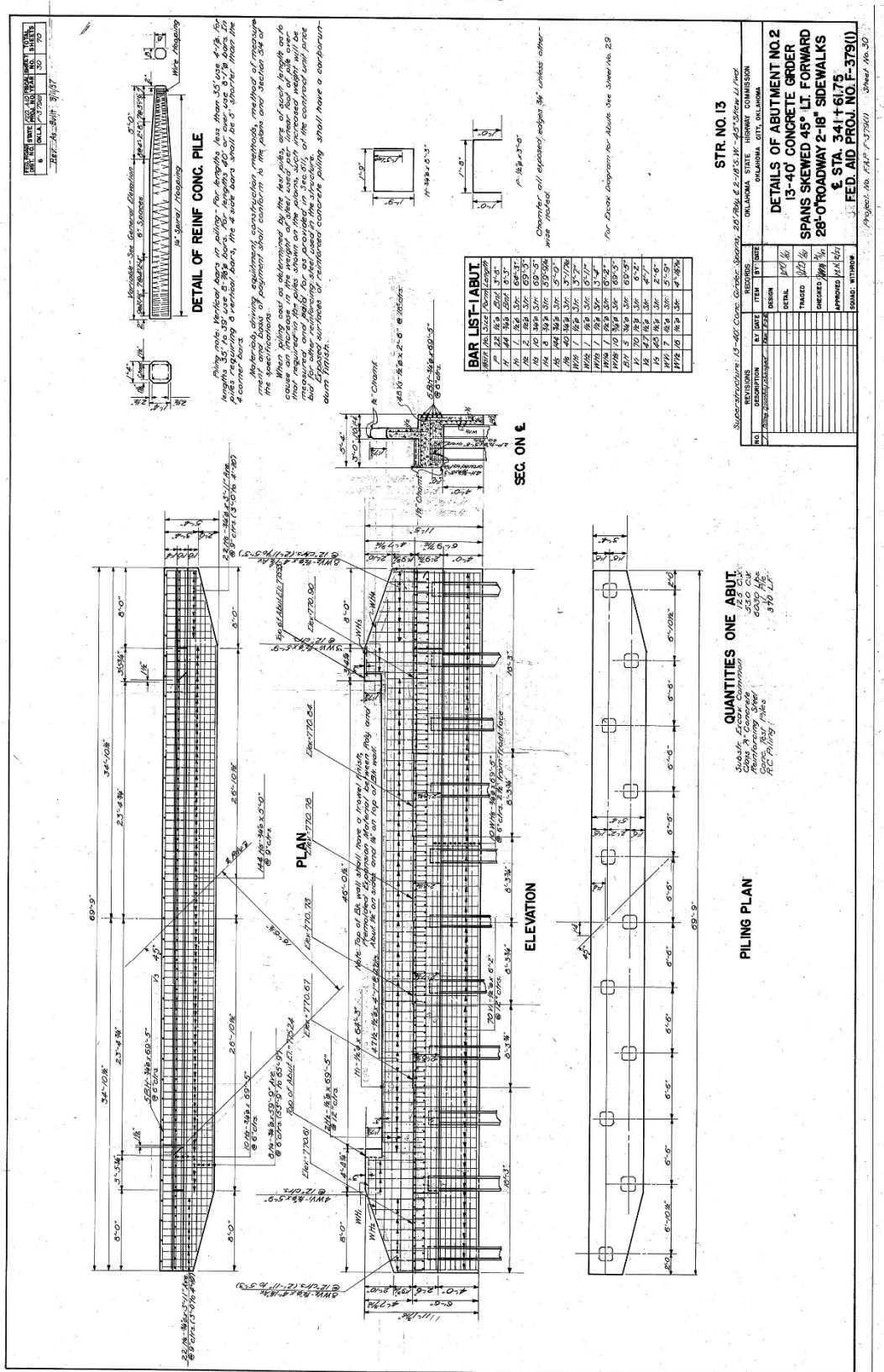
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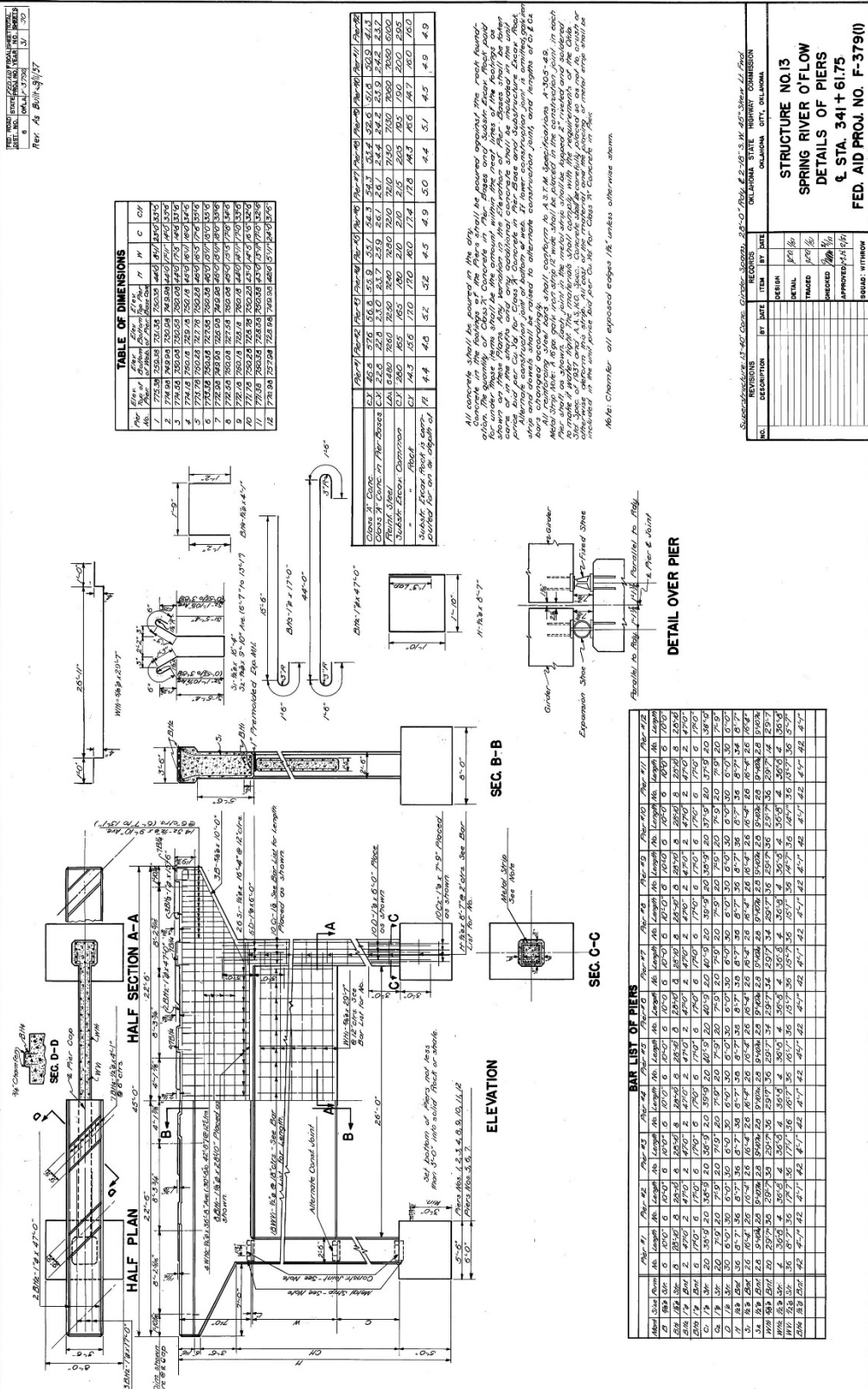
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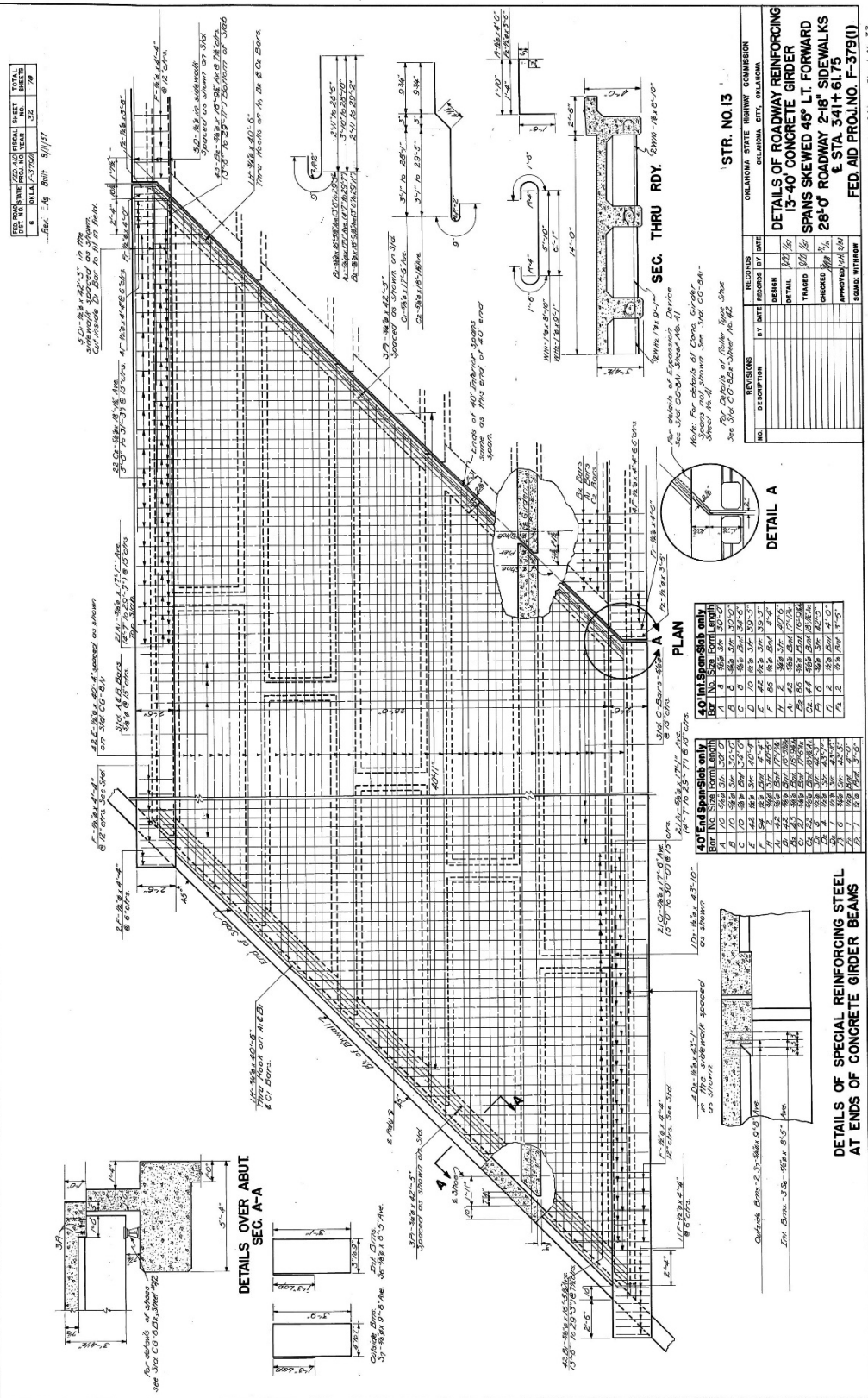




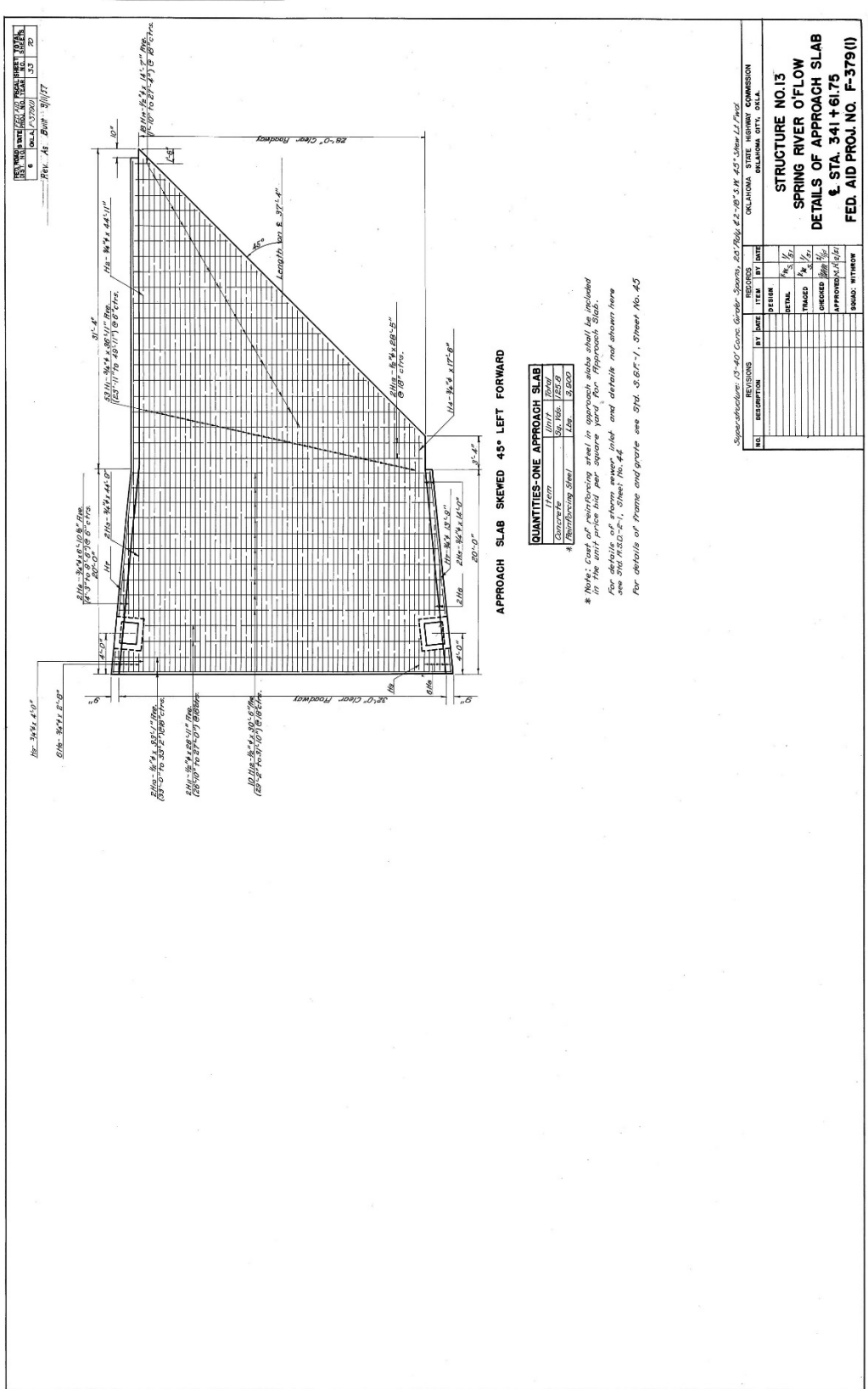
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SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE

Spanning Spring River

Miami vicinity

Ottawa County

Oklahoma

JP Numbers 24272(04) & 24278(04)

Structure Number 5824 0831X

NBI Number 12853

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA



## HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

### SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE

**Location:** Spanning Spring River approximately 6 miles east of Miami in eastern Ottawa County.  
UTM: Zone 15S, 342632E, 4082063N

**Legal Location:** On the line between Section 30 and Section 31, T28N R24E.

**Map Reference:** U.S.G.S. 7.5' series, MIAMI SE, OKLA (1978)

**Present Owner:** Ottawa County  
Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT)

**Present Use:** Currently on ODOT Adopt-A-Bridge Program.

**Significance:** The Spring River Bridge is a notable example of a Warren with Verticals Deck Truss Bridge. One of approximately only five such bridges remaining across the state, this relatively rare bridge type is further significant because of its picturesque location and its association with flood control and transportation history in rural Ottawa County.

**Project Information:** Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) Level II equivalent documentation was performed May through June 2014. Kelli Gaston, Architectural Historian, conducted an onsite visit, took photographs, and compiled the historical information. The photographs have been digitally reproduced following National Park Service (NPS) standards for digital images. The HAER recordation serves as mitigation for the removal of the structure from vehicular traffic.

**List of Preparers:**

Historian/ Architectural Historian/ Photographer:	Kelli E. Gaston Consultant to Geo-Marine, Inc. Plano, Texas
Principal Investigator:	Marsha Prior, Ph.D. Geo-Marine, Inc. Plano, Texas
Report Production:	Anna Banda Geo-Marine, Inc. Plano, Texas



## **PART I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

### **A. Physical History:**

- 1. Date of Construction:** 1952
- 2. Architect/Engineer:** Homer X. White
- 3. Builder/Contractor/Supplier:** J.A. Raines, General Contractor
- 4. Original Plans:** Not Available
- 5. Alterations and Additions:** Some concrete posts have been replaced.

### **B. Historical Context:**

#### **1. Introduction**

In outlying rural communities across Oklahoma, bridges frequently stand as the most notable examples of expert engineering. These functional structures are artifacts representative of a community's development as well as changes in engineering practices over time. The bridge along Oklahoma Highway 10 (OK-10 or E100 Road) over Spring River, east of Miami in eastern Ottawa County, was a crucial "flood-proof" crossing for residents needing to travel from the county seat in Miami to portions of eastern Ottawa County. For over 50 years, through numerous floods, the bridge over Spring River provided stable and flood-proof transportation across a large body of water—a monument to the efforts of county commissioners and the state department of transportation to improving infrastructure across the county.

The area that would become Ottawa County is located in far northeastern Oklahoma. Geographically, the eastern portion of the county is part of the Ozark Plateau, and the western portion lies within the Osage Plains. The principal rivers in the county are the Neosho River (also known as the Grand) and Spring River, both of which now drain into the manmade Lake of the Cherokees (also known as Grand Lake), which was completed in 1940 and located southeast of Miami.

Archeological evidence indicates that Ottawa County was home to a number of Native American tribes across the millennia, but historically, the land that became Ottawa County was part of lands set aside by the federal government for the resettlement of the Osage Tribe. In 1828, the Western Cherokees were also granted lands in the area, and in 1831, the federal government set aside part of those tribal lands for use by smaller tribes also being relocated. These tribes included several groups of Seneca as well as Shawnee from Ohio. Later, they were joined by members of the Quapaw tribe, and others, including the Peoria, Kaskaskias, Weas, Piankeshaw, Miami, Ottawa, Wyandotte, and Modoc. The Neosho Agency oversaw intergovernmental affairs for all the tribes in the area. Several Indian Schools operated nearby, including the Seneca Indian School, St. Mary's of the Quapaw, and other smaller schools serving various tribes (Oklahoma Encyclopedia 2014a).



This part of the county possessed fertile farmland and good grazing land with plenty of access to fresh water (Nieberding 1983). The area became an important stop on regional transportation routes, including the Texas Road and the Shawnee Trail. Rail transportation began with the arrival of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad in 1871 (later the St Louis and San Francisco). The nearby city of Miami was founded in 1891 by the Miami Town Company, a business owned by several locally prominent tribesmen. The town site included approximately 600 acres of land selected for its proximity to the Neosho River and nearby grazing lands. City lots were auctioned off by the Miami Town Company (Miami Weekly Herald 1901; Nieberding 1983:5, 26A).

Natural resources dramatically impacted the development of Ottawa County and the city of Miami. Zinc and lead were first successfully mined near Peoria in 1891. This first successful mine resulted in an influx of people to Miami and led to the creation of new communities as mining camps opened at Picher, Lincolnville, Commerce, Century, and Cardin. By 1926, Ottawa County was the largest source of lead and zinc in the world. Other important natural resources included limestone, timber, and the abrasive, tripoli<sup>1</sup> (Oklahoma Encyclopedia 2014a).

When Oklahoma gained statehood in 1907, the county was named in honor of one of the local tribes, and the city of Miami won a contest to host the county seat. The first county offices were located in a dance hall in Miami. After statehood, the area grew so quickly that lumber had to be floated in from Kansas or other parts of the Cherokee Nation to meet demand in Miami (Nieberding 1983:3, 4, and 26A; Oklahoma Encyclopedia 2014b).

The Neosho and Spring Rivers have been a benefit and a curse to nearby city residents and farmers both. They provide a source for drinking water as well as water for crops, but the rivers are large, difficult to cross, and prone to flooding. Attempts at flood control began in the late 1930s with the creation of the Pensacola Dam and the Grand Lake (of the Cherokees). The Neosho River, however, continued to flood with major floods occurring in 1943, 1951, 1986, 1994, and 2007. Flood control continues to be an issue as local, state, and federal agencies attempt to maintain a water level at Grand Lake that eases the threat of flooding along the Neosho and Spring Rivers (NOAA 2014a and 2014b; Stotts n.d.).

## **2. Development of the Ottawa County, Spring River Warren with Verticals Deck Truss Bridge**

The Spring River Warren with Verticals Deck Truss Bridge, constructed in 1952 by J.A. Raines, General Contractor, is located on OK-10, approximately 6 miles east of Miami, Oklahoma, between S610 Road (Highway 137) and S630 Road. OK-10 is a two-lane paved highway with a narrow shoulder, surrounded by grazing land and a significant number of trees. There are a few scattered homes and businesses in the vicinity. The area along the river is very picturesque, including the locally famous “Devil’s Promenade” and “Lover’s Leap.” An early newspaper report described the area as such:

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<sup>1</sup> Mines in the area closed by the 1960s, leaving an environmental disaster. Eventually, the federal government became involved with cleanup efforts, creating a Superfund site at Tar Creek in 2000 (Oklahoma Encyclopedia 2014a).



The road is good and leads through the extremely pretty country lying between Tar Creek and Spring River. In every direction as far as the view extends is a gently undulating prairie covered with fields of corn and meadows of native grass (The Miami Herald 1901).

Ottawa County is traversed by numerous streams as well as larger rivers and bodies of water. Prior to the arrival of the railroad, these waterways served as important transportation routes. In particular, Ottawa County is drained by the Neosho and Spring Rivers. The abundance of this resource has helped bring prosperity to the state, but bridging these bodies of water has long posed a challenge to citizens, municipalities, and the state at large. The earliest attempts at bridge building were largely private, utilizing locally available materials. Such bridges, though, were unreliable, often dangerous, and required constant maintenance. After statehood, road and bridge building maintenance became a county issue and managing miles of roads and countless bridges posed a significant problem for county commissioners. Always mindful of limited budgets, bridges constructed during this period were frequently of inferior quality. In many counties across the state, county commissioners often chose prefabricated bridges, and even some suspension bridges, manufactured by companies such as the Oklahoma Bridge and Structural Steel. These bridges were relatively unstable and did not provide long-term solutions to transportation problems. Standardized bridges were ordered from catalogs or from bridge salesmen representing national or regional companies. The mass produced trusses were transported by rail and then assembled by locals onsite with a company representative overseeing the work (King 1993).

Bridge building efforts improved dramatically in Oklahoma after the 1920s as more and more impassable crossings were safely and permanently traversed. In spite of bridge improvements, flooding in Ottawa County was responsible for damage to bridges both large and small. One of the most significant floods occurred in July 1951. Within that month, record rains fell in Ottawa County and in areas to the north and northeast. Both the Neosho and Spring Rivers experienced flooding, with OK-10 east of Miami being closed near Spring River sometime prior to July 4. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of July, the local paper reported that up to 9 inches of rain had fallen within 48 hours, prompting a headline that read, "Highest Water in Years May Peril District." Local rainfall was significant, but similar weather occurring in Kansas and Missouri also impacted water levels in Ottawa's local rivers. By July 12, the Miami paper was predicting the "worst flood in history," calling the expected damage to be "catastrophic." By Friday, July 13, citizens in low lying areas were urged to evacuate and the worst followed on Monday, July 16, when the rivers crested at the highest point ever recorded. Early reports indicated multiple bridge washouts, but did not specifically mention a bridge over Spring River (Miami Daily News Record 1951a, 1951b, 1951c, 1951d, 1951e, 1951f, 1951g, 1951h, 1951i).

Although the exact extent of any damage to the bridge over Spring River due to the 1951 flood is uncertain, by 1952, local and state transportation officials deemed it necessary to build a new bridge. The *Miami Daily News Record* described the pre-1952 bridge over Spring River on OK-10 as being located in "one of the state's oldest river crossings." The old bridge had been constructed by Ottawa County before the road became part of OK-10, and was only 325 feet long and 18 feet wide. Furthermore, it was not designed to accommodate modern automobile traffic. The paper described the bridge as a "weary



structure” that “has been a costly maintenance job for the state for many years” (Miami Daily News Record 1952).

In June 1952, the *Miami Daily News Record* announced that the construction “of a new bridge over Spring River east of Miami, is moving about on schedule despite delays caused by occasional inavailability of steel.” The article identified the contractor as Frank Raines and Sons Construction. On July 3, the newspaper noted that the state highway commission was “taking final steps to close out the State highway No. 10 flood area on Spring River, five miles east of Miami.” Project F-379(1) included road paving and the “building [of] two big bridges and approaches on a high enough level to keep the river from blocking the road with floods.” The article described the bridges as a “620-foot steel deck truss and a companion 520-foot concrete girder span overflow bridge” being built by J.A. Raines, a Muskogee contractor, at a cost of \$482,672. A photo of the bridge was included in the subsequent State Highway commissioner’s report (OK Department of Highways 1952) and the bridge was open to traffic by the end of 1952.

The Spring River Warren with Verticals Deck Truss Bridge is a notable example of this particular bridge type. The deck truss never rivaled the popularity of the through or pony truss bridges constructed in Oklahoma, but this relatively rare bridge design was suited to particular bridge crossings, like that at Spring River and the Canadian River between Lexington and Purcell in McClain/Cleveland Counties. According to King (1993), this bridge type was a “good choice” where “enough room existed below the bridge for its truss and where builders desired a more open bridge without the confining side panels of a through truss.” The crossing at Spring River stands high above the river, and the surrounding environment is very picturesque. With the truss below the deck, travelers had a wide-open view of the surrounding landscape.

The Spring River Bridge was inventoried as part of the ODOT Planning and Research Division Cultural Resources Program 1993 assessment of Oklahoma highway bridges (King 1993). This study examined metal truss bridges and concrete and stone arch bridges longer than 20 feet in length built prior to 1955. The study determined the Spring River Bridge to be not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at that time as there were more notable examples of the same bridge type in other locations across the state. The bridge was also included in the 2007 evaluation (Eddings). By that time, roughly half of the deck truss bridges evaluated in the 1993 study were no longer extant. As such, the Spring River Bridge was subsequently determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a surviving, notable example of a Warren with Verticals Deck Truss Bridge.

## **PART II. STRUCTURAL/DESIGN INFORMATION**

- A. General Description:** The Spring River Warren with Verticals Deck Truss Bridge carries two lanes of traffic along OK-10, a paved state highway running east to west approximately 6 miles east of Miami in Ottawa County, Oklahoma. The 630-foot bridge features four Warren with Verticals Deck Trusses and one concrete girder approach span. The bridge is just over 28 feet wide curb to curb, with a total width of just over 33 feet. The bridge has riveted connections. The top chord of the main span features channel with stays as do the bottom chord and the vertical members. The diagonals have channel with lace. The bridge also has an ornate railing with concrete posts and steel rails. The bridge deck is concrete. The substructure of the bridge features concrete abutments and piers.



1. **Character:** The Warren with Verticals Deck Truss design of the Spring River Bridge is indicative of its rural setting and period of construction. The structure demonstrates the efforts made to improve rural roads, encourage development, and also to contend with an area known for flooding. Additionally, the bridge design allowed for a view of the surrounding picturesque landscape.
  2. **Condition of Fabric:** The Spring River Warren with Verticals Deck Truss Bridge shows evidence of normal deterioration due to age and exposure to the elements. Several concrete posts have been replaced.
- B. Site Information:** The Spring River Warren with Verticals Deck Truss Bridge is located on a two-lane state highway in a rural area. In each direction, there is pastureland, dotted with trees and other heavy vegetation, particularly along fence rows and river beds. Near the site of the bridge, the river channel is deep and the banks are steep.

### **PART III. CURRENT STATUS**

Due to structural deficiencies, the Spring River Warren with Verticals Deck Truss Bridge is slated for replacement. This HAER Level II documentation serves as mitigation and ODOT will pursue a Memorandum of Agreement with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (OK/SHPO). In January 2014, the bridge was advertised for adoption as part of ODOT's Adopt-A-Bridge Program.

### **PART IV. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

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

Miami Weekly Herald, The  
1901 "Miami". April 5.

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1951a "Neosho Covers Widened Area." July 1.

1951b "Flood Threats Continuing As Rains Stay On: Crests of Rivers in Kansas Will Bring More Water to This Area." July 3.

1951c "Neosho Falls over Foot but New Rise Later Is Predicted." July 4.

1951d "Neosho River Flood Will Menace Miami; Highest Water In Years May Peril District." July 11.

1951e "Worst Flood in History Is Predicted for Miami Area; Lowland Residents Warned." July 12.

1951f "Lowland Citizens Urged By Mayor To Move Out." July 13.

1951g "Flood Presses Toward Miami." July 15.

1951h "Flood Damage Enters Millions." July 16.

1951i "Big Clean-up Task Pushed, Losses Spiral." July 19.



1952 "Bridge Project Being Prodded." July 3.

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2014a "Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, Neosho River Near Commerce."  
<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=tsa&gage=COMO2>.  
Accessed July 14, 2014.

2014b "The 1941 Kansas – Missouri Floods . . . Have We Forgotten?" <http://www.Crh.noaa.gov/mbrfc/flood51.pdf>. Accessed July 14, 2014.

ODOT, Division 8, Tulsa, Oklahoma [ODOT Division 8]

Files, including Bridge Inspection Report, Bridge Inventory Reports, and miscellaneous.

OK Department of Highways

1952 *Report of The State Highway Commission and Director to the Governor of Oklahoma for the period Jan. 1, 1951 thru Dec. 31, 1952*. On file, Oklahoma Historical Society.

Stotts, Melinda

n.d. "Flooding in Miami: the History." *The Miami News Record*. [http://m.miamiok.com/news/article\\_f4a619f2-327b-5743-9127-932a2293f2c1.html?mode=](http://m.miamiok.com/news/article_f4a619f2-327b-5743-9127-932a2293f2c1.html?mode=). Accessed July 14, 2014.

## B. Secondary Sources

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King, J.

1993 *Spans of Time*. Center for Historic Preservation and Technology, Texas Tech University. Sponsored by the Planning Division, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, State of Oklahoma; and the Federal Highway Administration.

Nieberding, Velma

1983 *History of Ottawa County*. [Self-published], Miami, OK.

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SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE

Spanning Spring River

Miami vicinity

Ottawa County

Oklahoma

JP Numbers 24272(04) & 24278(04)

Structure Number 5824 0831X

NBI Number 12853

LOCATION MAP



SPRING RIVER WARREN WITH VERTICALS DECK TRUSS BRIDGE  
OTTAWA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA  
LOCATION MAP

