WHITE BOWSTRING ARCH TRUSS BRIDGE



MAHONING COUNTY, OHIO.

1877

Rear-view of end bearing condition*

The White Bowstring Arch Truss bridge was probably built in the mid 1870s, and a date of 1877 has been suggested. It was fabricated by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company (WIBC) of Canton, Ohio to a design patented by William Rezner in 1867 and 1872. WIBC was one of the major American bridge building firms of the late nineteenth century. Many bowstring bridges were built between 1850 and 1880 but comparatively few survive few survive.

Side-view of end bearing condition*

This bridge is unusual because the tubular compression member is ovoid in section,

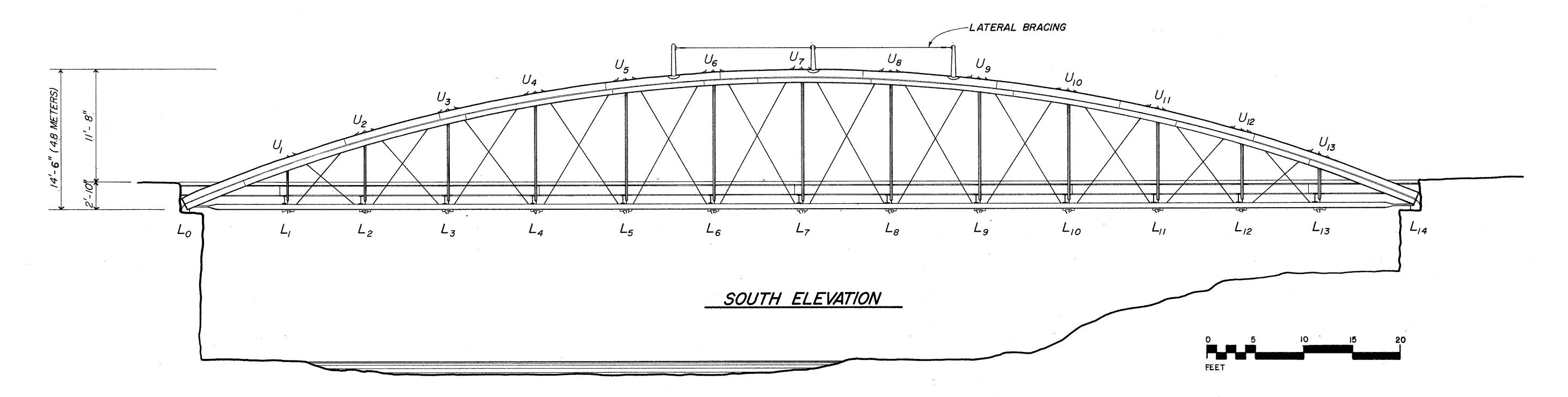
rather than square or round. This is the only known example of a bridge built to Rezner's design in Ohio. Only two others are known to exist (as at August 1986). One is in New York and the other is in Pennsylvania.

This recording project is part of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), a long range program to document the engineering and industrial heritage of the United States. The HAER program is administrated by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Ohio Historic Bridge Recording Project was co-sponsored during the summer of 1986 by the Ohio Department of Transportation, Warren J. Smith, Director and Federal Highway Administration, Marvin I. Espeland, Ohio Division Administrator.

Field work, measured drawings, historical reports and photographs were prepared under the general direction of Dr. Robert J. Kapsch, Chief, Historic American Buildings Survey / Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) and Eric DeLony, Principal Architect, HAER. The

recording team consisted of Randall S. Gooden, project historian (West Virginia University), architect technicians Christopher P. Collins (Ohio State University) and Charissa Wang (University of Maryland) and US/International Council on Monuments and Sites student interns Frances A. Jones, historian (Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England) and Miriam Fitzpatrick, architect (University College Dublin, Ireland). Record photographs were taken by Louise Taft Cawood.

David Simmons historian Ohio Historical Society David Simmons, historian, Ohio Historical Society was project advisor.



* These detail views are from field measurments and are based on Patent No. 128.509, July 2, 1872, by William B. Rezner.

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