

# Sawmill Ribbed Arch bridge

*Calhoun County*



**Sawmill Ribbed Arch Bridge** spans County Route 11 over the Left Fork of the West Fork Little Kanawha River in the Euclid-Nicut area of Washington District, southeastern Calhoun County. This historically agricultural area experienced pioneer settlement in the early half of the 19th century. Nearly every small community had a grist mill, including Nicut to the south and Frozen to the north of the bridge. Euclid, Frozen, and Nicut had post offices established in the first decade of the 20th century, and there were several area schoolhouses.

This bridge – built in 1926 by Luten Bridge Company of York, PA – is a 58'-1" long by 17'-6" wide reinforced concrete span. It is a single-span, spandrel-braced elliptical arch bridge, composed of a pair of concrete spandrel walls (or "ribs") that support the concrete deck above. Beneath the deck, the area between the ribs is completely open.

Daniel B. Luten is a nationally important figure in bridge building and the design of reinforced concrete bridges. He patented his designs, and they were utilized throughout the US, most popularly from 1900 to 1930. He often provided agents & builders with a license to use his plans. One such agent was Luten Bridge Co., which was incorporated in 1909 and became a prolific bridge builder in the eastern and southern US.

Sawmill Ribbed Arch Bridge has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its engineering significance as a representation of a braced-spandrel concrete arch bridge, an uncommon bridge type in WV, and as an example of the work of Luten Bridge Co., a nationally recognized former bridge builder. Examples of both the bridge type and builder are increasingly diminishing resources in WV.

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This bridge is documented on WVDOH's  
historic bridge website,

[www.highwaysthroughhistory.com](http://www.highwaysthroughhistory.com)



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