

Bergoo Road Arch bridge

Webster County



Bergoo Road Arch Bridge spans County Route 26 over the Elk River in the Bergoo area of Webster Co. The nearby Bergoo

community thrived from the mid-1920s to 1950s due to its timber and coal industries. The Western Maryland Railway once traversed to the downstream side of the bridge.

This bridge – built in 1923 by Luten Bridge Company of York, PA – is a 193-ft-long by 17.5-ft-wide reinforced concrete triple-arch span. Daniel B. Luten is a nationally important figure in bridge building and the design of reinforced concrete arch 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 for a set price. One such agent was Luten Bridge Co, which was incorporated in 1909 and became a prolific bridge builder in the eastern & southern US.

This bridge is a multi-span closed-spandrel elliptical arch structure, composed of three concrete arch rings, spandrel walls at the elevation sides, and an earthen filled deck (topped with asphalt). With its arches measuring, from west to east, 59 ft, 62 ft, and 60 ft, this bridge represents Daniel B. Luten's patented nonsymmetrical arch design. The bridge deck has solid concrete railings with incised rectangular motif.

Bergoo Road Arch Bridge has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its engineering significance, exemplifying an increasingly uncommon bridge design type represented in WV. As well, it currently appears to be WV's only example of a concrete triple-arch span exemplifying the work of Daniel B. Luten, a nationally recognized bridge designer, and Luten Bridge Co, a nationally recognized bridge builder.

What Historical Services Unit Does

- Research and Write Historic Reports
- Determine National Register Eligibility
- Determine Historic Boundaries
- Determine Effects to Historic Properties
- Mitigate Adverse Effects to Historic Properties
- Complete Historic Documentations for Specific Historic Properties
- Historic Turnpike Research and Analysis
- Coordinate with Federal, State, and Local Resource Agencies
- Conduct Public Workshops for Specific Bridge and Highway Projects



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