

## 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

## contact **us**

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firemans  
**bridge**  
*wetzel county*



The Firemans bridge was built in 1917 by the Luten Bridge Company. The structure consisted of one reinforced concrete filled arch span supported by two stub abutments. The overall length measured from end to end of parapet wall was 37'-6". The roadway width was 15'-6" and the horizontal clearance was 16'. The arch was 33' long. The concrete parapet walls were 3'-1/2" high and 8" thick, with each including five incised rectangular decorative elements on both its deck and outward-facing sides. The wearing surface consisted of dirt gravel and deteriorated bituminous concrete. The bridge did not have sidewalks.

## Firemans History

Daniel B. Luten is nationally recognized as an important figure in bridge building and the design of reinforced concrete arch bridges. The central idea of Luten's design practice was to "produce a more efficient structure" by reducing the material required to build for a given strength. His innovative approaches to reinforcing concrete arches with longitudinal tension rods resulted in efficient bridge designs. The Firemans Bridge has been identified as an example of a tied arch, an uncommon bridge type that is closely associated with Luten's work and that features an interconnected system of reinforcement through the arch ring, abutments, and streambed to enable the arch to be unusually thin.

The Firemans Bridge is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an example of an uncommon type of concrete arch bridge that represents the individuality or variation of features particular to this bridge type constructed by a master builder. This bridge was demolished and replaced with a new bridge in 2014.



**Location:** County Route 20/5, over the South Fork of Fishing Creek in Folsom, WV  
**Type:** One Reinforced Concrete Filled Arch Span Supported by Two Stub Abutments  
**Length:** 37' 6"  
**Year constructed:** 1917  
**Contractor:** Luten Bridge Company