

Criterion C in the area of Engineering as high integrity examples of corrugated steel arch culverts and good representatives of the culmination of a design trend for arched culverts witnessed through the 1940s.

**Blackwater Creek Overflow
Bridge**

Hillsborough County
FDOT #100647 (formerly
#100037), 8HI5042

This steel arch culvert carries SR-39 over the overflow of Blackwater Creek in Hillsborough County. The culvert is supported by three corrugated steel arches, and its sides are faced with local stone rubble. This structure is estimated to have been constructed circa 1936, probably as part of a public work program; however, the actual date of construction is unknown. It is similar in



Photo 5-50. Blackwater Creek Relief Structure, Hillsborough County (No. 100647)

appearance to others that appeared in literature of the period, such as *Florida Public Works*. Corrugated steel was frequently used in the 1930s. While the design and construction were common throughout Florida at the time, this culvert is the only remaining example of its type in west-central Florida.

The Blackwater Creek Overflow Bridge was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP by the Florida SHPO in 1993. It is significant under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development due to its association with the expansion of paved roads to link rural communities, and under Criterion C in the area of Engineering as a unique structure in an inland rural Florida landscape.¹¹⁸

Prior to rehabilitation in 2002, the structure was documented to HAER Level II standards. Carried out in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, rehabilitation included the use of in-kind materials on the facades, and retention and re-use of as much of the original concrete rubble and granite block veneer facades as possible. During this process, the stone rubble was removed and replaced piece by piece.¹¹⁹ The elevations of the culvert retain their historic physical integrity.

¹¹⁸ Fiore, Francesca Moran, Blackwater Creek Overflow Bridge, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, May 1992.

¹¹⁹ PBS&J and Stevenson Architects, Inc., Monitoring of the State Road 39 Blackwater Creek Relief Structure (8HI5402) Rehabilitation, Hillsborough County, Florida. FDOT, District Seven, Tampa, 2002.