

and was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP in 2007 in the area of Engineering. Because it has achieved exceptional significance within the past 50 years, Criterion Consideration G is applicable.

### **Culverts**



**Photo 5-48. CR-18 over Braggs Branch, Bradford County (No. 280036)**

#### **County Road 18 Arch Culverts**

Bradford County

FDOT #280036 (Braggs Branch),  
8BF00730

FDOT #280037 (Gum Branch),  
8BF00731

FDOT #280038 (Branch of Sampson  
River), 8BF00732

The three unadorned 1940 corrugated steel arch culverts along CR-18 in Bradford County are interesting late examples of their type. In contrast to the arched, stone-faced New Deal era culverts, these three have smooth concrete facades. Their intermediate piers feature fluted boots to assist with water flow. Structure Nos. 280036 (**Photo 5-48**) and 280038 have two spans and measure 26 feet and 27 feet in

length, respectively. The three-span culvert over Gum Creek (No. 280037) (**Photo 5-49**) extends 43 feet.

The Bauhaus and International movement influence and the cost-constraints of the Great Depression meant an end to high-style, ornate structures in the built environment. After the 1930s, adorned structures became a rarity. Specifically with culverts, this was manifested in a shift from an arched to boxed form and a stone-faced to unadorned façade. As concrete gained further acceptance as a bridge building material, cast-in-place, unadorned concrete box culverts emerged in the 1930s and have been prevalent ever since.

The corrugated steel arch culverts featured here represent a continuum in the design trends for its type but are also included for additional consideration as representatives that mark the end of a design paradigm. Due to their integrity, increasing rarity, and at-risk condition, the three culverts are noteworthy examples of their type. Further in-depth research may reveal that the 1940s arched culverts are associated with the WPA or CCC. They are newly recommended NRHP-eligible under



**Photo 5-49. CR-18 over Gum Creek, Bradford County (No. 280037)**

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.<sup>118</sup>

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.<sup>119</sup> The elevations of the culvert retain their historic physical integrity.

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

<sup>119</sup> 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.