NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Benson Culvert (County Bridge No. FAS-40)

other names/site number Federal Bridge ID No. 000000000320040

2. Location

street & number 6.0 miles South and 9.0 miles West of Gove, Kansas [ ] not for publication

city or town Gove [x] vicinity

state Kansas code KS county GOVE code ~~032~~ 63 zip code 67736

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide x local

Patrick Zollner — Signature of certifying official — 10-7-13 Date

DSHPO — Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official — Date

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

for Edson H. Beall — Signature of the Keeper — 12-3-13 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

	Private
x	public – Local
	public – State
	public – Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box)

	building(s)
	district
	site
x	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		district
		site
1		structure
		object
1		**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

New Deal-era Resources of Kansas MPS and Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas MPS

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Road related (vehicular)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: Road related (vehicular)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Works Progress Administration (WPA)

Stone Arch Bridge (Benson Culvert)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: STONE: Limestone

walls: STONE: Limestone

roof:

other:

Narrative Description

Summary

This double arch native limestone culvert spans a tributary to Plum Creek. It is located on an east-west rural secondary county road (M Road) approximately 1750 feet west of the intersection of M Road and 28 Road (see figures 1 and 2). It was built in 1938 as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. The tributary to Plum Creek flows only during seasonal rains and is dry the remainder of the time. On both sides of the culvert is pasture land used for grazing. The culvert is virtually unaltered since its construction. Culvert repair and maintenance is the responsibility of Gove County.

Elaboration

This culvert consists of two twelve-foot diameter stone arches. It is 30 feet wide having a roadway width of 27 feet and 1.5 foot wide stone rails on each side. The roadway is gravel. The two arches measure 6 feet high from the bottom of the creek bed to the keystone. The double arch culvert was constructed of native limestone blocks with an unknown mortar type. The color of the stones varies from a light tan to a deep golden tan and the mortar color is tan. The limestone blocks are dressed with a smooth face and chamfered edges giving the blocks depth. The only features visible from the roadway are the stone rails, three courses tall. There are stone wing walls that extend out from each corner of the culvert designed to protect the structure from erosion during high water events.

There is an end stone marked "WPA" signifying this culvert was a WPA project.

Integrity

Although some of the stones are deteriorated, the culvert is in overall good condition. The exterior of the culvert including the outer walls and wing walls are in good condition and do not illustrate deterioration. There are stones on the underside of the arches that appear to be deteriorating due to incompatible mortar repairs and freeze thaw cycles, but the culvert overall retains integrity of design, location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- [x] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY
GOVERNMENT
ENGINEERING

Period of Significance
1938

Significant Dates
1938

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Works Progress Administration Laborers (Builders)
Tyson, Frank D. (Gove County Engineer)

Period of Significance (justification)
The period of significance is 1938, the year the bridge was constructed.

Criteria Considerations (justification)
N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

This double arch native limestone culvert is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of social history and government for its construction under the supervision of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). It is nominated as part of the *New Deal-era Resources of Kansas* multiple property nomination as an example of the transportation property type.

The culvert also is nominated under Criterion C in the area of engineering for its significance as a native limestone double arch bridge. The limestone construction is typical of structures built in this area and is representative of the master stone builders and craftsmanship of construction workers trained by the WPA. It is nominated as part of the *Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas* MPS as an example of the stone arch bridge/culvert property type.

The impetus for the nomination of the Benson and Jenkins Culverts was a Section 106 case that involved the demolition of another culvert built during the same period; the Hackberry Creek Tributary Bridge also known by the number FAS-120. The proposal to demolish the Hackberry Creek Tributary Bridge required a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, a federal agency. The bridge was determined eligible for the National Register and the demolition was considered an adverse effect. Gove County agreed to nominate two of the remaining bridges to the National Register to mitigate the loss of the Hackberry Creek Tributary Bridge.

Elaboration

History

Gove County History

Gove County is located in the high plains in the central northwest part of Kansas. It was established in 1886 and named for a Civil War Union soldier named Grenville Gove of Company G, eleventh Kansas Cavalry. The county contains the cities of Quinter, Gove City, Grainfield, Grinnell and Park. On August 2, 1887, the Denver, Memphis, and Atlantic Railroad Company laid its track into the town of Horace (southwest of Gove County in Greeley County), which contributed to the settlement of the county. Later, in the 1920s, a large portion of the county's sod was broken to plant wheat, which caused extreme difficulties in the county during the 1930s dust bowl. The Niobrara Chalk formation also extends through Gove County, which results in several monumental geological formations including Castle Rock and Monument Rocks.

New Deal-era Historic Context[1]

The WPA was created by executive order on May 6, 1935 using 1.4 billion dollars in funding from the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act. Initially, the agency was designed as a temporary measure and funding was renewed annually. The WPA focused on employing large numbers of people through locally sponsored projects as well as through projects for state and federal agencies.[2] Through the WPA, Kansas realized many new roads, highways and bridges. According to a 1939 report, the WPA constructed or repaired 13,706 miles

[1] The following historic context regarding the Works Progress Administration is included in Elizabeth Rosin's "New Deal-era Resources of Kansas" Multiple Property Document, filed at the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office, Topeka, KS: p. E-20-22.

[2] Ibid., 19.

of road, 567 bridges, 11,365 culverts, 112 miles of sidewalks and paths, and 175 miles of curbs, gutters and guardrails. In 1939 there were roughly 30,000 Kansans on the WPA rolls.[3]

The WPA was active in Gove County at this time building at least seven culverts and working on sanitation and road projects, constructing a reservoir, and repairing local schools.[4] It was also noted that WPA men helped with the harvest. During the harvest in the late spring and early summer, all work on road and other projects stopped.[5]

Stone Arch Bridges in Kansas[6]

Stone arch bridges and culverts were popular in Kansas for many reasons, a major one being that the stone was often available locally. Thus, a large amount of the money expended for the construction could be retained within the area than would be true with other types of structures such as metal trusses. It was also often possible to use local workers on these projects. Generally speaking, stone bridges and culverts were more expensive initially to construct than metal bridges. However, they were stronger and far better able to withstand the periodic floods than their metal counterparts.

Stone arch bridges are constructed with limestone arch rings which spring from and are disposed between abutments or piers. Limestone spandrel walls rest on these arch rings and are used to retain the earthen fill which loads the arch. This earth loading allows for even distribution of the live loads and helps strengthen the arch.

Benson Culvert History

In September of 1937, County Engineer Frank Tyson announced that "Gove City is planning an extensive culvert campaign that should be nicely underway in 3 weeks' time."[7] At the time, rock was being quarried by WPA workers in several locations in Gove County. *The Gove City Republican Gazette* indicates that there were quarries on Jim Bartlett's land, Anna Howard's farm and on the Mendenhall bluffs in the southwest part of the county.[8] By October there were five projects underway. Other culverts named in the local paper at the time are Lewis, Martin, Jerome, McDowell, Kaiser and the Inloes Bridge.

The name of the county engineer Frank D. Tyson appears on the plans for the Benson Culvert (see Figure 3). It is likely that he was the designer or was integral in the design and construction. The county commissioners in 1938 were C.E. Blickenstaff, J. C. Gillespie, and George F. Wilson. The County shared the cost of this bridge and other WPA constructed projects with the WPA program.[9] The exact cost of the Benson Culvert is not known, but a triple arch culvert constructed during the same time frame cost a total of $6,597 with about half, $3071, covered by the WPA program.[10] The cost of the double arch Benson Culvert was probably a bit less.

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[3] Ibid., 21. Original citation: Works Projects Administration, *Federal Works Agency*, (Topeka, KS: n.p., 1939), 1, 10. Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, KS.

[4] Works Progress Administration, Central Office Reference Card Location Project File, MF 6038-6042.

[5] N.A. *The Gove County Advocate*, "Gove County Courthouse News," 7 July 1938, front page.

[6] The following historic context regarding masonry bridges in Kansas is included in "Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas" Multiple Property Document, filed at the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office, Topeka, KS: Section 8.

[7] N.A, *The Gove City Republican-Gazette*, "News; Other Items of Interest Gathered at the Courthouse," 16 September 1937, 1.

[8] N.A, *The Gove City Republican-Gazette*, "News; Other Items of Interest Gathered at the Courthouse," 29 July 1937, 1.

[9] N.A. *The Gove County Advocate*, "Gove County Courthouse News," 13 January 1938, front page.

[10] N.A, *The Gove City Republican-Gazette*, "News; Other Items of Interest Gathered at the Courthouse," 9 September 1937, 1.

Although it cannot be confirmed that this bridge was named for Charley Benson, it was constructed very near property that bears his name on the 1907 plat maps (see figure 4). Newspapers also refer to a culvert being constructed just north of the Charley Benson ranch, which matches the location of the Benson Culvert. Other bridges also appear to be named for the landowner of the property they are on or are close to such as the Jenkins culvert "near the Harley Jenkins place."[11]

According to the *Gove County Advocate*, Foreman Ed Organ had a crew of 31 WPA men cutting and dressing stones for the Benson Culvert from the Bartlett quarry in January, 1938.[12] The Bartlett quarry was a quarry that was on Jim Bartlett's land.[13] A search of the 1907 plat map indicated a Bartlett on a half section in southwest Gove County in Section 36 Township 15 S Range 30 W.[14] The paper also stated that the project, when started, would take approximately four months to complete. Construction on the Benson Culvert began on February 1, 1938.[15] It was completed on or about June 1, right on schedule.[16]

Summary

This culvert was one of at least seven in Gove County constructed by WPA laborers. Six of them survive. Situated along a secondary road in rural Gove County, this bridge retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C for its significance in the areas of social history, government, and engineering. It is representative of the types of properties listed as part of the *Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas* and *New Deal-era Resources of Kansas* multiple property nominations.

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[11] N.A, *The Gove City Republican-Gazette*, "News; Other Items of Interest Gathered at the Courthouse," 29 July 1937, 1.

[12] N.A. *The Gove County Advocate*, "Gove County Courthouse News," 13 January 1938, front page.

[13] N.A. *The Gove City Republican-Gazette*, "News; Other Items of Interest Gathered at the Courthouse," 13 January 1938.

[14] George A. Ogle, Standard Atlas of Gove County, Kansas, 1907, Kansas Memory online http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/209437, accessed 18 March 2013.

[15] N.A. *The Gove County Advocate*, "Gove County Courthouse News," 27 January 1938, front page.

[16] N.A. *The Gove County Advocate*, "Gove County Courthouse News," 5 May 1938, front page.

9. Major Bibliographical References

N.A. *The Gove County Advocate*. "Gove County Courthouse News," 13 January 1938.

N.A. *The Gove County Advocate*. "Gove County Courthouse News," 27 January 1938.

N.A. *The Gove County Advocate*. "Gove County Courthouse News," 5 May 1938.

N.A. *The Gove City Republican Gazette*. "News; Other Items of Interest Gathered at the Courthouse," 29 July 1937.

N.A. *The Gove City Republican-Gazette*. "News; Other Items of Interest Gathered at the Courthouse." 9 September 1937.

N.A. *The Gove City Republican-Gazette*. "News; Other Items of Interest Gathered at the Courthouse." 16 September 1937.

N.A. *The Gove City Republican-Gazette*. "News; Other Items of Interest Gathered at the Courthouse." 28 October 1937.

N.A. *The Gove City Republican-Gazette*. "News; Other Items of Interest Gathered at the Courthouse." 13 January 1938.

Harrington, Wynne Powers. History of Gove County, Kansas. Unpublished manuscript, 1917. Kansas Memory online: http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/218702. Accessed 28 February 2013.

Jochims, Larry. "Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas." National Register Multiple Property Document, 1985. Filed at the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office, Topeka, KS.

Ogle, George A. *Standard Atlas of Gove County, Kansas*, 1907. Kansas Memory online http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/209437. Accessed 18 March 2013.

Rosin, Elizabeth et. al. "New Deal-era Resources of Kansas." National Register Multiple Property Document, 2002. Filed at the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office, Topeka, KS.

Works Progress Administration. Transcribed from Central Office Reference Card Location Project File, MF 6038-6042.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been Requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_State Historic Preservation Office
_X_Other State agency
____Federal agency
_X_Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: Gove County; Kansas Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References / Latitude and Longitude Coordinates: 38.873625 / -100.656079 (See Figures 1 and 2)
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1				3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The culvert is centered on the above latitude and longitude. It is located on M Road between the SE¼ of Section 33-T13S-R30W and the NE¼ of Section 4-T14S-R30W, approximately 1750' west of the intersection of M Road and 28 Road. There is a 70' right-of-way width in this area.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries encompass the entire bridge and the right-of-way surrounding the bridge.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jerol DeBoer for Gove County and Kim Gant, KSHS Staff
organization
date March 15, 2013
street & number 6425 SW 6th Ave.
telephone (785) 272-8681
city or town Topeka
state KS
zip code 66615
e-mail kgant@kshs.org

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Historic images, maps, etc.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Benson Culvert (Gove County FAS Bridge No. 40. Federal ID No. 000000000320040)
City or Vicinity: 6.0 miles South and 9.0 miles West of Gove, Kansas
County/State: Gove County, Kansas
Photographer: Sarah J. Martin
Date of Photos: October 3, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 6 Road view, camera facing E
2 of 6 WPA stone, camera facing E
3 of 6 North portion of bridge visible from roadway, camera facing NE
4 of 6 South portion of bridge visible from roadway, camera facing SW
5 of 6 North face of bridge, camera facing SW
6 of 6 South face of bridge, camera facing NW

Property Owner:

(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Gove County Commission

street & number PO Box 156 telephone (785) 938-4450

city or town Gove state KS zip code 67736

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Figure 1: Aerial Image. Arrow notes location of bridge. Google, 2013.

Country Bridge No. FAS-40 (Benson Culvert)
6 miles south & 9 miles west of Gove
Gove County, Kansas
Lat/Long: 38.873625 / -100.656079 (Datum = WGS84)

Arrow notes location of bridge.

Figure 2: Contextual Map. Aerial Image, Google, 2013.

Country Bridge No. FAS-40 (Benson Culvert)
6 miles south & 9 miles west of Gove
Gove County, Kansas
Lat/Long: 38.873625 / -100.656079 (Datum = WGS84)

Arrow notes location of bridge.

Figure 3 Image of original plan sheet for the Benson culvert. Courtesy of Gove County.

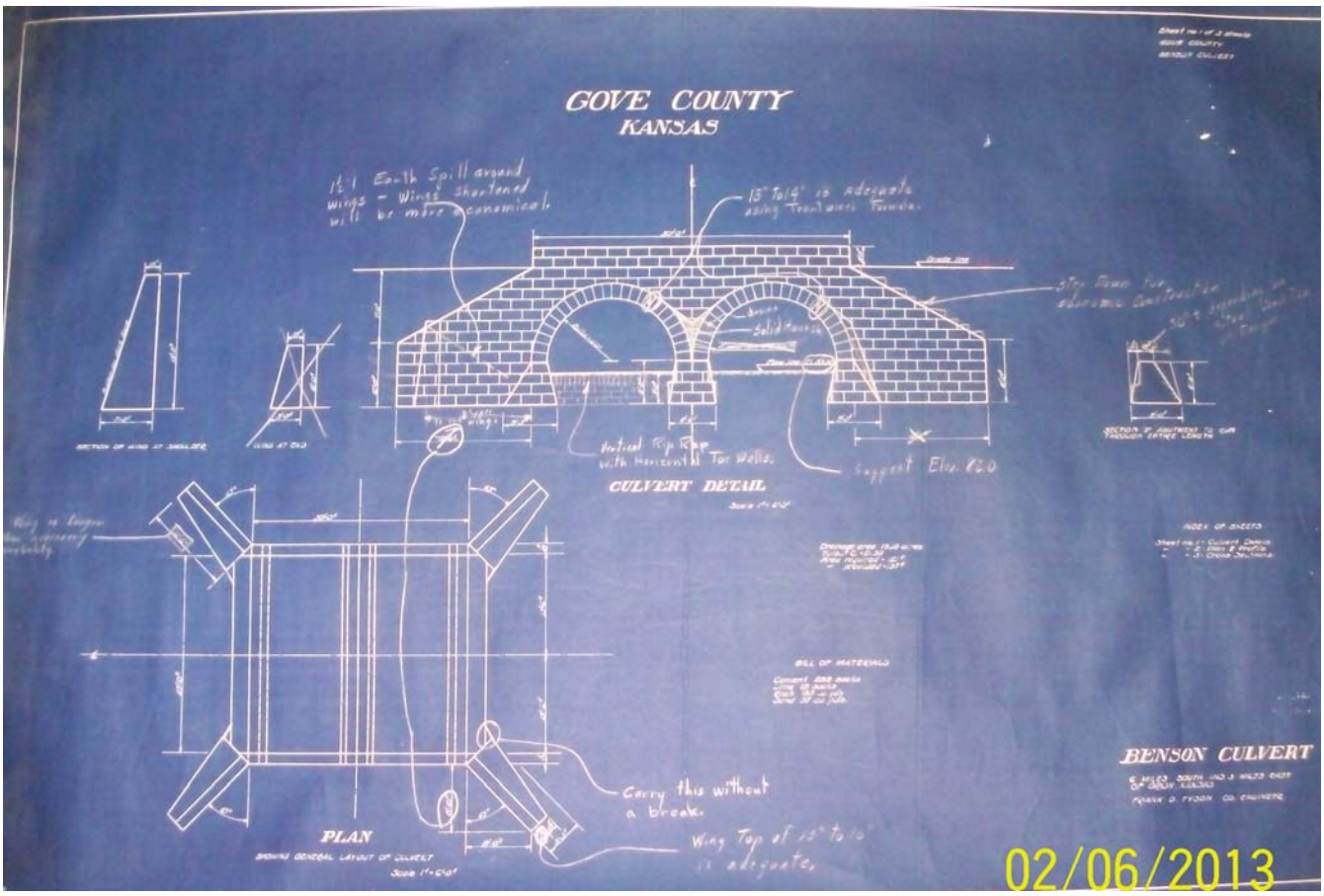
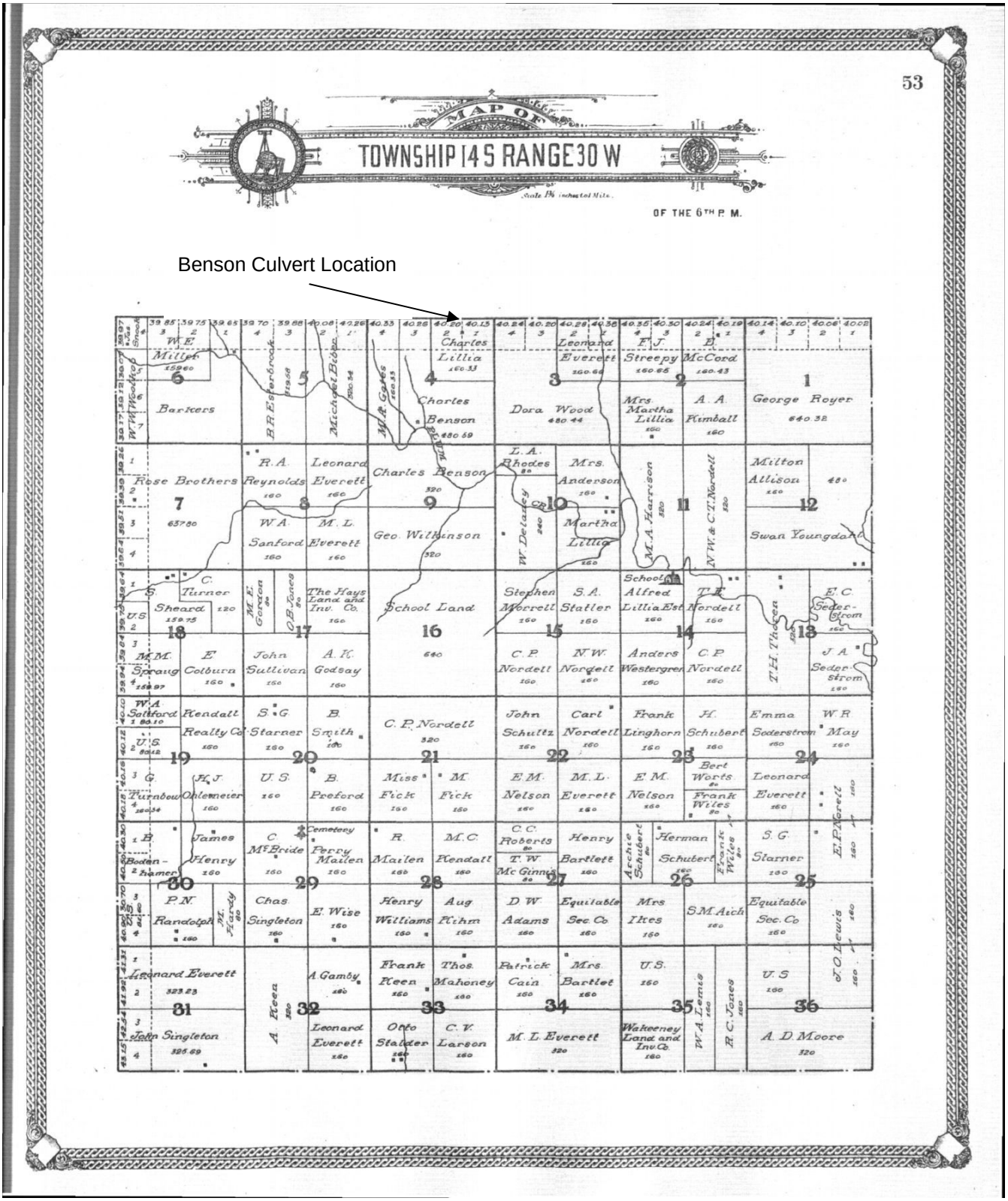


Figure 3: Standard Atlas of Gove County. 1907.



George A. Ogle, Standard Atlas of Gove County, Kansas, 1907, Kansas Memory online http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/209437, accessed 18 March 2013.

WPA

WPA