

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK ROADS & BRIDGES,
THE LOOP OVER BRIDGE
(Bridge No. 004)
Newfound Gap Road 8.6 miles from park entrance at Gatlinburg
Gatlinburg Vicinity
Sevier County
Tennessee

HAER NO. TN-35-Q

HAER
TENN
78-GATIN
6Q-

PHOTOGRAPHS

MEASURED AND INTERPRETIVE DRAWINGS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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LOOP OVER BRIDGE

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Location: Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee; Newfound Gap Road, 8.6 miles from park boundary with Gatlinburg.

Date of Construction: 1935

Type of Structure: vehicular bridge

Designer: Charles Peterson-landscape architect

Engineer: U.S. Bureau of Public Roads and National Park Service

Fabricator/Builder: C.Y. Thomason Company

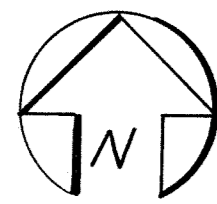
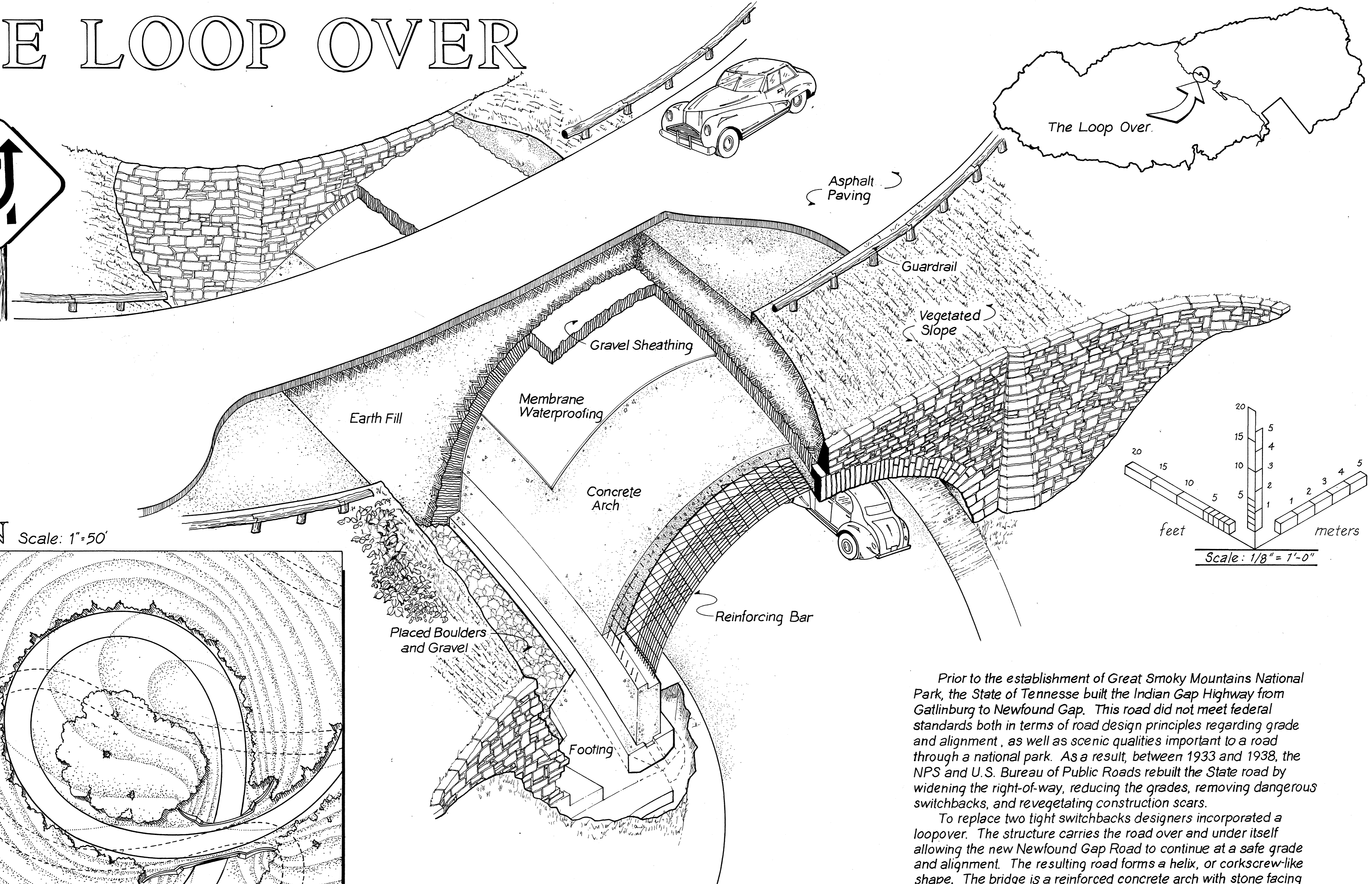
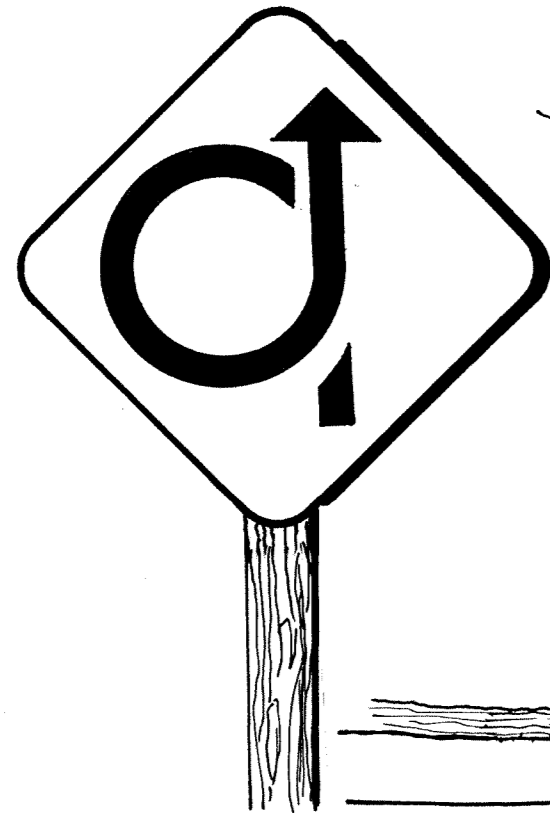
Owner: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Significance: The Loop Over Bridge is a significant component of the transportation system in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Providing access to the first national park in the southern portion of the United States, this network of roads and bridges is representative of NPS park road design throughout the country. Following its completion in November 1935, the Loop Over Bridge became an attraction in itself and has been featured on numerous postcards and souvenirs. For additional information on the Loop Over Bridge, see HAER No. TN-35, historical overview pages 113-115.

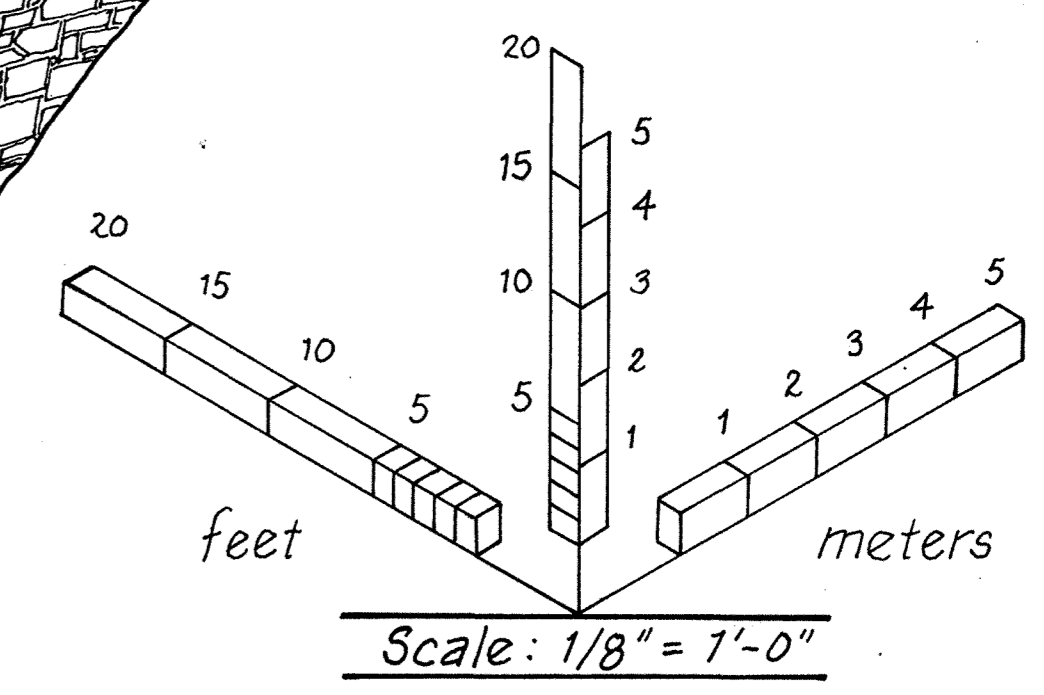
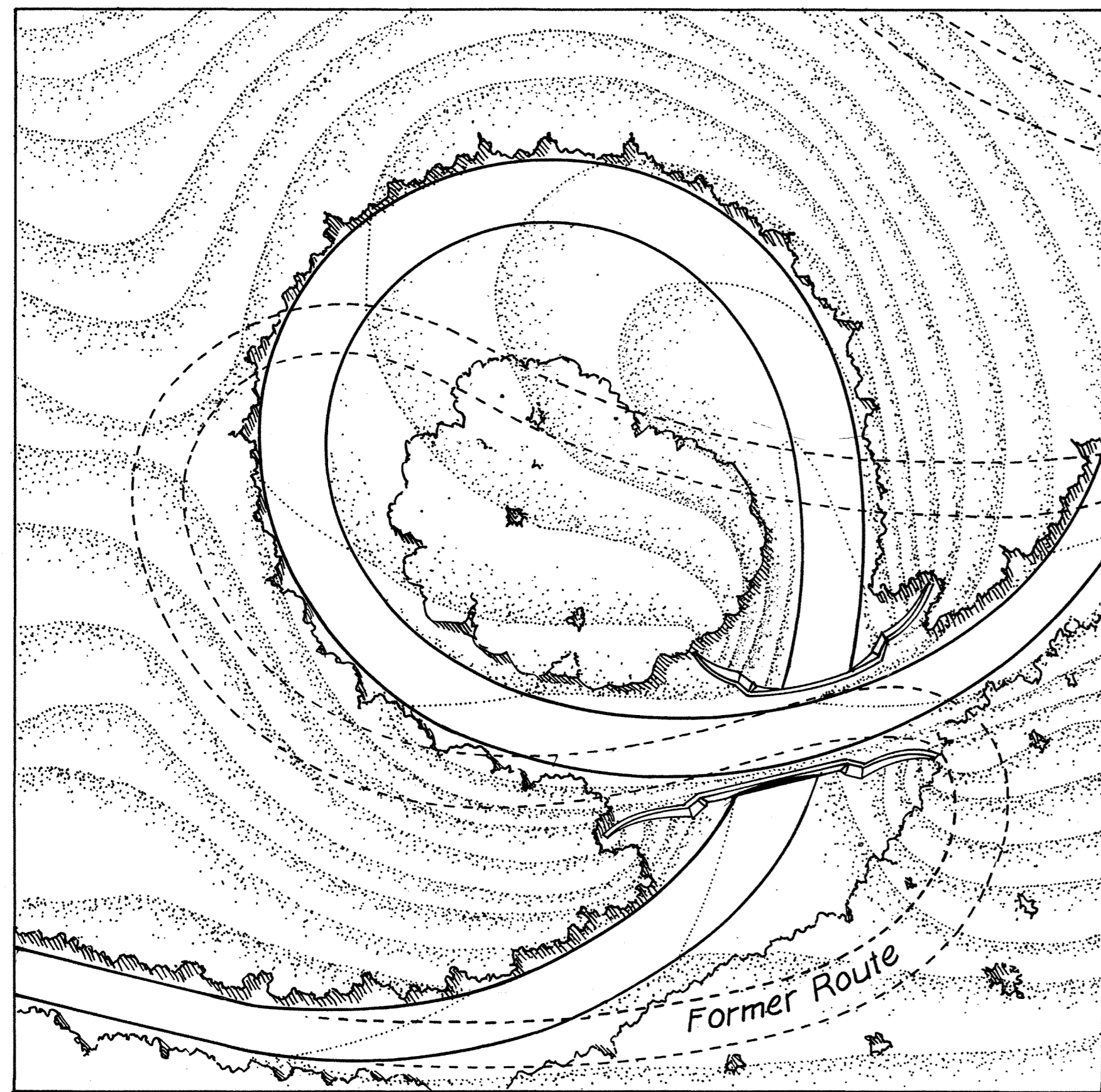
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Project Information: Documentation was conducted during the summer of 1996 under the co-sponsorship of HABS/HAER, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the National Park Service through the Federal Lands Highway Program. Measured drawings were produced by Edward Lupyak, field supervisor, Matthew Regnier, Karen Young and Dorota Sikora (ICOMOS, Poland). The historical reports were prepared by Cornelius Maher and Michael Kelleher. See also drawings and histories on related structures: Newfound Gap Road, TN-35-A; Clingmans Dome Road, TN-35-B; Little River Road, TN-35-C; Cades Cove and Laurel Creek Roads, TN-35-D; Foothills Parkway, TN-35-E; Cataloochee Valley Road, TN-35-F; Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail, TN-35-G; Big Creek Road, TN-35-K; Greenbrier Road, TN-35-L; Heintooga Ridge and Balsam Mountain Road, TN-35-O; Elkmont Road, TN-35-P; Smokemont Bridge, TN-35-R; Elkmont Vehicle Bridge, TN-35-S; and Luten Bridges, TN-35-T.

THE LOOP OVER



PLAN Scale: 1"=50'



Prior to the establishment of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the State of Tennessee built the Indian Gap Highway from Gatlinburg to Newfound Gap. This road did not meet federal standards both in terms of road design principles regarding grade and alignment, as well as scenic qualities important to a road through a national park. As a result, between 1933 and 1938, the NPS and U.S. Bureau of Public Roads rebuilt the State road by widening the right-of-way, reducing the grades, removing dangerous switchbacks, and revegetating construction scars.

To replace two tight switchbacks designers incorporated a loopover. The structure carries the road over and under itself allowing the new Newfound Gap Road to continue at a safe grade and alignment. The resulting road forms a helix, or corkscrew-like shape. The bridge is a reinforced concrete arch with stone facing walls. Large amounts of earth fill were placed for the roadbed in order to provide superelevation throughout the curve for safer travel.

Following the completion of the Loopover in 1935, Great Smoky Mountains National Park Superintendent Ross Eakin remarked that the unique design of this feature of the Newfound Gap Road "attracted almost nation-wide attention." The Loopover had become one of the major attractions for motorists in the park, appearing as a centerpiece on postcards and souvenirs.

DELINEATED BY: Edward Lupyak 1936
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ROADS & BRIDGES
 RECORDING PROGRAM
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GATLINBURG VICINITY

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK
 ROADS & BRIDGES: THE LOOP OVER BRIDGE
 SEVIER COUNTY

TENNESSEE

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David Haas, Photographer, 1996

TN-35-Q-1	LOOP OVER FACADE.
TN-35-Q-2	NEWFOUND GAP ROAD, LOOP OVER, VIEW INSIDE OVERPASS.
TN-35-Q-3	NEWFOUND GAP ROAD, VIEW OF LOOP OVER FROM CHIMNEY TOPS.







HAER. No. TN-35-A-3