

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each section by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge
other names/site number Hot Springs Bridge

2. Location

street & number East Off Highway 9 at Virgin River N/A not for publication
city or town Hurricane N/A vicinity
state Utah code UT county Washington code 053 zip code 84770

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William S. Math 3/8/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Utah Division of State History, Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

for
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall 4.14.95
**Entered in the
National Register**

Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge
Name of Property

Hurricane, Washington County, Utah
City, County, and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION: bridge

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION: walkway

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____
walls _____
roof _____
other Steel

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 1

Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge, Hurricane, Washington County, UT

Narrative Description

The 1908 Hurricane/LaVerkin bridge is constructed of steel and is referred to as a pony-truss bridge. This structure spans the Virgin River midway between the cities of Hurricane and LaVerkin in the Virgin River Canyon adjacent to a natural hot springs.

The Hurricane/LaVerkin bridge is a steel, 5-panel, rigid connected Warren pony truss. Built in 1908, the original deck has been replaced with corrugated steel (date unknown). The structure is comprised of a single-span riveted Warren pony truss, 75' in length, supported by concrete-filled steel cylinder piers, and approached on both sides by steel stringer spans. Unlike most truss bridges that were built as through-truss types, with struts and braces across the top to connect the top chords, the Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge is a pony-truss, without top bracing.

Although it no longer carries mainline traffic over the Virgin River (since the construction of the 1937 Hurricane Bridge), the Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge continues to function in place with the replacement of its deck as the most serious alteration to date.¹ This alteration does not significantly change the bridge's appearance and it maintains its historic integrity. The setting is relatively unchanged as well.

__ See continuation sheet

¹ Utah Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal.

Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge
Name of Property

Hurricane, Washington County, Utah
City, County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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.
- 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" on all 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION

ENGINEERING

Period of Significance

1908-1937

Significant Dates

1908

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Midland Bridge Company

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

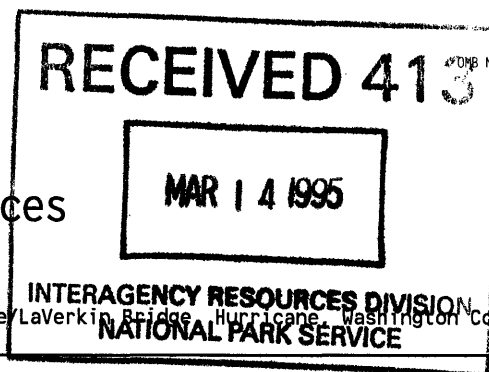
X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 8 Page 2

Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge, Hurricane, Washington County, UT



Narrative Statement of Significance

Constructed in 1908, the Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge is historically and architecturally significant. The bridge incorporates distinctive characteristics in its method of construction, is one of the earliest and longest surviving examples of a rigid Warren pony truss type bridge in the state of Utah, and retains its historical design, material, and workmanship. The Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge was the first link between LaVerkin and Hurricane, contributing to the development of these communities. Its historical role was that of a vital transportation link that contributed to the development of southwestern Utah.

HISTORY:

The bridge is historically significant in the development of southwestern Utah and in particular LaVerkin and Hurricane. The town of LaVerkin is located in an area known as the LaVerkin Bench. It was settled in the late 1890s and early 1900s with farming and fruit raising as its primary industries. Its agricultural beginning was promoted by Thomas Judd, a member of the LaVerkin Bench Canal Company who was instrumental in getting families to settle in this area. Water was always scarce and a major concern in the development of LaVerkin. The early period of development (c.1902) required maintaining an adequate water level in the LaVerkin Canal in addition to the usual farming duties. Culinary water was hauled from the Virgin River in large barrels on horse drawn sleds before the cistern water system was utilized. The Virgin River played a major role in this area by supplying water for the community. It also presented an obstacle in accessing communities and potential farmland to the south.

Across the Virgin River, directly opposite LaVerkin, is the town of Hurricane. Like LaVerkin, Hurricane was settled somewhat later than the surrounding towns (most towns in this area were established in the 1860s and 1870s). Hurricane was settled soon after the Hurricane Canal was completed in 1904, opening the Hurricane Bench for agriculture and prompting the formation of the town. The first families moved to Hurricane to make permanent homes in 1906. Stockholders in the canal company drew lots for both townsite lots and twenty-acre farm sites south of town. Schools, churches, and commercial buildings followed. The town grew quickly at first, attracting a population of 500 by 1912. By the late 1920s there were over 1200 people living in the town. Civic improvements came slowly. Electricity was brought to the town in 1917, a water system was installed in 1918, and a small sewer system was added in 1930 and expanded in 1946.

Prior to the building of the Hurricane/LaVerkin bridge, traveling from LaVerkin to Hurricane required crossing the stream bed of the LaVerkin Creek and the "treacherous" Virgin River. The building of the Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge in 1908 by the state provided a sturdy steel girded bridge across the Virgin River.

Competitive bids were received by Washington County Board of Commissioners in January of 1908 for the building of the Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge from two Midwestern bridge companies – Minneapolis

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Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge, Hurricane, Washington County, UT

Steel and the Midland Bridge Company. Midland underbid its competitor by \$126 with their proposal of \$3,299 and was awarded the contract to fabricate and erect the truss.²

The history of the construction of the Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge is summarized in local newspaper articles (Washington County News) written between March and July, 1908.

April 6, 1908:

The Road between here and Lund is reported to be in fine condition now, which will enable the teams that have gone to haul the materials for our steel bridge to come through without much trouble.

C.H. Coleman, a Representative of the Midland Bridge Co. of Kansas City, Mo. has a force of men at work on the steel bridge just below Sulphur Springs. Work was begun April 2 and Mr. Coleman expects to put up the steel piers Thurs.

Some of our citizens made their first visit to Hurricane. That town is booming. They spied the material and workmen on the Hurricane/Laverkin Bridge. No more awful dread when it is completed.

April 7, 1908:

The steel bridge between LaVerkin and Hurricane is now being put up. When it is finished watch Hurricane grow — Come and walk on our steel bridge (the first in the County) bathe in our Sulphur Springs, view our beautiful scenery, walk through our orchards and vineyards. It will do your eyes good, then eat a dish of our strawberries, the best the world produces.

April 13, 1908:

The river is rising rapidly these hot days, being now almost to the danger point, for teams to ford.

Good progress is being made on the bridge. All the piers are up filled with cement. Work will now begin on the bridge proper.

April 20, 1908:

---Our steel bridge is almost completed. A force of men began work on the approaches last week and it is expected that all will be ready for travel within a week or 10 days.

² UDOT Historic Bridge Inventory Data.

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Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge, Hurricane, Washington County, UT

April 23, 1908:

County Commissioners Meeting reg session Mon. Among bills allowed was one for \$2464.62 in favor of Gregory and Trocan Repre. the Midland Bridge Co. for the LaVerkin/Hurricane Bridge.

May 4, 1908:

Our steel bridge is now completed and will be ready for use as soon as the approached are finished. The bridge looks very substantial.

July 5, 1908:

...The band then crossed the new steel bridge to Hurricane...

This bridge, built over the river on a road that meandered through the Virgin River canyon, was the first, and for nearly three decades, the only link between LaVerkin and Hurricane. It was used for 29 years until 1937 when the concrete bridge³ that is currently being used was constructed.

ARCHITECTURE/CONSTRUCTION METHOD:

Metal truss bridges began to be designed and used in the early 1840s, and were of two basic types: Pratt and Warren. These bridges replaced most of the wood types and became the most popular designs between 1850 and 1925. The design called for the use of many small pieces or members to make a long truss that provided the necessary length and strength.⁴

Prior to the State Road Commission's adoption of the Warren configuration for its standard pony truss design in the 1910s, bridge companies were marketing Warren trusses in Utah. Most of Utah's bridges were constructed by Salt Lake City bridge contractor James J. Burke, with a few being constructed by bridge firms such as the Midland Bridge Company of Kansas City, Missouri. The Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge is significant in its illustration of an important method of construction and is the only known remaining Warren truss bridge in Utah.⁵

³ The Hurricane Bridge was completed in 1937 for a total cost of \$107,469 and represents one of the largest one span bridges ever built in Utah. It is a steel deck arch bridge that carries State Route 9 across the Virgin River. Utah State Historic Preservation Office files.

⁴ Southworth, Don. "An Archaeological Inventory of the Henefer Bridge Replacement on SR-30 near Henefer, Summit, County, Utah." Brigham Young University Museum of Peoples and Cultures Technical Series No. 85-126. December 4, 1985.

⁵ Utah Department of Transportation. Structure & Inventory Appraisal.

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Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge, Hurricane, Washington County, UT

Bibliography

Carter, Thomas and Peter Goss. Utah's Historic Architecture, 1847-1940. Salt Lake City, UT:
University of Utah Graduate School of Architecture and Utah State Historical Society, 1991.

"Utah Historic Bridge Inventory Data, Hot Springs Bridge". Utah Department of Transportation.

Under Dixie Sun. A History of Washington County. Washington County Chapter Daughter of Utah
Pioneers.

Washington County News. March 23, 1908 - July 5, 1908.

Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge
Name of Property

Hurricane, Washington County, Utah
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/2 2/9/8/4/8/0 4/1/1/8/1/0/0
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / / / /

D / / / / / / / / / / / /

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

NE 1/4, NW 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4, T41S, S25, R13W

___ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are those that have been historically, and continue to be, associated with the bridge.

___ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Julie W. Osborne, Architectural Historian; Verdell Hinton, Hurricane Historic Preservation Commission
organization Utah State Historic Preservation Office date January 1995
street & number 300 Rio Grande telephone (801) 533-3500
city or town Salt Lake City state UT zip code 84101-1182

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Continuation Sheets
- Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.
- Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name Washington County Commission; c/o Gayle Alred, Commission Chair
street & number 197 E. Tabernacle telephone (801) 634-5700
city or town St. George state UT zip code 84770

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section No. PHOTOS Page 6

Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge, Hurricane, Washington County, UT

Common Label Information:

1. Hurricane/LaVerkin Bridge
2. Hurricane, Washington County, Utah
3. Photographer: Julie Osborne
4. Date: November 1994
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

Photo No. 1:

6. Southeast elevation of bridge. Camera facing Northwest.

Photo No. 2:

6. Southeast elevation of bridge. Camera facing Northwest.