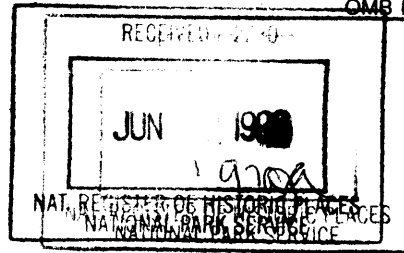


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



738

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item 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 Rio Grande Bridge at San Juan Pueblo

other names/site number San Juan Bridge, NMSHTD # 1578

2. Location

street & number 200 yds. S of NM 74, .5 M. W of San Juan Pueblo not for publication

city or town Alcalde vicinity

state New Mexico code NM county Rio Arriba code 039 zip code 87511

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.)

Lynn Sebastian SHPO 5-28-97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of 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 the property is:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper <u>Beth Poland</u>	Date of Action <u>7/15/97</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Rio Grande Bridge at San Juan Pueblo
Name of Property

Rio Arriba, NM
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	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

Highway Bridge Construction in NM

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: road-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Parker pony truss

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls steel

roof _____

other asphalt

Narrative Description

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

Rio Grande Bridge at San Juan Pueblo
Name of Property

Rio Arriba, NM
County and State

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.)

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

transportation
engineering

Period of Significance

1925-1965

Significant Dates

1925

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Monarch Engineering Company

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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:

Rio Grande Bridge at San Juan Pueblo
Name of Property

Rio Arriba, NM
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 13 | 401560 | 3990520 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Kammer, Ph.D.
organization contract historian date Dec., 1996
street & number 521 Aliso Dr. NE telephone (505) 266-0586
city or town Albuquerque state NM zip code 87108

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 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

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7,8 Page 1

Rio Grande Bridge at San Juan Pueblo
Rio Arriba County, NM

Description

The Rio Grande Bridge at San Juan River Pueblo, located on the former alignment of NM 74 one-half mile west of San Juan Pueblo, is a four-span steel structure designed by the Monarch Engineering Company of Denver, Colorado and constructed in 1925. The substructure consists of three concrete piers and concrete abutments.

The bridge employs a Parker pony truss design with each of the four spans measuring 100 feet in length. Each of the spans consists of five panels measuring 20 feet in length and each with its top chord at a different angle, shaping the polygonal top chord characteristic of Parker truss design bridges. All of the steel truss members are riveted to the top and bottom chords. The deck consists of laminated timber with an asphalt surface and rests on steel stringers. The bridge is 400 feet in length and the deck is 17.5 feet wide. Guardrails consist of angle iron bolted to truss members.

A small-diameter pipeline attached to the outer southside of the bridge's lower chords and a raised curb comprise the structure's few alterations. The bridge retains a high degree of integrity of setting, design, materials, workmanship and association.

Statement of Significance

Serving local traffic as a one-lane bridge until 1996 when it was bypassed by a new bridge 600 feet upstream, the Rio Grande Bridge at San Juan Pueblo is significant for its long association with highway transportation in New Mexico dating to the 1920s. The oldest and longest Parker pony truss design bridge in New Mexico and the highest rated of five remaining such bridges in the 1987 bridge survey, it is significant for embodying the design, materials and methods of construction associated with the Parker pony truss sub-type.

The Rio Grande had long been a barrier separating some of the Pueblo villages lining the river from the villagers' irrigated fields located on the other bank. Dating to the nineteenth century, various tribes had attempted to span the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

Rio Grande Bridge at San Juan Pueblo
Rio Arriba County, NM

Statement of Significance (continued)

river with primitive timber beam foot bridges. During the first decades of the twentieth century, the Office of Indian Affairs, as the BIA was called before the 1930s, sought to overcome this barrier by contracting for the construction of permanent bridges located near some of the pueblos. The Rio Grande Bridge at San Juan was one such project, intended to make it easier and safer for farmers from San Juan Pueblo to reach their fields on the west bank of the river. C.J. Crandell, Superintendent of the Northern Pueblos, also envisioned that the bridge would benefit other nearby residents as well as the growing number of automobile tourists seeking to cross the Rio Grande above Espanola. The site selected for the bridge was convenient to San Juan Pueblo on the east and was near the site of the early Spanish settlement of San Gabriel de Yunque, the first capital of New Mexico and now a National Historic Landmark, on the west.

Since the project was located on San Juan Pueblo lands, the Office of Indian Affairs assumed complete responsibility for the project, seeking bids and contracting with the Monarch Engineering Company of Denver to design and construct the structure. Crandell also consulted with the State Highway Department, as had become customary by the 1920s for all road and bridge projects in New Mexico. The Monarch Engineering Company's selection of the Parker pony truss design reflected a choice popular with the highway department's engineers in many of its projects from the mid-1920s through the 1930s. The heavier steel members and standardized 100-foot span lengths offered structures capable of carrying the heavier traffic travelling the state's highways. By the 1980s, however, even larger vehicles and the bridge's deterioration necessitated imposing weight restrictions and reducing the 17.5-foot roadway to one lane, creating a local bottleneck and the need for a new bridge.

Set in the cottonwood grove, or bosque, that lines the broad floodplain in the area, the bridge conveys a strong feeling of pony truss design bridge construction in the 1920s. The low four-span superstructure, nestled below the cottonwoods of the bosque, strikes a particularly appealing aesthetic of a bridge in scale and harmony with its surroundings. The NMSHTD will preserve this bridge for its historic merits.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9,10 Page 3

Rio Grande Bridge at San Juan Pueblo
Rio Arriba County, NM

Bibliography

Crandall, C.J. "Steel Bridges over the Rio Grande at Cochiti
and San Juan Pueblos," New Mexico Highway Journal, Vol. 3,
No. 1 (January, 1925), p. 11.

New Mexico Highway Department. "Steel Bridge Inspection Report,
Bridge No. 1578," April 27, 1943.

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is a rectangular parcel measuring approximately
400 x 18 feet.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the bridge's substructure and
superstructure which comprise the historic bridge.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 97000738

Date Listed: 7/15/97

Rio Grande Bridge at San Juan Pueblo
Property Name

Rio Arribo
County

NM
State

Historic Highway Bridges of NM
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

7/22/97
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Although the historic context in the cover documentation covers a period extending until 1965, the period of significance for this bridge is its date of construction. The period of significance is 1925. This was confirmed by Mary Ann Anders of the NM SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)