

RECEIVED

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MAY 23 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

**1. Name of Property** Honey Run Covered Bridge  
historic name Honey Run Covered Bridge  
other names/site number Carr Hill Bridge

**2. Location**  
street & number Honey Run Humbug Road  not for publication  
city, town  vicinity Chico  
state California code CA county Butte code 007 zip code 95928

**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	1	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Alwyn Guethen Signature of certifying official Date 5/12/88

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Alwyn Guethen National Register 6-23-88  
 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation-Road-related  

---

---

---

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Park  

---

---

---

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)"other: Pratt type truss"  

---

---

---

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_

walls wood  

---

roof metal  

---

other piers: concrete-filled metal  

---

---

---

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Honey Run Covered Bridge has three spans of unequal lengths, a center section whose roof is higher than the other two, and is housed with plain, wooden planks. Spanning a steep-walled, rural canyon stream, the bridge lies five miles from state route 99E, just downstream from a cement bridge built to replace it. The eastern approach connects private, unimproved land (and the abandoned roadway) with a small picnic area on the western side. Twice it has been necessary to make major repairs to the bridge, but they were done board by board, with great care to duplicate and not reconstruct.

Built from 1894-1896, with Pratt style trusses some fifty years after their invention in the 1840's by Thomas and Caleb Pratt, the bridge is 238 ft. long. It is unique due to its three unequal spans (30 ft.-128 ft.-80 ft.), and because the center bridge housing is higher than that of its two sides. Untreated Bull Pine (Ponderosa Pine) was specified by the county for compression timbers and iron rods for tension. The original wooden beams are sheathed top and sides with sheet metal, and it sits on twin cylindrical concrete-filled metal piers. After two winter's use, the bridge was housed as it became apparent that the pine boards (cheapest available locally) were already showing wear.

Only two floor planks had been replaced and it was deteriorating rapidly, when a panel truck hit a corner of the eastern-most span in 1965, demolishing that section. At that time the county supervisors were unwilling to repair it and eventually ordered a new cement bridge built. The local community, however, immediately formed a covered bridge association to ensure its restoration and work was completed on that section in 1972, exactly according to the original plans. Then, in 1984, due to the serious deterioration of the remaining two spans, the housing boards were replaced and it was re-roofed. The floor planks and trusses remained intact.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Transportation

Period of Significance

1896-1938

Significant Dates

NA

Cultural Affiliation

N.A.

Significant Person

N.A.

Architect/Builder

S.A. Martindale, builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The importance of the Honey Run Covered Bridge lies in the fact that it is the only bridge in the United States with three unequal sections, and it is one of eleven covered bridges still standing in California. Still in its rural setting, it evokes a strong reminder of early mining activities on the ridge and settlement in the canyon. Until the Skyway was built in 1951, Honey Run Road was the only way to get to Paradise from Chico, and so the bridge was in constant vehicular use until then.

The present Honey Run Covered Bridge is the second one to have been built across Butte Creek just below the confluence of Butte and Little Creeks. The first bridge, built in 1886-1887, washed out in 1894. Known simply as "the covered bridge" it was built over the Carr Hill Crossing to connect the old Chico-Centerville Road with the newly surveyed Honey Run grade to Paradise and Magalia on the ridge.

After the discovery of gold in 1848, on the Feather River, miners began to work the streams throughout the Sierra Nevada; in Butte County, the Little Butte and Butte Creeks yielded the greatest riches. Settlement in the canyon and along the ridges intensified after the discovery of the 54 lb. Dogtown (Magalia) nugget in 1859. A group of men had a toll road built (1871) to connect the Chico agricultural market with the mining and lumbering regions in Magalia and Paradise. It had been in use for almost 15 years when locals circulated a petition asking the county to purchase it and make it into a free road, which they did for \$1000. A new grade was surveyed to shorten the distance and by 1886 the new road was completed. After the first bridge washed away the county advertised for bids and hired S.A. Martindale as builder (with George Miller as inspector) who finished construction in 1896 at a cost of \$16-18 per thousand feet of lumber. With their resources, it was not possible to build a single span of the required length, so a three-section bridge was designed to take advantage of the intermediate supports.

According to newspaper accounts, there were regular passenger and mail run stagecoach trips made from Chico across the covered bridge and up Honey Run Road to the upper ridge mining areas as late as 1911. The Skyway was built in 1951—a quicker way to Paradise from Chico. The bridge was in continuous use until 1965, when its 80 ft. span was destroyed. A Honey Run Covered Bridge Association was formed immediately to save the bridge and since its repair in 1972, has been open for pedestrian use. The Bridge

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

"Bridge Truss Types: a guide to dating and identifying", by T. Allan Comp, Senior Historian and Donald Jackson, Civil Engineer. Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service. Technical Leaflet. American Association for State and Local History. 1940.

Enterprise-Record, Saturday, March 2, 1985. Editorial, page 12D.

"Honey Run Covered Bridge; an historical site preserved in Little Butte Creek Canyon, Butte County, California." Honey Run Covered Bridge Association, Dick Ehram Printing, Paradise, Ca. n.d.

"Honey Run Covered Bridge; bits of history and restoration, 1965-1985." Honey Run Covered Bridge Association, Inc. Norman Printing Services, 1985.

See continuation sheet

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 Honey Run Covered Bridge Assn., Inc.  
Specify repository: P.O. Box 64  
Paradise, Ca. 95969

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 2 acres (approx.)

UTM References

A 

1	0
---	---

6	6	6	2	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	9	8	2	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary described in the deed is of the approach (the park).  
The bridge is the property of Butte County.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the bridge encompasses the structure of the bridge, as well as the traditional easements granted the county.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Elizabeth C. Stewart date February 23, 1988  
organization Chico Heritage Association street & number P.O. Box 2078 telephone (916) 345-6986  
city or town Chico state CA zip code 95927

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

---

1. The original (1896) roof was made of wood shingles. The present metal roof is the second metal roof. It is not known when the county first had the bridged roofed in metal. The east end was repaired after being demolished by the truck (1972) and in 1986 the whole roof was again replaced with metal.
2. The piers are original. The original plans are in the Public Works Department of Butte County.
3. The tie-rods underneath the bridge are all original.
4. Most of the bridge housing is new (1972 and 1986). Some boards were salvaged and they clad the upper half of the middle (long) section and the west entrance. The boards which had to be replaced were split and in order to prevent further weathering of the floor planks were substituted with red fir of the same size.
5. The Bridge Association has installed gates at either end in order to prevent vandalism. One end has wrought iron and the other cyclone fencing.
6. The white conduit is plastic PVC pipe set in place for a fire sprinkler.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page   2  

---

Association acquired over two acres of property adjacent to the bridge which they have designated (and maintained) as a public picnic ground. They hold an annual pancake breakfast to raise funds for operation maintenance. In 1984, the association oversaw the reconstruction of the original two spans which necessitated replacing one of the main floor beams, and the replacement of the old pine board housing with new Douglas fir. Work was completed in March, 1985.

The period of significance for the bridge extends from 1896 to 1951. However, since no exceptional significance is apparent, the period has been arbitrarily ended at 1938, fifty years in the past.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

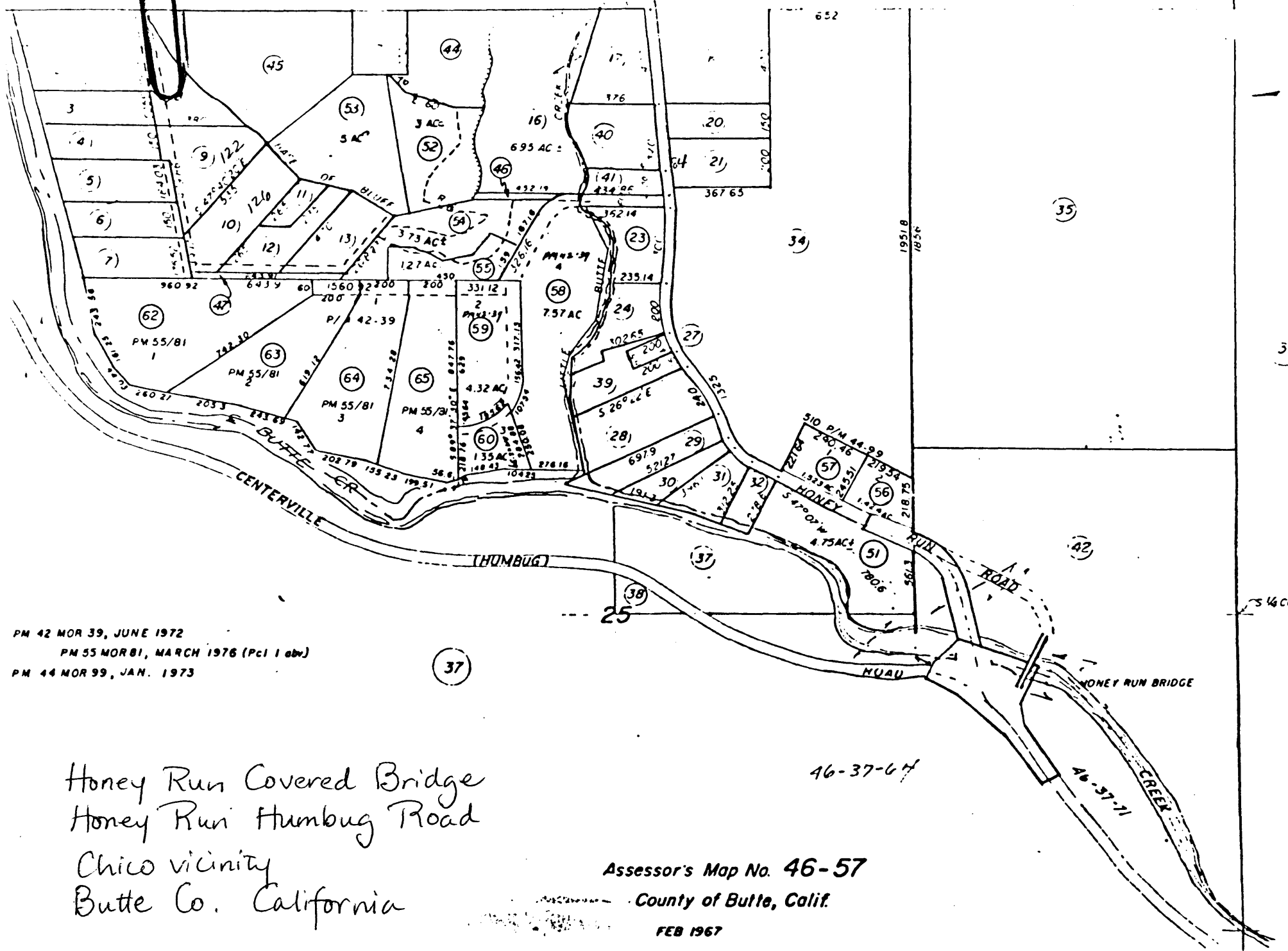
Section number 10 Page 1

---

Beginning at a point on the existing Humbug Road, said point of beginning being distant. N 75 42'28" W, 3316.89 feet from the common corner of Sections 25, 36 R2E, 30, 31 R3E, MDB&M, as said corner is shown on that certain map entitled "Record of Survey of a portion of the East Half of the East Half of Section 30, T22N, R3E, MDB&M", which map was filed for record in the office of the Recorder of the County of Butte, on July 16, 1962, in Book 27 of Maps, at page 48; thence from said point of beginning N 35 30 '37" W, 27.7 feet to the face of a rock wall, as the same existed January 1, 1968, on the northwesterly side of said existing Humbug Road; thence along said rock wall:

N 56 06'40" E, 50.2 feet; N 51 57 '06" E, 97.97 feet; N 48 21 '15" E, 124.66 feet; N 44 31'39" E, 213.70 feet; N 41 24'11" E, 27.45;  
N 32 34'38" E, 49.00 feet; N 30 44'36" E, 48.30 feet; and N 27 51'31" E, 40.09';

thence leaving said existing rock wall S 71 34'31" E, 60.43 feet to a point on the said existing Humbug Road; thence S 43 22'20" E, 131.83 feet to the centerline of Butte Creek; thence along the centerline of Butte Creek S 15 56'36" W, 100.18 feet; S 18 18'20" W, 207.34 feet and S 27 58'42" W, 400.00 feet; thence leaving said centerline of Butte Creek N 62 01'18" W, 190.00 feet; thence S 80 30'40" W, 103.80 feet; thence southwesterly along a non-tangent curve, concave to the northwest, (radial line to said curve at this point bears S 43 58'14" E), with a radius of 1035.00 feet; a central angle of 8 27 '37", for an arc distance of 152.83 feet; thence S 54 29'23" W, 76.30 feet; thence N 35 30'37" W, 35.00 feet to the point of beginning. Containing an area of 2.488 acres more or less, 0.856 acre of which lies within the existing right of way of Humbug Road and Honey Run Road.



PM 42 MOR 39, JUNE 1972  
 PM 55 MOR 81, MARCH 1976 (Pcl 1 abv)  
 PM 44 MOR 99, JAN. 1973

Honey Run Covered Bridge  
 Honey Run Humbug Road  
 Chico vicinity  
 Butte Co. California

Assessor's Map No. 46-57  
 County of Butte, Calif.  
 FEB 1967

46-37-67

46-37-71