other (explain:)

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

MAR 1 & 2011

NAT. REGISTER OF THE PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

227

register Bulletin, How This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See in 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 (NPS Form 10-900a). 1. Name of Property Conley Street Bridge Historic name Other names/site number 24PW608/MDT Identification No. M39031000+00401 2. Location street & number Clark Fork River Crossing on Conley Street not for publication vicinity Deer Lodge city of town MT county Powell code 077 zip code 59722 State Montana code 3. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation I hereby certify that this x nomination 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. does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this In my opinion, the property x meets property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: x local ational x statewide ture of certifying official In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. Date Signature of commenting official Title State or Federal agency and bureau 4. National Park Service Certification Date of Action Signature of the Keepe 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

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Conley Street Bridge Name of Property		Powell County, Montana County and State			
5. Classification					
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) private X public - Local public - State public - Federal private	Category of Property (Check only one box) building(s) district site X structure building(s) object	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.) Contributing Noncontributing buildings sites 1 structures Objects buildings 1 0 Total			
Name of related multiple pr (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of Reinforced Concrete Bridges of	a multiple property listing)	Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register			
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) TRANSPORTATION/Road-related (vehicular) = Bridge		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) TRANSPORTATION/Road-related (vehicular) = Bridge			
7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) OTHER: Reinforced Concrete		Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation: Concrete walls:			
		roof: other: Concrete			

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Conley Street Bridge

Name of Property

Powell County, Montana County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Conley Street Bridge, which crosses the Clark Fork River at the south end of the City of Deer Lodge, consists of one contributing structure constructed by convict labor. Completed in 1913, the three-span reinforced concrete T-beam bridge is 152 feet long and 20 feet wide. During the first two decades of the twentieth century, the Montana State Penitentiary embarked on an ambitious construction program to improve and expand the prison's infrastructure and to improve roads in western Montana. The Conley Street Bridge is the largest of several reinforced concrete bridges built by convict labor during that period. It is also representative of the type of reinforced concrete T-beam bridges built in Montana before the Bluewater Creek Bridge's (24CB1309) design in Carbon County supplanted it in 1913. The setting of the Conley Street Bridge is largely still intact and its close association with the prison complex is also intact.

Narrative Description

The Conley Street Bridge crosses the Clark Fork River on Conley Street at the south end of the City of Deer Lodge adjacent to the old Montana State Penitentiary. The street is maintained by the city, but the bridge is owned by Powell County. The bridge is located in the broad Deer Lodge valley of southwestern Montana. The valley is comprised of sedimentary debris that washed out of the Flint Creek Mountains to the west. The eastern side of the valley is bordered by the Boulder Mountains and the Boulder Batholith. Deer Lodge, one of Montana's oldest communities, was founded in 1863 as a supply point for travelers on the Mullan Road and miners combing the surrounding hills for the next big strike. The territorial legislature established the state penitentiary in Deer Lodge in 1869; the present facility closed in 1979 and presently serves as a museum. The bridge now carries traffic between Deer Lodge's main street and a lumber mill that partially occupies the site of the old Milwaukee Road Railroad yards.¹

The Conley Street Bridge is a three-span reinforced concrete T-beam structure. The bridge measures 152 feet in length and consists of three 50-foot spans. It is 20 feet wide with a roadway width of 16 feet. The bridge rests on two solid reinforced concrete piers and two reinforced concrete abutments. The T-beams are flush with the sidewalls of the bridge. The sidewalls are extended to form the solid concrete guardwalls of the structure. The walls exhibit extended corniced balustrades and decorative rectangle and diamond-shaped indentations adorne the guardwalls. The extended concrete mid and endposts on the bridge all display extended caps. Examination of the endposts suggest they were once surmounted by lampposts. An asphalt overlay has been placed on the deck of the one-lane structure.

Integrity

The Conley Street Bridge retains excellent integrity of design, workmanship, feeling, and materials. It is one of only three known prison convict-built bridges remaining in the state. Other than the removal of the lampposts, no modifications or alterations occurred to the structure. The setting of the historic bridge is also largely intact with little modern intrusion in the immediate vicinity.

David Alt and Donald W. Hyndman, Roadside Geology of Montana, (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing, 1991), 162; Roberta Carkeek Cheney, Names on the Face of Montana: The Story of Montana's Place Names, (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing, 1990), 70-71; Don Spritzer, Roadside History of Montana, (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing, 1999), 207-209.

Conley Street Bridge

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Powell County, Montana

Name of Property	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)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)				
or Hallottal Noglotor hosting/	Engineering				
X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Transportation				
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	Period of Significance				
artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1913-1961				
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Garage For Lock to				
important in premisiory of filotory.	Significant Dates				
	1913				
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)					
	Significant Person				
Property is:	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)				
owed by a religious institution or used for religious A purposes.					
B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation				
C a birthplace or grave.					
D a cemetery.	1-10-10-11-1				
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder Montana State Penitentiary				
F a commemorative property.					
G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.					

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance encompasses the completion of the bridge in 1913 and its subsequent use to facilitate the movement of supplies between the Milwaukee Road Railroad yard and the Montana State Penitentiary in Deer Lodge. The bridge still serves the important role of providing access to a lumber mill on the opposite side of the Clark Fork River from the the former penitentiary, which now serves as a museum (it closed as the state penitentiary in 1979).

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Conley Street Bridge

Powell County, Montana County and State

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of signficance and applicable criteria)

The Conley Street Bridge is eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C. It is one of three reinforced concrete bridges remaining in Montana constructed by convict labor in the first decade of the twentieth century. The penitentiary, along with Carbon County, was a pioneers in the use of concrete for bridge construction in Montana. This bridge also exhibits the "old style" of concrete T-beam bridge design with girders flush with the sidewalls rather than recessed under the deck. The bridge is an excellent and well-documented example of an early concrete bridge in the state; it retains excellent integrity with all of its original intact components in good condition. The setting of the bridge is also little changed from when it was constructed.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

The Conley Street Bridge is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the Montana State Penitentiary and the use of convict labor outside the prison's walls, a practice common in the state from 1907 until the mid-1920s. State penitentiary convicts built at least four reinforced concrete bridges in southwestern Montana beginning in 1907 and culminating in the Conley Street Bridge in 1911. The bridge was part of a program instituted by the prison's warden, Frank Conley, to improve the infrastructure in western Montana and to rehabilitate prison inmates and provide them with a useful vocation upon release.

The bridge is also an excellent and intact early example of a reinforced concrete T-beam bridge. The bridge exhibits the standard concrete girders flush to the sidewalls common in Montana before the construction of the Bluewater Creek Bridge (24CB1309) in 1913. The design appears to have been standard to convict-built bridges in southwestern Montana between 1907 and 1913. It is not known where prison Warden Frank Conley obtained the design for the bridge. All of the bridge's original structural components and appearance are intact and unmodified. It is in excellent condition and continues to function in its original capacity on an important access to an industrial area of Deer Lodge. The bridge is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C.

Engineering Significance

The Conley Street Bridge is an early example of a reinforced concrete bridge in Montana. The penitentiary and Carbon County were the pioneers in the use of the concrete in the early twentieth century. The bridge is significant for its association with the Montana State Penitentiary and its program to put convicts to work on infrastructure improvements as a means of rehabilitation for inmates. It is also significant as an early example of the common T-beam design where the concrete girders are flush with the sidewalls rather than recessed under the deck, the standard design until 1913 when Carbon County built the Bluewater Creek Bridge (24CB1309) in south central Montana.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The Conley Street Bridge was constructed by convicts from the adjacent Montana State Penitentiary. It is the first continuous span reinforced concrete T-beam bridge built in Montana. The existing bridge replaced a wooden bridge with trestle-type bents constructed by the county in the 1870s or 1880s. In 1911, Warden Frank Conley proposed construction of the existing bridge using convict labor. He estimated the cost of the bridge at approximately \$1,600 "provided it is built with convict labor which will take twenty convicts three days." The cost of the bridge was partially defrayed by the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad and Powell County. When completed in 1913, the warden declared "on this site now stands a handsome bridge, 150 feet long and 20 feet wide with three spans of 50 feet each on a level grade, a necessary convenience for the transportation of material for the prison." The bridge facilitated the movement of supplies between the railroad yard on the west side of the river and the prison on the east side of the river.

² Frank Conley, Nineteenth Annual Report for the Montana State Prison for the Year Ending December 31, 1914, (Deer Lodge: Montana State Prison, 1915), 17: Jon Axline, Conveniences Sorely Needed: Montana's Historic Highway Bridges, 1860-1956, (Helena: Montana Historical Society, 2005), 53-54.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Conley Street Bridge	Powell County, Montana		
Name of Property	County and State		

Montana State Penitentiary and Frank Conley

The construction of the Conley Street Bridge was part of a progressive work program initiated by Warden Frank Conley to expand the prison complex and, in the process, instill a good work ethic among the prisoners and elevate their self esteem. A native of Maryland, Frank Conley arrived in Montana in 1880 and became a deputy sheriff in Custer County. In 1886, Conley was hired as a guard at the Deer Lodge penitentiary. In 1890, the State of Montana contracted with Conley and partner Thomas McTague to operate the penitentiary. The prison was chronically overcrowded and lacked any system by which prisoners could redeem themselves. Conley hit upon a plan to utilize convict labor to expand the prison complex, put idle inmates to work, and ease the financial burdren of expanding the prison. In 1911, the prison embarked on a significant expansion program that included the extension of the walls, construction of a power-plant and kitchen and dining facilities, and the building of a new cell block. The Conley Street Bridge was part of that expansion program. Frank Conley employed convict labor outside the walls to make bricks, work the prison ranches, and building roads. The program survived Conley when he was relieved of his duties at the penitentiary in 1922 until 1927 when the State officially discontinued the use of convict labor on state projects.³

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Alt, David and Donald W. Hyndman. Roadside Geology of Montana. (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing, 1991).

Axline, Jon. Conveniences Sorely Needed: Montana's Historic Highway Bridges, 1860-1956. (Helena: Montana Historical Society, 2005).

Baumler, Ellen. Dark Spaces: Montana's Historic Penitentiary at Deer Lodge. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2008).

Bridge Inspection Record No. M39031000+00401. Montana Department of Transportation. Helena, Montana.

Cheney, Roberta Carkeek. Names on the Face of Montana: The Story of Montana's Place Names. (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing, 1990).

Conley, Frank. Nineteenth Annual Report for the Montana State Prison for the Year Ending December 31, 1914. (Deer Lodge: Montana State Prison, 1915).

McDonald, James R., ed. *Montana State Penitentiary History*. (Deer Lodge: Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation, 1979).

Montana State Highway Commission Meeting Minute Books. Montana Department of Transportation. Helena, Montana.

Spritzer, Don. Roadside History of Montana. (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing, 1999).

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Ellen Baumler, Dark Spaces: Montana's Historic Penitentiary at Deer Lodge, (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2008), 13, 15, 17, 20; James R. McDonald, ed., Montana State Prison History, (Deer Lodge: Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation, 1979), 20-21, 27, 30; Montana State Highway Commission Meeting Minutes, Book 3, 179-180 (13 July 1927).

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Conley Street Bridge Name of Property			Powell County, Montana County and State			
10. Geog	raphical Data					
	of Property 1.	.0 listed resource acreage)				
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Continuation Sheets

Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Powell County, Montana

Conley Street Bridge	Powell County, Montana
Name of Property	County and State
Photographs:	
Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch make the sketch m	
(See Continuation Sheets)	
Property Owner:	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)	
name City of Deer Lodge	
street & number 300 Main Street	telephone 406-846-2238
city or town Deer Lodge	state MT zip code 59722

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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503,

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

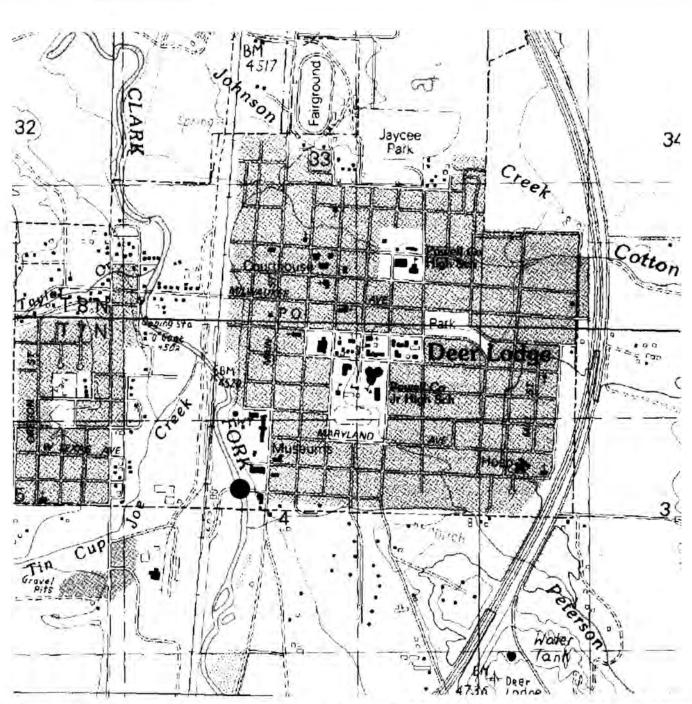
Section number 10 Page 1

Conley Street Bridge Bridge (24PW608)

Name of Property
Powell County, Montana

County and State
Reinforced Concrete Bridges of Montana,
1900-1958

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Location of Conley Street Bridge. Found on the Deer Lodge, Montana 7.5' Quadrangle Map (provisional edition 1989).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs

Page

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1900-1958

Conley Street Bridge Bridge (24PW608)

Name of Property
Powell County, Montana

County and State
Reinforced Concrete Bridges of Montana,

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photolog

Name:

Conley Street Bridge (24PW608)

County and State: Photographer: Powell County, Montana Kristi Hager

Date of Photograph:

2005

Location of original negative: Description and view of camera: Montana Department of Transportation. Helena, Montana.

South profile. View to northwest.

Photograph:

MT Powell County _ Conley Street Bridge _0001

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs

Page

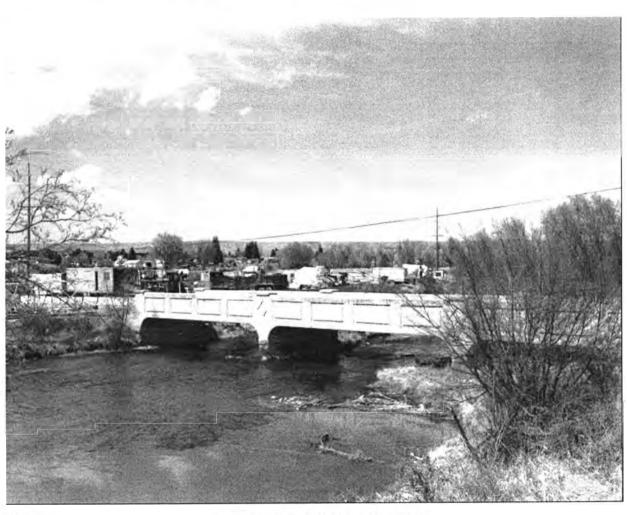
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Conley Street Bridge Bridge (24PW608)

Name of Property
Powell County, Montana

County and State
Reinforced Concrete Bridges of Montana,
1900-1958

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Name:

County and State: Photographer:

Date of Photograph:

Location of original negative:

Description and view of camera:

Photograph:

Conley Street Bridge (24PW608)

Powell County, Montana

Kristi Hager

2005

Montana Department of Transportation. Helena, Montana.

South profile. View to northwest.

MT Powell County Conley Street Bridge_0001

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

MPS study or property type category.]

NRIS Reference Number: 11000227	Date Listed:	
		4/28/2011
Conley Street Bridge	Powel1	MT
Property Name	County	State
This property is listed in the Nati Places in accordance with the attac subject to the following exceptions notwithstanding the National Park S	ched nominati s, exclusions	on documentat , or amendmen
in the nomination documentation.	service certi	rication incl
Signature of the Keeper	4/28/11 Date of Action	on

These clarifications were confirmed with the MT SHPO office.

[The reference refers to resources within the boundaries of the nominated property not the larger

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINA	TIO	N			
PROPERTY Conley Street NAME:	Bri	dge			
MULTIPLE Reinforced Cond	cre	te Bridges :	in M	Montana, 1900-1	1958 MPS
STATE & COUNTY: MONTANA,	Po	well			
DATE RECEIVED: 3/16 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/20 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:				PENDING LIST: 45TH DAY:	
REFERENCE NUMBER: 110002	27				
REASONS FOR REVIEW:					
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: OTHER: N PDIL: REQUEST: Y SAMPLE:	N		N	PROGRAM UNAPPE	
COMMENT WAIVER: N					
ACCEPTRETURN		REJECT		DATE	
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS	\$				
The bridge is significant up	der	National Register	Crit	eria A and C in the are	as of Transpo

The bridge is significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Transportation and Engineering. Serving local transportation needs, the bridge is a well preserved example of early twentieth century reinforced concrete bridge design. The nomination meets the registration requirements set forth in the MPS cover document.

RECOM. / CRITERIA Accept (PITENIA A	~ C
REVIEWER PAUL R. LUSIGNAN	DISCIPLINE HISTORIAS
TELEPHONE	DATE 4 2E II
DOCUMENTATION see attached comme	ents Y/N see attached SLR(Y/N)
If a nomination is returned to to nomination is no longer under co	the nominating authority, the onsideration by the NPS.



Powell 600 0001 1111

