# **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 for individual properties and detricts. 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 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all tiems.

#### 4 Name of Property

historic name <u>Big Creek Bridge No. 01180</u>	
other names/site number	
2. Location	
street & number <u>Oregon Coast Highway No. 9 (US 101), MP 175.02</u> not for publication	
city or town <u>Heceta Head</u> vicinity X	
state <u>Oregon</u> code <u>OR</u> county <u>Lane</u> code <u>039</u> zip code	
3. State/Federal/Tribal 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 S meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally S statewide logally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)   Signature of certifying official / Deputy SHPO Date   Oregon State Historic Preservation Office 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.)   In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)   Signature of commenting or other official Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification   I, hereby, certify that this property is:   I entered in the National Register   See continuation sheet.   determined eligible for the National Register   See continuation sheet.   determined eligible for the National Register   getermined not eligible for the National Register   removed from the National Register   other (explain):	
signature of Keeper Date of Action	

# 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
$\boxtimes$	structure
	object

#### Name of related multiple property listing

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

C. B. McCullough Major Oregon Coast Highway Bridges, 1927-36.

### 6. Function or Use

# Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation

#### Historic Subfunctions

(Enter subcategories from instructions)

**Road-related** 

# 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals Classic Revival Modern Movement Art Deco

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

See continuation sheets.

#### 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)

Δ Α

Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

#### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
	buildings	
	sites	
1	structures	
	objects	
	Total	

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register \_\_0\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation

Current Subfunctions (Enter subcategories from instructions)

Road-related

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Other Concrete Steel Concrete

- 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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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)

Engineering Transportation

#### **Period of Significance**

1931

#### Significant Dates

Completed in 1931.

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

#### **Cultural Affiliation**

#### Architect/Builder

Conde B. McCullough, Oregon State Highway Engineer, designer Union Bridge Company, Portland, Oregon, contractor

#### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

See continuation sheets.

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

(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. Big Creek Bridge No. 01180

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible for the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # OR-86

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Prints and Photographs Division, US Library of Congress

#### 10. Geographical Data

#### Acreage of Property 0.25 acres

#### **UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	10	410942	4891645	3	
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone Easting Northing
2				4	

#### 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 Robert W. Hadlow, Ph.D., Senior Historian

organization Oregon Department of Transportation date June 30, 2004

street & number 123 NW Flanders Street telephone (503) 731-8239

city or town Portland \_\_\_\_\_\_ state OR \_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_\_27209-4037

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### **Continuation Sheets**

Maps

**USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

#### name Oregon Department of Transportation

street & numb	per_355 Capitol Street NE	telephone
city or town	Salem	state OR zip code 97301

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 the 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.0. 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 <u>7</u> Page <u>6</u>

Big Creek Bridge No. 1180 Name of Property

Tillamook County, Oregon County and State

### **Narrative Description**

Big Creek Bridge No. 01180 is a reinforced-concrete through tied-arch structure. It spans Big Creek at milepost 175.02 on the Oregon Coast Highway No. 9 (US 101). The bridge is located about eleven miles south of Yachats and two miles north of Heceta Head Lighthouse, and is in Lane County, Oregon.

The bridge consists of a 120-foot reinforced-concrete tied arch of elliptical shape flanked by two 40-foot reinforcedconcrete deck girder spans to the north and one 35-foot reinforced-concrete deck girder span to the south. Overall length is 235 feet. The roadway, curb-to-curb, is 27 feet, with two travel lanes. Sidewalks are 7 feet wide. Piling for the piers averaged 17 feet deep. Forty piles were driven for pier one and 56 for pier 2. Arch ribs are 3'-6" wide by 2'-8" thick at the crown and 3'-6" thick at the springline. Reinforcing included 1 1/8" square steel bar in the ribs. In addition, 1 1/4" square reinforcing bar was used at the ends of the ribs and fanned out diagonally into the floor of the deck to transmit the thrust of the arch ribs into the 12-inch-thick slab. A temporary "Considère" hinge was used near the crown of each arch rib to aid in construction.<sup>1</sup>

The bridge has an ensemble of architectural elements that combines classical and Art Deco details.. Ornate curved elbow bracketing support the sidewalks. The balustrades are made up of beveled, one-foot-wide concrete railing caps set on pre-cast semicircular-arched panels. Posts are regularly spaced along the balustrade. Slender concrete hangers, with a thickness of 5 inches and placed at 12-foot intervals suspend the road deck from the arch. Reinforced-concrete cross-bracing between arch ribs maintains rigidity of the superstructure. The approach spans have flattened arch curtain walls.

The Union Bridge Company, of Portland, completed the Big Creek Bridge in 1931. It has undergone minor maintenance since 1931. However, in the late 1980s it was evident that the bridge's closeness to the ocean left it vulnerable to salt water penetration, which had corroded reinforcing bar and was weakening the structure. In addition, the bridge's overhead sway bracing, between the arch ribs, created a serious vertical clearance deficiency. The Department began to develop a project to replace the Big Creek Bridge, yet its location was in the middle of habitat for the endangered Oregon silverspot butterfly. Replacing the bridge would result in a loss of critical habitat for the butterfly and would require acquisition of difficult to find and costly replacement habitat. In addition, replacing the bridge would affect adjacent wetlands and wildlife habitat and require the creation of new wetlands. By the early 1990s, ODOT had made several advances in its cathodic protection program that addressed salt water corrosion in reinforced-concrete bridges. A rehabilitation option was investigated, using cathodic protection and minor structural alterations. It was advanced as the preferred alternative for this project because it minimized impacts to the butterfly's habitat and did not impact wetlands or wildlife habitat.<sup>2</sup>

In 1998, ODOT completed a \$2 million project on the Big Creek Bridge. It involved repairing longitudinal beams, floor beams, spandrel columns, curtain walls, and vertical suspender members. In addition, the project modified the "X" bracing between the arch ribs, at the portals, to increase vertical clearance above the deck. The bottom legs of the X's were removed and a horizontal member installed in their place. This effectively altered the X form into a "lazy K" and created uniform vertical clearance from curb to curb. A zinc anode cathodic protection system was installed on the structure under the deck and on the vertical suspenders between the deck and the arch ribs for added protection against the salt-laden coastal atmosphere. The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office participated during the project's development to ensure that the bridge's historic characteristics and basic structural integrity were maintained.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>"Bridge Inspection Report for 14 October 1931," Wilson River Bridge (No. 1499), Maintenance Files, Bridge Section, Highway Division, ODOT.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Job Records for Wilson River Bridge (No. 1499), Big Creek Bridge (No. 1180), and Ten Mile Creek Bridge (No. 1181), Bridge Section, Highway Division, ODOT; Federal Highway Administration and the Oregon Department of Transportation, "Big Creek Bridge Revised Environmental Assessment, Oregon Coast Highway (US 101), Lane County," 1996, 2-5.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>8</u> Page <u>7</u>

Big Creek Bridge No. 01180 Name of Property

Lane County, Oregon County and State

### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Big Creek Bridge No. 01180 is being nominated under the C. B. McCullough Major Oregon Coast Highway Bridges Multiple Property Submission. It is significant at the statewide level under National Register criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction for mid-twentieth-century reinforced-concrete arch bridge technology. Big Creek Bridge is one of the first reinforced-concrete tied-arch spans in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States. Just as important, it significant under criterion C as the work of a master, Conde B. McCullough, Oregon state bridge engineer from 1919 to 1936. The bridge is also significant at the statewide level under criterion A for its association with construction of the Oregon Coast Highway, which eventually ran the length of Oregon and connected with adjacent segments in California and Washington. The road would not have been completed without eleven major bridges, including the Big Creek Bridge, and many other spans.<sup>3</sup>

The reinforced-concrete tied arch is an adaptation of the "bowstring arch-truss" that Squire Whipple developed in 1841. Iowa bridge engineer James B. Marsh first expressed it in a concrete form as one of the variations of the "rainbow arch" bridges that he designed and popularized in the 1910s and 1920s throughout the American prairie states. McCullough worked for Marsh in 1910 when he was first constructing these concrete and angle steel bridges throughout the mid-section of the country.

McCullough chose concrete over other materials for the span because of its proximity to the ocean's corrosive salt air. His experience with Marsh Engineering influenced his decision to use the through tied arch form for the Big Creek crossing. He had already designed identical tied arches for the Wilson River north of Tillamook and for Ten Mile Creek, four miles north of Big Creek in Lane County. All three bridges were sited at lowland coastal locations that provided inadequate foundation conditions for laterally-stressed abutments. The high water during flood periods and extreme tidal conditions at these locations required that any bridge have minimum profile supporting piers.

The theory behind the tied arch is that, unlike more traditional fixed through arches, the ends of the ribs were not integral parts of the piers, where their horizontal thrust action was contained by the mass of the piers. The tied arch configuration removed lateral stresses from the arch ends, so there was no need for the usual massive abutment structures. In McCullough's spans, the ends of the arch ribs were connected to the deck by hinged shoes and rebar, much like a bow is pulled taught and tied off with a string. The deck, like the string with the bow, holds the arch's thrust. Lateral forces were balanced within the structure itself, with the bridge loads transmitted vertically through the piers. This allowed for the narrow, low mass pier design that was ideal for the flood-prone area at the bridge site.

McCullough differed from his mentor, Marsh, in that he used reinforcing bar instead of steel plate in his arches. His particular adaptation of the tied arch design was credited in the technical literature as having the unique feature of using the bridge deck slab itself as the "tie" structural member, rather than steel girders. Another key to the success of McCullough's reinforce-concrete through tied arch was his use of French engineer Armand Considère's hinge, or articulation point, in the arch ribs. It consisted of bent reinforcing bar bundled with steel hoops to resemble an hour glass. Considère's hinges, placed near the crown of each arch rib eliminated stresses on the span due to shrinkage and dead load during construction. The hinges were encased in high-strength concrete once the ribs bore the span's full weight.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>A Historic American Engineering Record inventory of bridges in the state of Washington, completed in 1980, suggested that there are reinforced-concrete tied-arch spans in that state that date from the mid-1920s. In particular, the report mentioned the 1923 Indian Timothy Memorial Bridge, the 1923 Goldsborough Creek Bridge, and the 1924 North and South Hamma Hamma River bridges. Contact by the author of this nomination with AI Mix, a structural engineer with the Bridge and Structures Section of the Washington State Department of Transportation, in Olympia, confirmed assumptions that the Duckabush River Bridge, in Jefferson County is that state's oldest reinforced-concrete tied arch. It was completed in 1934, three years after the Wilson River Bridge at Tillamook. See also, Lisa Soderberg, "Historic Bridges and Tunnels in Washington State," National Register of Historic Places Thematic Nomination (Lacey: Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, 1980.)

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

Big Creek Bridge No. 01180 Name of Property

Lane County, Oregon County and State

McCullough considered his design and use of a tied arch configuration as an approach to solving the problems of lowland coastal locations to be rare and innovative in the United States. A few years later, he created reinforced-concrete through tied arches using the same design for the main spans for the Alsea Bay Bridge and the side spans for the Siuslaw River Bridge and the Umpqua River Bridge, all on the Oregon Coast Highway.

McCullough's pioneering use of the reinforced-concrete through tied arch has not gone unnoticed. In 1999, in honor of its one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary, the periodical *ENR*, once known as *Engineering News-Record*, published a list of the top people who had made outstanding contributions to the construction industry since 1874. "Their efforts," *ENR* believed, "helped shape this nation and the world . . . by developing new analytical tools, equipment, engineering or architectural design." Ten bridge engineers made the list, and among them was C. B. McCullough. "These leading designers dared to span great lengths," wrote *ENR*, "with the most elegant, constructible and economical solutions possible." The periodical cited McCullough's use of the reinforced-concrete tied arch as his most innovative contribution. He was listed among such engineering greats as Othmar H. Ammann, designer of the George Washington, Bayonne, Triborough, Bronx-Whitestone, Throgs Neck, and Verrazano-Narrows bridges in New York; James Eads, designer of the Eads Bridge over the Mississippi River in St. Louis; Robert Maillart, designer of many early-20th-century reinforced-concrete arch bridges in Switzerland; and David B. Steinman, designer of many significant American suspension bridges, including the St. Johns in Portland, Oregon, the Waldo-Hancock in Maine, and the Mackinac in Michigan.<sup>5</sup>

Big Creek Bridge is also significant under criterion C as the work of a master. It as a strong thematic association with the several other major steel and reinforced-concrete bridges designed by C. B. McCullough, Oregon state bridge engineer from 1919 to 1936, and erected along the Oregon Coast Highway No. 9 (US 101) in the 1920s and 1930s. During his years as State Bridge Engineer, and later as Assistant State Highway Engineer, McCullough authored several books and many technical articles on bridge design and construction. He is significant for his use of innovative bridge technology, and for his visually appealing designs. He attained international recognition for the large-scale structures he designed to span the major rivers and estuaries, and several other thematically-similar concrete arch, beam and girder structures, along the Oregon Coast Highway.

McCullough's bridges also had in common design themes and elements executed in classical, Gothic, and Art Deco/Moderne styles. They are evident on sidewalk railing balustrades; bracketing; arched curtain walls, entrance pylons, columns, stringers, piers, staircases, and other structural members. Eric N. DeLony, chief of the Historic American Engineering Record, remarked in his book, *Landmark American Bridges*, that this family of spans on the Oregon Coast Highway "represents some of the best and most innovative concrete and steel bridges in the world." The Yaquina Bay Bridge represents the pinnacle of McCullough's use of Gothic and Art Deco/Moderne architectural elements. The Gothic arch forms seen in the handrails and piers complement the Art Deco verticalness seen in the pier legs, entry pylons, and flowing staircases to create a streamlined elegance.<sup>6</sup>

The Big Creek Bridge is significant under criterion A because of its association with construction of the Oregon Coast Highway in the 1930s. Completion of the Oregon Coast Highway was a major public works effort in the early and mid-1930s that sought to establish an uninterrupted coastal transportation route from California to Washington. The effort was aided in the years after completion of the Big Creek Bridge by the Oregon Coast Bridges Project in which the federal Public Works Administration provided funds for the construction of five modern bridges to replace the existing slow, cumbersome ferries which serviced the crossings of the larger bays, rivers and estuaries. An immediate accomplishment of the route's completion was the construction jobs that it provided to many unemployed workers. In more long lasting terms, the Oregon

1931, 337.

<sup>5</sup>See "Top People of the Past 125 Years," ENR, 30 August 1999, 27 (quote), 47-48.

<sup>6</sup>Eric DeLony, Landmark American Bridges, (New York: American Society of Civil Engineers and Bulfinch Press, 1993), 125-35 (quote, 125); Elizabeth Shellin Atly, "C. B. McCullough and the Oregon Coastal Bridges Project," TMs, 1977, 12-14, copy held by author.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9

Big Creek Bridge No. 01180 Name of Property

Lane County, Oregon County and State

Coast Highway became a major factor in the development of commerce and tourism in Oregon's coastal regions, and has since become one of the most notable scenic routes in the United States, and has been designated a National Scenic Byway.

The Big Creek Bridge meets the property type and registration requirements for the C. B. McCullough Major Oregon Coast Highway Bridges Multiple Property Submission. It was completed during the period of significance (1927-36) on the then current alignment of the Oregon Coast Highway. It was designed by Oregon State Highway Department bridge engineers under the direction of Conde B. McCullough. Its primary or secondary main spans are reinforced-concrete arches and it possesses a high degree of original integrity of design and materials.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>9</u> Page <u>10</u>

Big Creek Bridge No. 01180 Name of Property

Lane County, Oregon County and State

## **Major Bibliographic References**

DeLony, Eric. Landmark American Bridges. New York: American Society of Civil Engineers and Bulfinch Press, 1993.

- Federal Highway Administration and the Oregon Department of Transportation. "Big Creek Bridge Revised Environmental Assessment, Oregon Coast Highway (US 101), Lane County," 1996..
- Hadlow, Robert W. Elegant Arches, Soaring Spans: C. B. McCullough, Oregon's Master Bridge Builder. Corvallis: Oregon State University Press, 2001.
- ------. "Wilson River Bridge, HAER No. OR-39, Report." Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, 1990.
- McArthur, Lewis A.. Oregon Geographic Names. fifth edition. Portland: Oregon Historical Society Press, 1982.
- McCullough, Conde B. "Design of a Concrete Bowstring-Arch Bridge, Including Analysis of Theory," *Engineering News-Record*, 27 August 1931.
- Norman, James B. "Request for Determination of Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places for Big Creek Bridge No. 01180." Oregon Department of Transportation, 1994.
- Oregon Department of Transportation. Bridge Section. Job Record Cards. Wilson River Bridge No. 1499, Big Creek Bridge No. 1180, and Ten Mile Creek Bridge No. 1181.

-----. Bridge Section Maintenance File #1180.

- Smith, Dwight A., James B. Norman, and Pieter T. Dykman. *Historic Highway Bridges of Oregon*. Portland: Oregon Historical Society Press, 1989.
- Soderberg, Lisa. "Historic Bridges and Tunnels in Washington State." National Register of Historic Places Thematic Nomination. Lacey: Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, 1980.

"Top People of the Past 125 Years," ENR, 30 August 1999.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>10</u> Page <u>11</u>

Big Creek Bridge No. 01180 Name of Property

Lane County, Oregon County and State

# **Verbal Boundary Description**

The property is described as beginning at the north end of the Big Creek Bridge, at mile post 175.02 on the Oregon Coast Highway No. 9, and running 235 feet to the south end of the structure. It is 60 feet wide (30 feet either side of center line on the bridge).

# **Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes property associated historically with the Big Creek Bridge.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>11</u> Page <u>12</u>

<u>Big Creek Bridge No. 01180</u> Name of Property

Lane County, Oregon County and State

# Photographs

James B. Norman, Photographer, June 2003 (Original negatives housed at Oregon Department of Transportation, Salem, Oregon)

#### Photographic Description

View No. Description

- 1 General view of the Big Creek Bridge, view looking northeast.
- 2 General perspective view of the bridge, view looking northwest.
- 3 Elevation view of the Big Creek Bridge, view looking west.



-7, 1

•



,