

PH0076511

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: Santa Cruz	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 19 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Felton Covered Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Covered Bridge Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Felton 95018

STATE California	CODE 06	COUNTY: Santa Cruz	CODE 087
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Historical</u> <u>Monument</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
County of Santa Cruz

STREET AND NUMBER:
701 Ocean Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Santa Cruz 95060

STATE:
California

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Prescriptive Right - Santa Cruz County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
701 Ocean Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Santa Cruz

STATE:
California

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
State Historical Landmark

DATE OF SURVEY: July, 1969 Federal State County Local

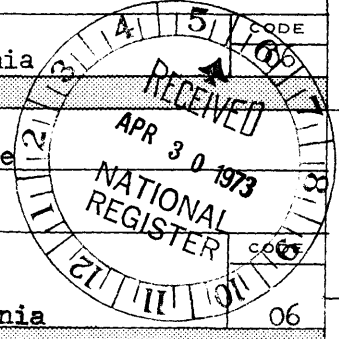
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Landmarks Commission c/o Dept. Of Parks & Recreation

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 2390

CITY OR TOWN:
Sacramento 95811

STATE:
California

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1892, this bridge is one of only 11 covered bridges still remaining in the state. Its design is a mixture of the Pratt-Warren truss construction with diagonals of iron and compression members of vertical timbers. With its construction of local redwoods, it is proposed to be the last of the redwood spans. (redwood was still used for siding and rails on subsequent bridges)

Measuring approximately 140 feet in length and 35 feet in height, it is the tallest covered span in the United States. For 46 years, the Felton Bridge served as the San Lorenzo Valley's link to the outside world, for it was used by wagons in hauling freight between Felton and Graham Hill Road. Its use as a wagon bridge was discontinued in 1938 when a nearby iron bridge assumed its functions. After that time, it fell into disrepair with the wood suffering from alternate wetting and drying.

Over the years, the boards on the north end of the bridge have disappeared and paired windows which were found on both sides only remain on the south side. The bridge was especially damaged by the floodwaters of 1955. Since 1959, the bridge has been maintained by the Felton Volunteer Fire Department. Using funds gained from their annual pancake breakfast, the Felton firemen replaced the north wall in 1960, and today they continue their repair and maintenance work on the bridge.

Now, the bridge is used only for foot traffic, but it still remains one of California's last relics of the bygone era of covered bridges.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

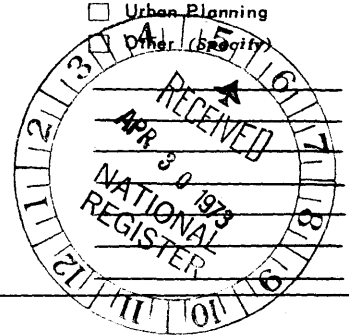
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Built in 1892

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1892 at a cost of \$4,677, the Felton Covered Bridge is one of only 11 covered bridges still remaining in California. Because of its architectural rarity and because it has the distinction of being the tallest covered span in the United States (standing 35 feet high), the Felton Bridge has been recognized by the state as Historical Landmark #583 since July of 1969.

For 46 years, it faithfully served as the San Lorenzo Valley's link to the marketplaces of the world for it was used as the valley's main wagon bridge for the transport of freight. In 1938, due to its deteriorating condition, the bridge was destined for destruction and replacement by a new iron structure; however, the citizens of Felton protested in support of its preservation and the bridge was saved. The iron structure was placed farther down the San Lorenzo and the Felton bridge was retired from use. This action is said to be the first western example of preserving by-passed bridges. Although this was a common occurrence in the East, the preservation of the Felton Bridge was a precedent for the western United States.

Today, the bridge is used only for foot traffic. Although the bridge has been damaged by bad weather and floods, it has been repaired and maintained by the Felton Volunteer Fire Department since 1959. Using the funds raised from their annual pancake breakfast held on the bridge, the Fire Department has already replaced the missing north wall. Today, they continue in their preservation work.

Plans are now being discussed for the possible establishment of a Felton Covered Bridge Park adjacent to the bridge. It is hoped that this park will stimulate more public interest in the bridge by lending purpose to the bridge and by providing a place in which both the bridge and the beauties of the surrounding area can be enjoyed.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Covered Bridges of the West by Kramer Adams
Covered Bridges of California by Sylvanus Morley
Santa Cruz Sentinel

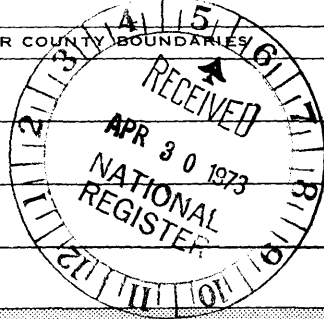
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	37°	03'	05"	122°	04'	15"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .08 Acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



LITM
 IC/58261
 410084
 (7)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Linda Ishihara, Staff Member (Jerry Hughes--Director)

ORGANIZATION: County Department of Parks and Recreation DATE: June 29, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 701 Ocean Street

CITY OR TOWN: Santa Cruz 95060 STATE: California CODE: 06

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]
 Title: State Liaison Officer
 Date: August 3, 1970

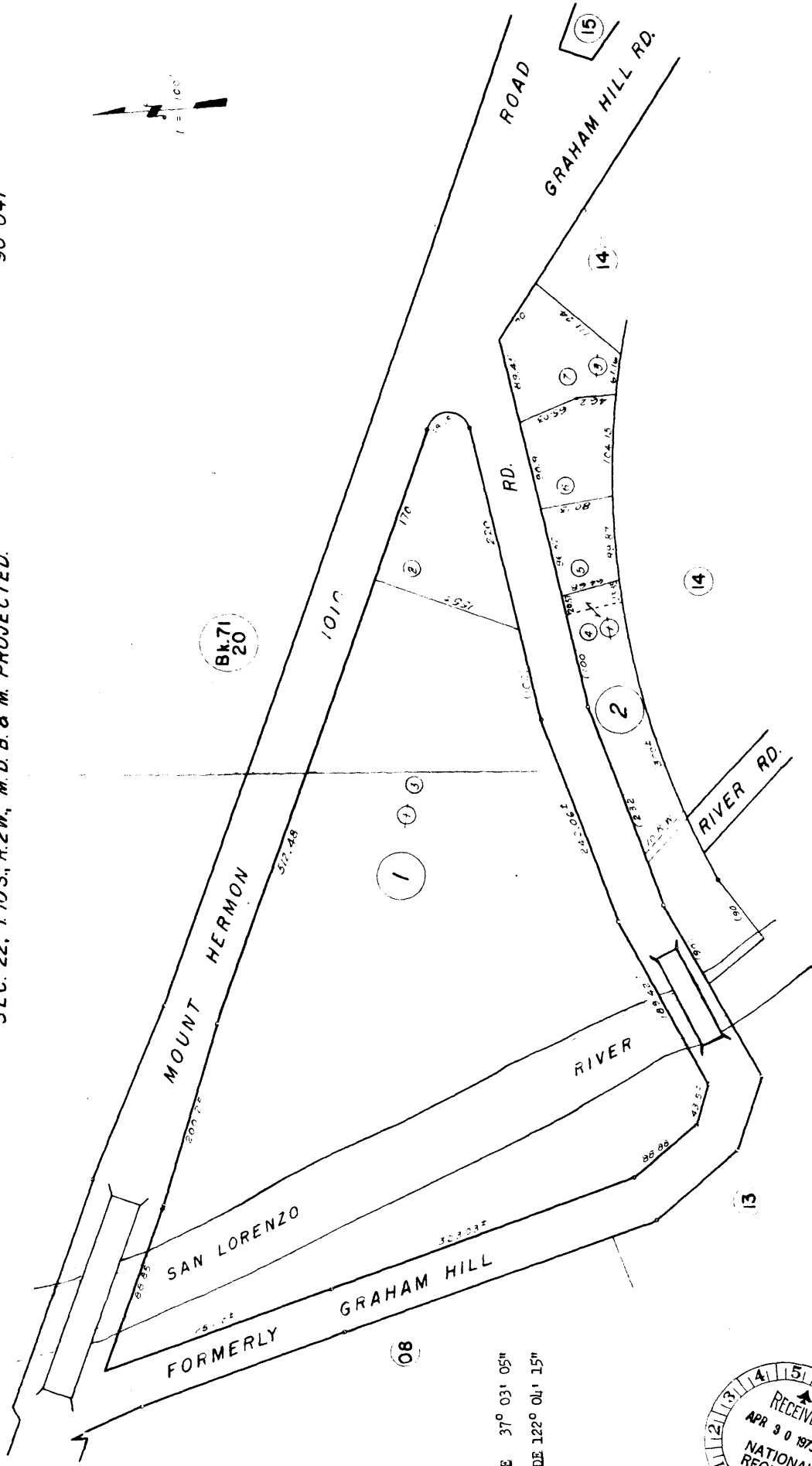
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/19/73
 ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: 6 6 73

Tax Area Code 65-09
90-041

POR. RANCHO ZAYANTE
SEC. 22, T. 10S., R. 2W., M. D. B. & M. PROJECTED.



ATTITUDE 37° 03' 05"
INCLINE 122° 04' 15"



Note - Assessor's Parcel Block 8
Lot Numbers Shown in Circles.
Assessor's Map No. 65-09
County of Santa Cruz, Calif.
Jan. 1952