



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, Rock O' the Range Bridge in Deschutes County, OREGON, reference number 79002054, and part of the Oregon Covered Bridges Thematic Resource, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 11/29/1979, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST Vol. 45 number 54, notice of Tuesday, March 18, 1980, page 17474. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

*Quinn for the Keeper*  
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

2-2-2010  
Date

THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION  
OREGON COVERED BRIDGES

Bridge Name and Number Rock o' the Range Bridge, Index No. 5

County Deschutes

Stream or River Swalley Canal

Location Bowery Lane, off U.S. Highway 97, 2 miles north of Bend

NE $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 9, T.17S., R.12E., W.M.

Zone 10 E637200 N4886760 Bend Quadrangle

Acreeage and Boundary Description Full width of road right-of-way  
for the distance between abutments and ten feet additional  
at either end, containing in all approximately 3720 square feet.

Present Owner Bridge is dedicated to land holders in  
adjoining subdivision.  
(See attached list)

Date of Construction 1963

Description of Bridge

Length of span	42 feet
Truss type	Modified King post truss, non-weight-bearing
Cladding	Cedar-clad frame side walls
Roofing	Shingled gable roof
Decking	Wood (Douglas fir)
Other salient features	Concrete pilings. Truncated rectangular portal "arches".

This is a non-conventional structure in the Thematic Group. While 3 others also date from the 1960s, Rock o' the Range Bridge is not supported by a standard truss design. Concrete pilings and a wood deck carry the load. The bridge was built for private developer William Bowers by local contractor Maurice Olson on the access road to a modern day subdivision. It is included in the nomination because, notwithstanding these points, it is listed in the World Guide.

Legal description is included in the appropriate County Road Department right-of-way files and County Deed Records.

Information based on following sources: Statewide Inventory Form prepared by Stephen Dow Beckham, 1976. Typescript on Oregon Covered Bridges by Nick and Bill Cockrell, 1977.

Rock o' the Range Bridge, Index No. 5, Deschutes County

PRESENT OWNERS

Mrs. Van Allen  
20580 Bowery Lane  
Bend, OR 97701

Bradley K. Johnson  
Address unknown

Mr. and Mrs. John Hanson  
20550 Bowery Lane  
Bend, OR 97701

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Marshall  
1720 East 6th  
Bend, OR 97701

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Granger  
20520 Bowery Lane  
Bend, OR 97701

Barbara Vail  
9805 NW 27th  
Vancouver, WA 98665

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas T. MacKenzie  
20575 Bowery Lane  
Bend, OR 97701

W. D. Bowers  
1735 NE 11th  
Bend, OR 97701

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schock  
20620 Bowery Lane  
Bend, OR 97701

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tate  
North Highway 97  
Bend, OR 97701

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Klein  
20545 Bowery Lane  
Bend, OR 97701

Mr. and Mrs. Frank O. Brink  
c/o W. D. Bowers (see above)

Mr. and Mrs. Earl B. Wilson, Jr.  
20655 Bowery Lane  
Bend, OR 97701



Bridge Index No. 5  
Rock-o-the-Range Covered Bridge  
Vicinity of Bend  
Deschutes County, Oregon  
East Elevation

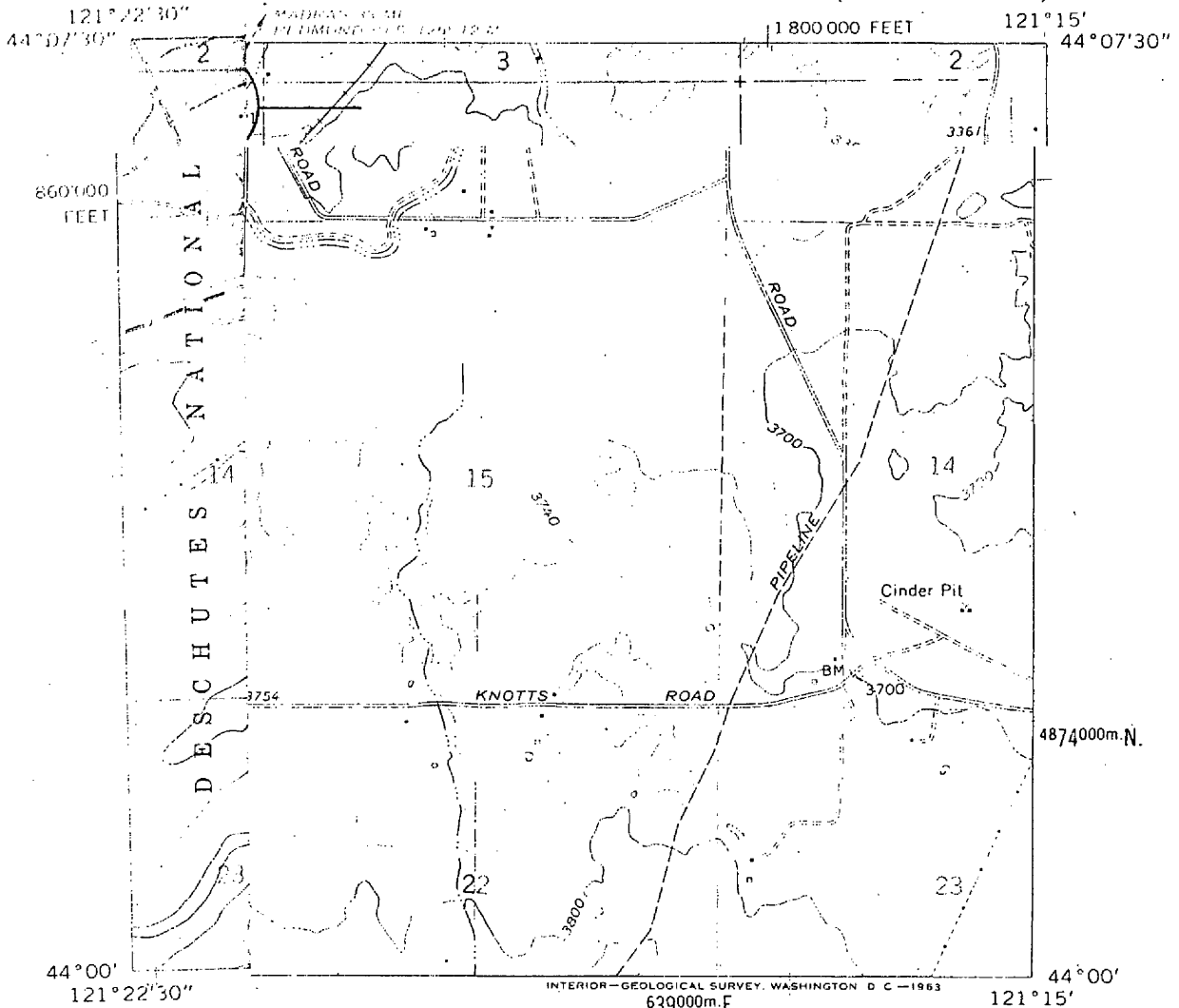
Nick and Bill Cockrell Photo, 1976  
751 Piedmont NW  
Salem, OR 97304

(TUMALO DAM)

DEPART  
GI

BEND QUADRANGLE  
OREGON-DESCHUTES CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(FORKED HORN BUTTE)



(NEWBERRY CRATER)  
1:125,000

Mapped, etc  
Control by U  
Topography t  
photographs

Polyconic pro  
10,000-foot  
1000-meter  
zone 10, shc  
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Fine red das. LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty		Light-duty	
Medium-duty		Unimproved dirt	

U. S. Route

(NEWBERRY CRATER)  
1:125,000

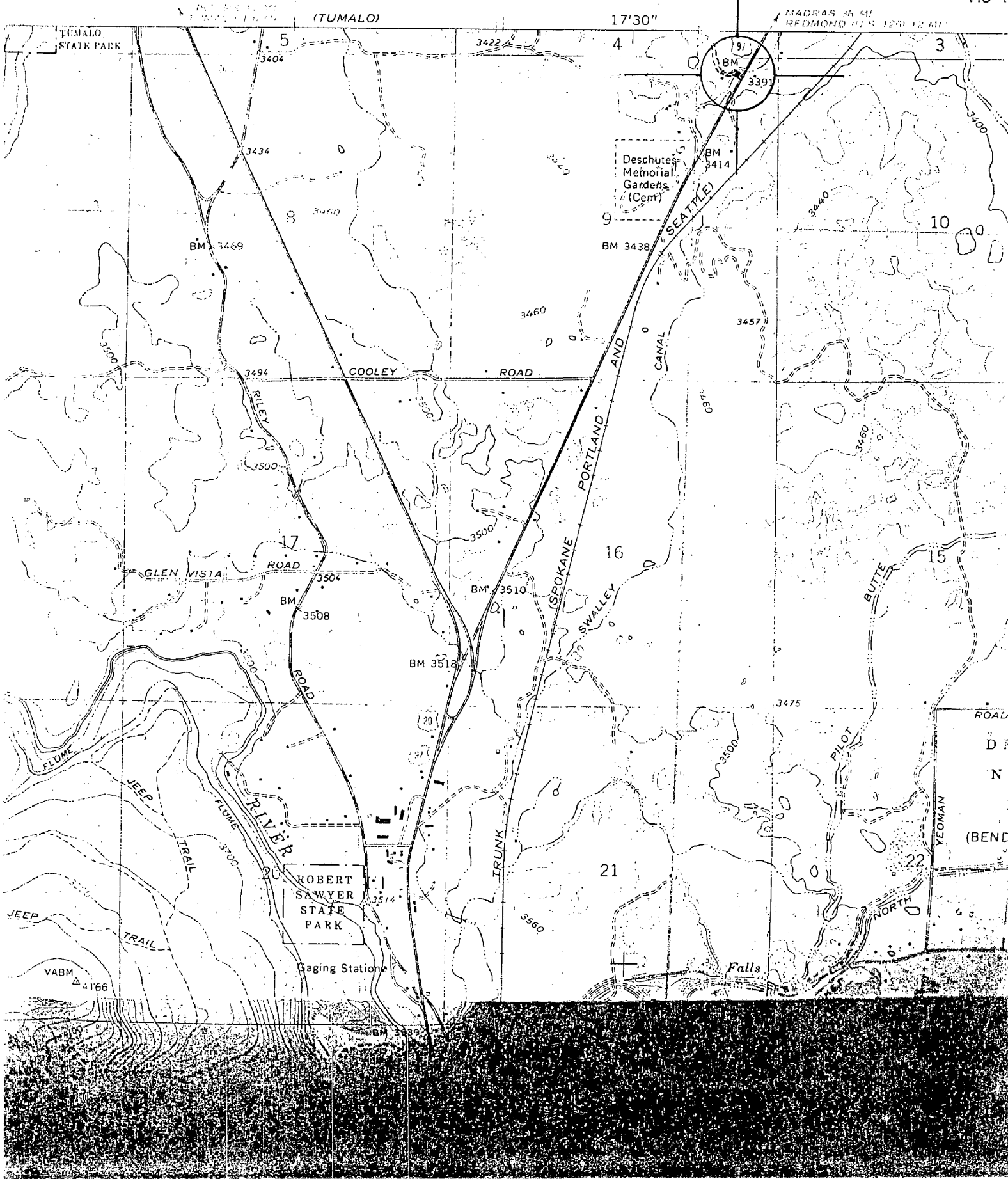
ROCK-O-THE RANGE COVERED BRIDGE

BEND, OREG.  
N4400-W12115/7.5

# 5

1962

10 / 637200 / 4886760



(TUMALO)

17'30"

MADRAS 16 MI  
REDMOND 11 S 12W 12 MI

TUMALO  
STATE PARK

Deschutes  
Memorial  
Gardens  
(Cem)

BM 3469

BM 3414

BM 3438

COOLEY ROAD

3460

3457

GLEN VISTA ROAD

BM 3508

BM 3510

BM 3518

3475

ROBERT  
SAWYER  
STATE  
PARK

Gaging Station

VABM  
4166

BM 3391

ROAD

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YEOMAN

Rock O' the Range Bridge  
Stream: Swalley Canal  
Built: 1963 (private)  
World Guide No.: 37-09-01

T17S R12E S3  
Truss: Modified Kingpost  
Length: 42 feet

#5

The Rock O' the Range Bridge is the only Oregon covered span located east of the Cascade Range and is one of the recent covered bridges to be built in the State. Interestingly, it represents an architectural style of bridges which is unique in Oregon.

William Bowers was developing a parcel of land north of Bend and needed to build an access road across Swalley Canal to his property. He was inspired by Lane County's Goodpasture Bridge and decided that his bridge should be a covered one. Bowers instructed Maurice Olson, a local contractor, to construct the bridge according to a picture of a covered bridge found on a calendar.

Specially ordered Douglas Fir timbers were placed upon concrete pilings to support both the dead weight of the bridge and the live load of passing traffic. Although small timbers were added to help strengthen the span, technically, a truss arrangement is not used. Cedar siding, shingle roof and side windows were added refinements. The bridge was completed in 1963 for about \$4,500.

Bowers has dedicated the bridge to the public. Maintenance costs for the bridge will be borne by landowners who use the bridge for access to their property.

WOODEN  
TRUSS  
ROOF  
SIDING

Unlike bridges over a large stream, the Rock O' the Range Bridge is actually built lower than the connecting roadway since the flow of the irrigation canal it crosses poses no hazard to the safety of the structure.

TO GET THERE:

Travel north of Bend on Highway 97 toward Redmond. The bridge is located two miles north of Bend on Bowery Lane west of the highway.