United States Department of the Interior

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

The attached property, Ritner Creek Bridge in Polk County, OREGON, reference number 79002147 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 17476. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

For the Keeper: _____ 2-3-2010.

Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places **Date**

THE TIC GROUP NOMINATION
OREGON COVERED BRIDGES

Bridge Name and Number: Ritner Creek Bridge, Index No. 56

County: Polk

Stream or River: Ritner Creek

Location: Off Highway 223, slightly upstream from junction with Luckiamute River, ca. ~~2~~ miles S of Pedee
NE¼ SE¼ Sec. 5, T.10S., R.6W., W.M.

Zone 10 E465070 N4952700 Corvallis Quadrangle

Acreage and Boundary Description: Approximately 60' for the distance between abutments and ten feet additional at either end, containing in all approximately 5700 square feet in Minnie Ritner Ruiter Wayside, property described in Vol. 178, page 29, Polk County Deed Records, as lying between the relocated Kings Valley Highway No. 223 and the Valley and Siletz Railroad in Sec. 5, T.10S., R.6W., Willamette Meridian.

Present Owner: Polk County Board of Commissioners
Polk County Courthouse
Dallas, OR 97338

Date of Construction: 1927

Description of Bridge

Length of span	75 feet
Truss type	Howe truss
Cladding	Board and batten, vertical side walls with battered sections housing buttresses at portal ends
Roofing	Shingled gable roof
Decking	Wood

Other salient features: Flat portal arches (originally semi-elliptical). Four regularly-spaced openings in either side elevation have truncated triangular arch heads. False beams exposed at gable ends. Concrete piers.

The Ritner Creek Bridge is the only remaining example of the State Highway Department's standardized design of the 1920s for a 75-foot Howe truss. It was the last of the covered spans to be maintained as a feature of the State Highway System. The original contract for construction was awarded to Hamer and Curry Contractors. In the 1960s the portals were modified to accommodate taller truck loads. In March, 1976, the bridge

(continued)

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

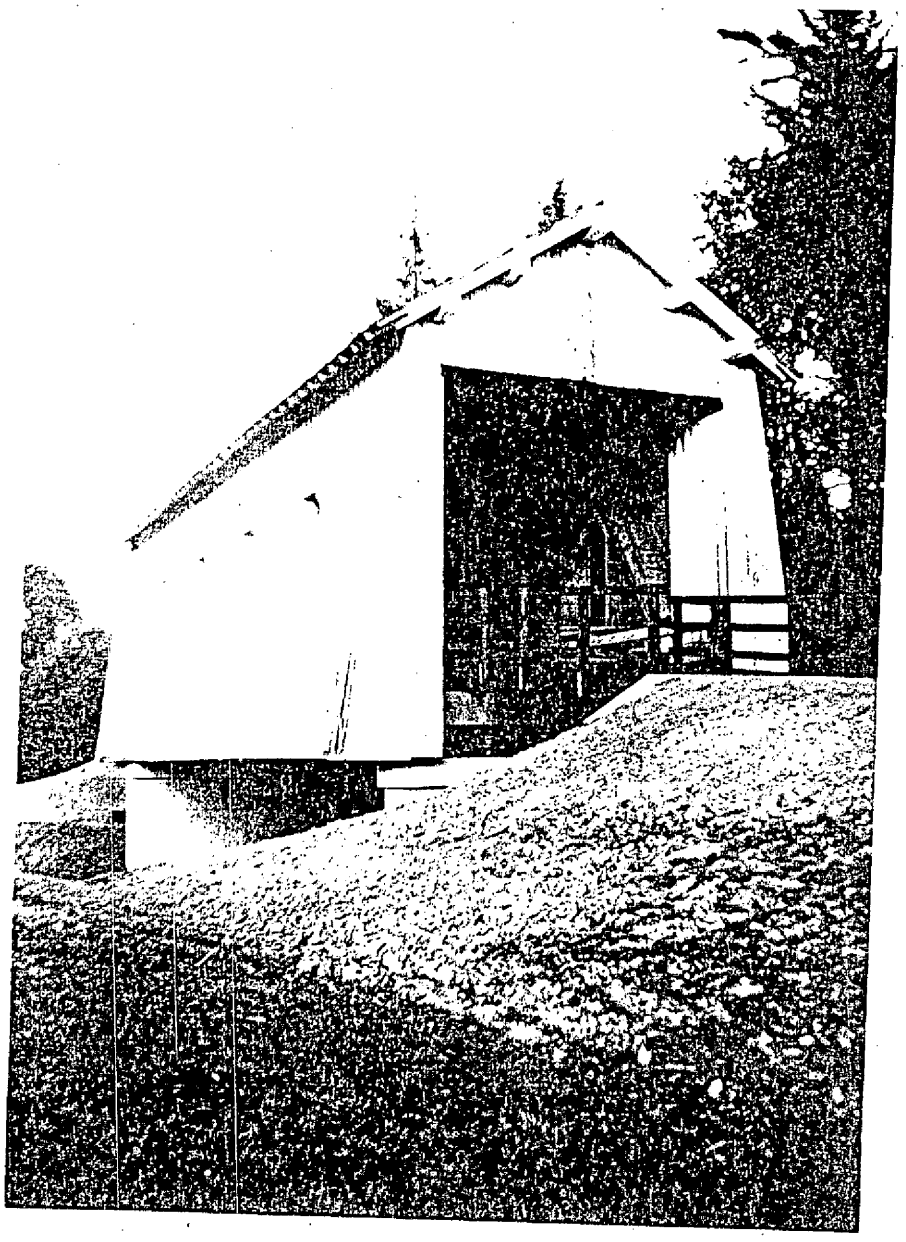
Information based on following sources: Statewide Inventory Form prepared by Stephen Dow Beckham, 1976. Typescript on Oregon Covered Bridges by Nick and Bill Cockrell, 1977.

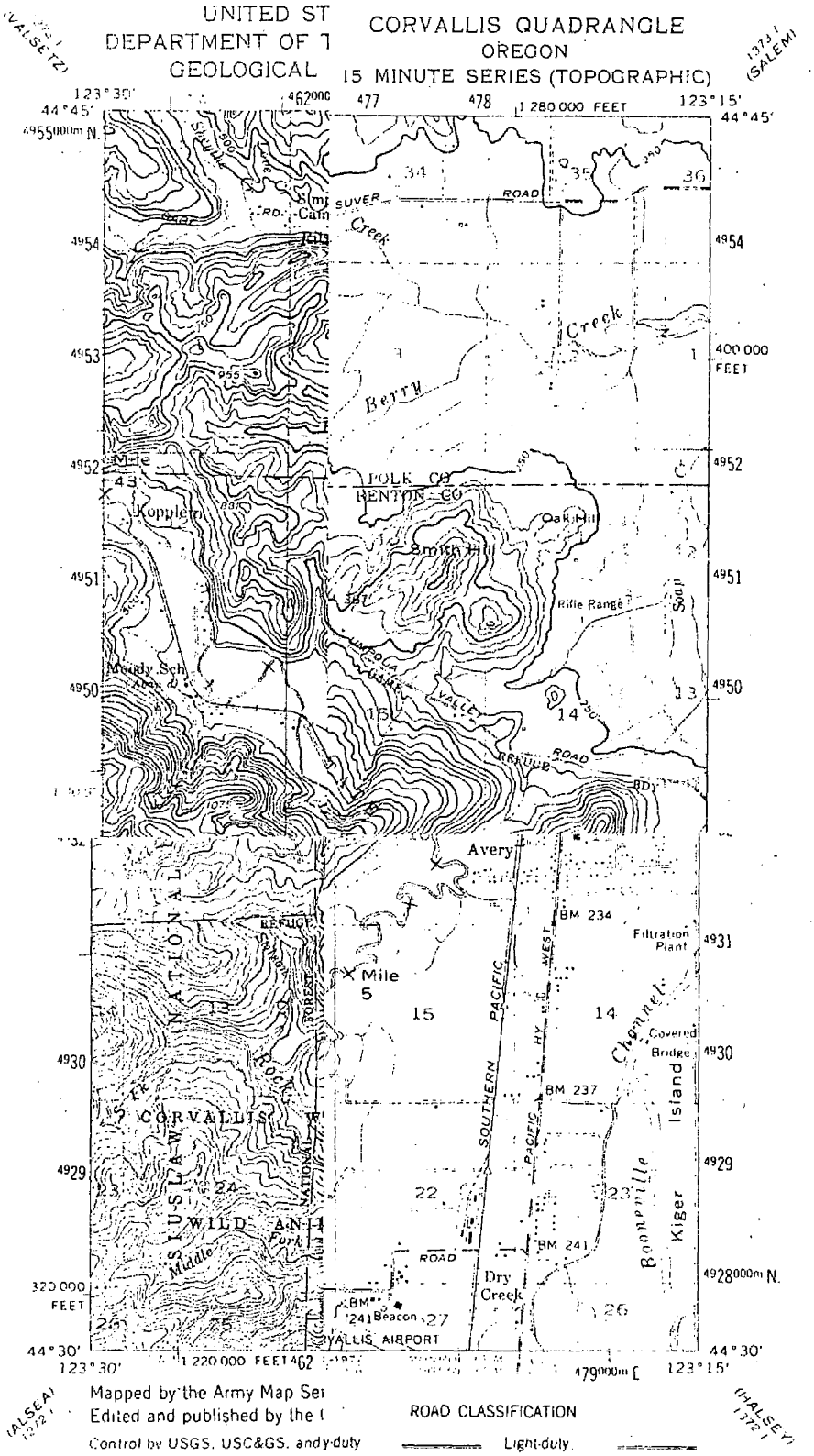
was lifted from its abutments and resited on new concrete piers approximately 60 feet downstream as a feature of a locally-developed Wayside. Within the Thematic Group, this is the only known case of a relocation, or resiting. The relocation was precipitated by State Highway Division plans to redevelop the crossing with a concrete span and improved alignment. Polk County residents voted the funds for resiting the covered bridge, and also approved funds to maintain the resulting Wayside.

Ritner Creek is named for Sebastian Ritner, who came to Oregon in 1845 and whose descendents still reside in the area.

Bridge Index No. 56
Ritner Creek Covered Bridge
Vicinity of Kings Valley
Polk County, Oregon
South West Elevation

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





NER CREEK COVERED BRIDGE # 56

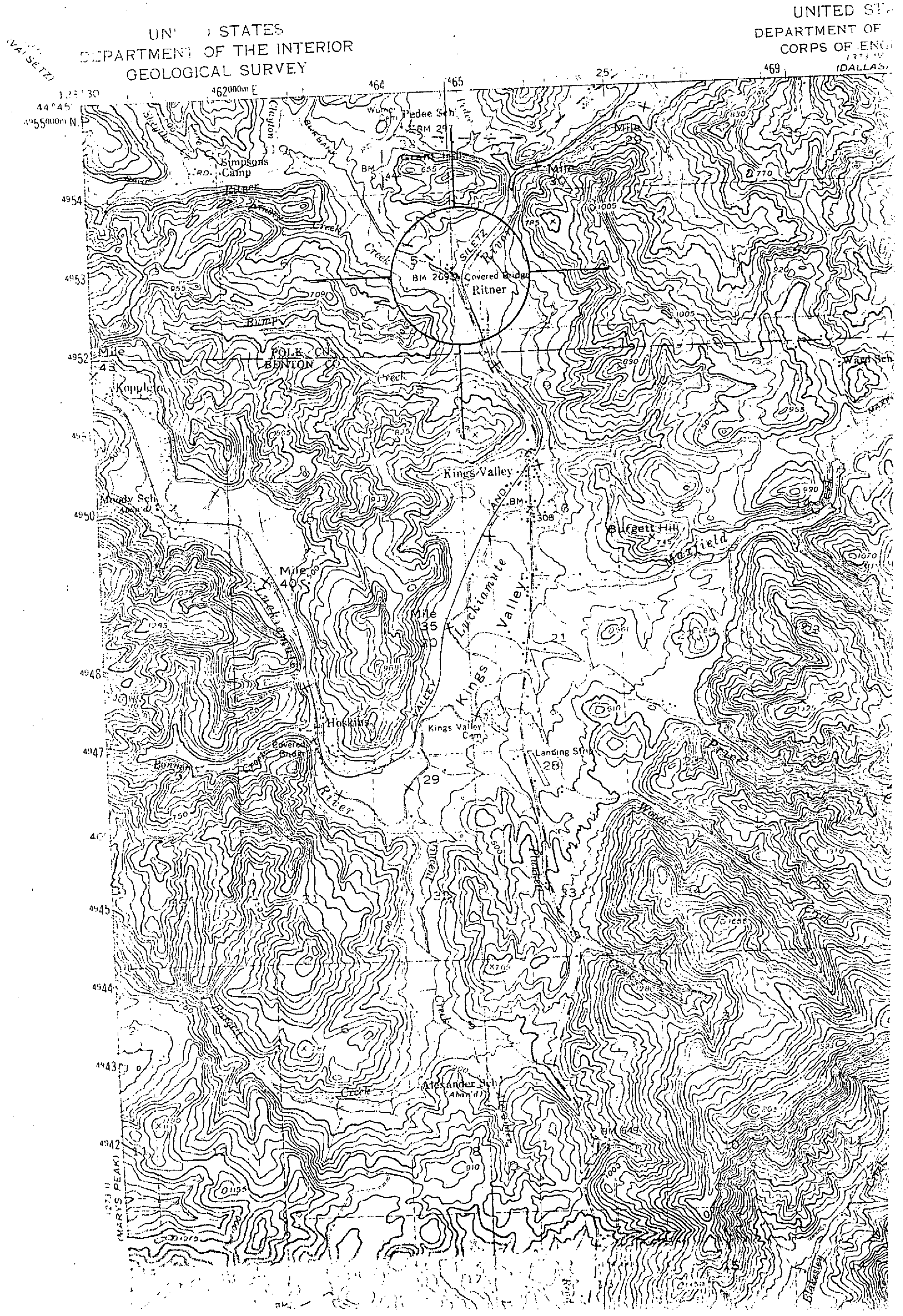
CORVALLIS, OREG.

N4430—W12315/15

1956

AMS 1373 III-SERIES V792

10/465070/4952700


UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DEPARTMENT OF
CORPS OF ENG
(DALLAS)
(VALSETZ)
(MARYS PEAK)
Pedee Sch
Simpsons Camp
Ritner
Grant Hill
Siletz River
Covered Bridge
BM 269
POLK CO
BENTON CO
Kings Valley
Burgett Hill
Luckiamute
Kings Valley
Hoskins
Kings Valley Cem
Landing Strip
Moody Sch
Ward Sch
Alexander Sch
Mile 40
Mile 35
Mile 43
Mile 29
Mile 30

#56

Ritner Creek Bri e
Stream: Ritner Creek
Built: 1927
World Guide No.: 37-27-01

T10S R4W S
Truss: Howe
Length: 75 feet

Until March, 1976, the Ritner Creek covered bridge was the sole survivor of the Oregon State Highway covered structures. It was removed from that status when two huge cranes lifted the bridge from its abutments to a new location about 60 feet downstream. Involvement of students and other county residents helped to save the bridge when the state highway division planned to replace it because it was too narrow and dangerous for the weight and speed of highway traffic.

Voters in Polk County approved a $29,000 one-time levy to save the bridge, and a $2,000 annual continuing levy to maintain the bridge and surrounding area. Regional Park and Recreation Agency officials said after all the bridge work, including reseeding, is finished, the three-quarter acre covered bridge site will be made into a wayside park. A small parking lot will be built and the bridge will be repaired and repainted.

This well-preserved example of a Howe truss bridge is located just two miles south of Pedee on Ritner Creek, on State Highway 223. The bridge was constructed in 1926-27 by Hamer and Curry Contractors at a cost of $6,963.78. The portals, once rounded, were cut square in the early 1960s to accommodate taller trucks. Another feature includeds the use of gothic-styled windows on either side of the bridge to daylight the bridge interior.

Residents in the area can remember the inside of the bridge as a convenient place to install their mail boxes.

To get there: From Dallas, travel south on 223 through Pedee; continue for approximately 2 miles south on 223 to the bridge site.