



# United States Department of the Interior

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

The attached property, Fisher School Bridge in Lincoln County, OREGON, reference number 79002105, 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 17475. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

For The Keeper: *Ruth J. Smith* 2-2-2010  
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places Date

THE HISTORIC GROUP NOMINATION  
OREGON COVERED BRIDGES

Bridge Name and Number Fisher School Bridge, Index No. 41

County Lincoln

Stream or River Five Rivers

Location Five Rivers Road, at Fisher, ca. 28 miles SE of Waldport

NE $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 1, T.15S., R.10W., W.M.

Zone 10 E432995 N 4904475 Tidewater Quadrangle

Acreage 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 5520 square feet

Present Owner Lincoln County Board of Commissioners

Lincoln County Courthouse

Newport, OR 97365

Date of Construction 1925 (1919?)

Description of Bridge

Length of span 72 feet

Truss type Howe truss

Cladding Board and batten, battered side walls, enclosing  
buttresses

Roofing Shingled gable roof

Decking Wood

Other salient features Semi-elliptical portal arches. Ribbon openings under eaves, either side elevation. Wood piers and cribs. Initial paint color on siding recently replaced was red.

The bridge has been by-passed and is closed to traffic. Five Rivers is named for the multiplicity of creeks which feed this tributary of the Alsea.

According to one informant, the bridge may have been erected as early as 1919. George A. Melvin of Seattle, Washington, testified in a letter dated February 6, 1978, that he assisted in its construction in that year.

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.

Fisher School Bridge (Five Rivers)

Stream: Five Rivers

Built: 1925

World Guide No.: 37-21-11

Truss: Howe

Length: 72 feet

The Fisher School Bridge is located in the rugged foothills of Lincoln County where isolation from rushing traffic is a welcome relief. The county taxpayers received a bargain when the bridge was built in 1925, as the costs totalled just \$2500. Originally, the bridge was painted red, but prior to the recent replacement of the exterior siding, only traces of the red paint remained. #41

The recent remodeling included replacement of the rotting siding, costing the county as much as the original construction. The bridge is now closed to vehicular traffic, and a modern concrete bridge nearby handles daily traffic. Visitors should note that hand-split pilings support the covered bridge.

The structure spans Five Rivers, so named because of the five streams of Alder Creek, Cougar Creek, Buck Creek, Crab Creek, and Cherry Creek which make up the stream.

The area surrounding Fisher was the site of several covered bridges. The Buck Creek wooden bridge, a 36 foot span was constructed in 1924 just 2½ miles north of Fisher; and the Cascade Creek structure, a 36 foot design was built in 1927 just 2 miles west of Fisher. Only the Five Rivers bridge remains.

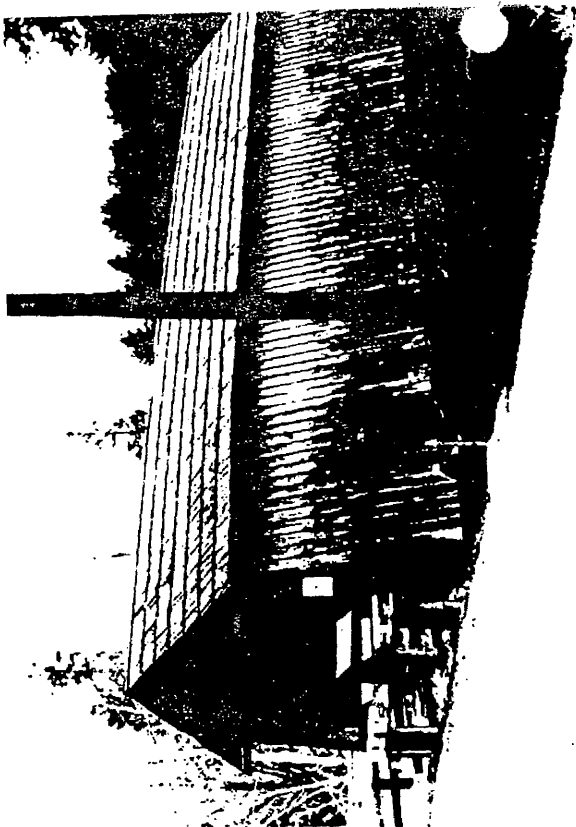
To get there: It is recommended that you take Highway 34 east from Waldport for approximately 20 miles to the Fisher-Five Rivers Road. At the fork at Siletz Road, continue left past Buck Creek Road for about one mile. The bridge is on the right. An alternate route is one from Yachats east over 20 miles of extremely rough road, and this route is not recommended without a map and a well-conditioned automobile.

Caption: (old photograph)

A rustic appearance is portrayed by the weathered and decayed siding. However; wind, moisture, and sun light are allowed to attack vital truss joints which weaken the structure and shorten the lifespan of the bridge. This photograph captured the neglected condition just prior to the 1976 facelift.

Caption: (new photograph)

Recent maintenance provided by Lincoln County is indicative of the growing efforts to preserve the roofed river crossings of the past. Although bypassed in 1974, the old wooden bridge remains a foremost concern of history buffs and bridge watchers.



County Lincoln #41  
 Theme 6-2  
 Name (Common) Fisher School  
Crab Creek Covered Bridge  
 (Historic) (Same)  
 Address (See Directions Below)  
Crab Creek Road near Fisher  
 Present Owner Lincoln County  
 (Address) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original Use Bridge  
 Date of Construction 1925

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

Location: The bridge stands about one mile beyond Fisher in extreme southern Lincoln County. Take Highway 34 east from Waldport for nineteen miles. Turn right at sign which says "Fisher, 6 miles." Stay right at the first crossroad and stay on the main road. At the fork at Seitz road stay left. Continue past Buck Creek Road one mile; the bridge is on right.

The Crab Creek Covered Bridge was built in 1925 with Howe truss construction at a cost of \$2,500. It is seventy-two feet long. The old Fisher School is just beyond the bridge. The bridge has a board and batten exterior, flared at the base. The gable roof is covered with shakes.

In April, 1976, the bridge was in very poor condition and closed to traffic. A new concrete bridge stands adjacent to it. The lower four feet of the exterior has rotted away and the main timbers show rot and deterioration.

Continue back if necessary

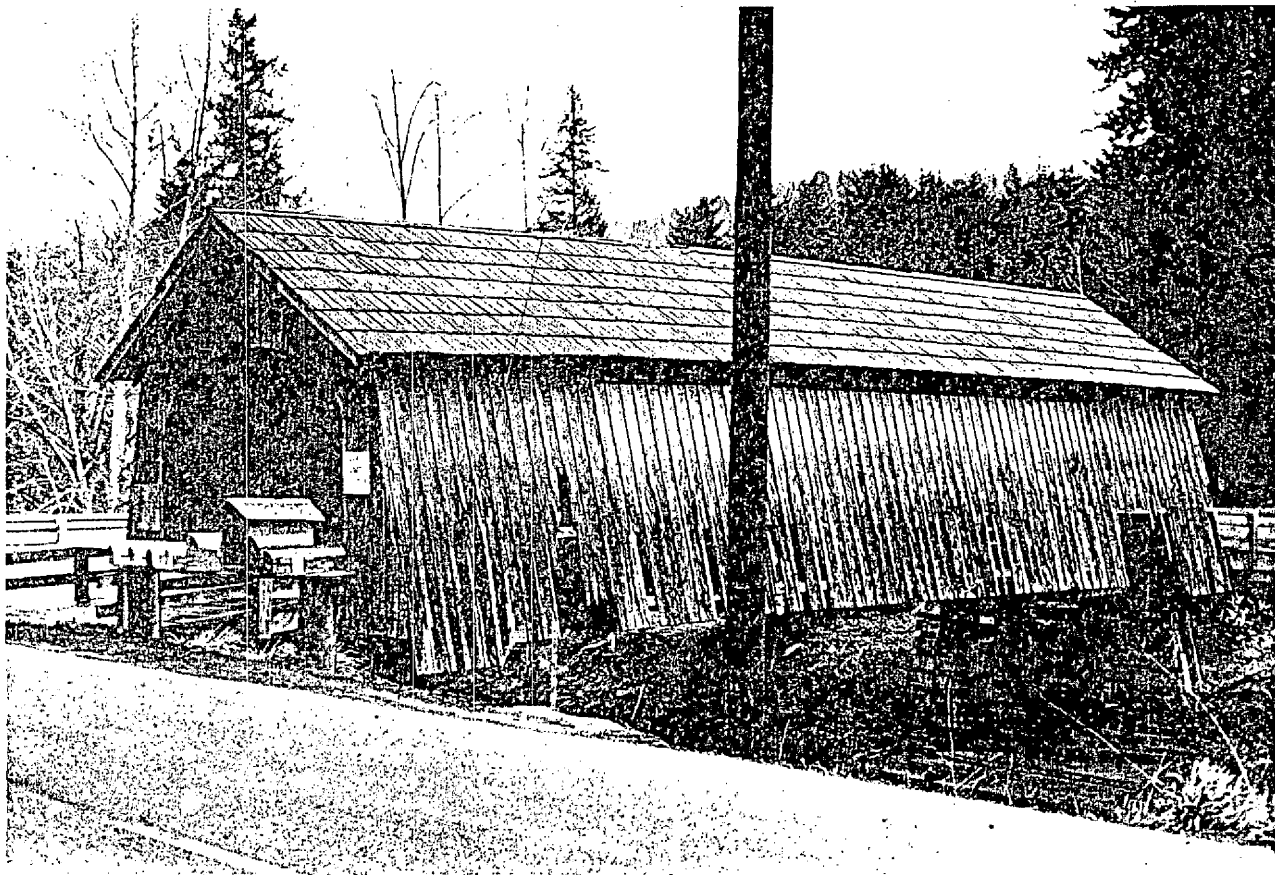
Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 7 Apr. 1976 Sources Consulted:

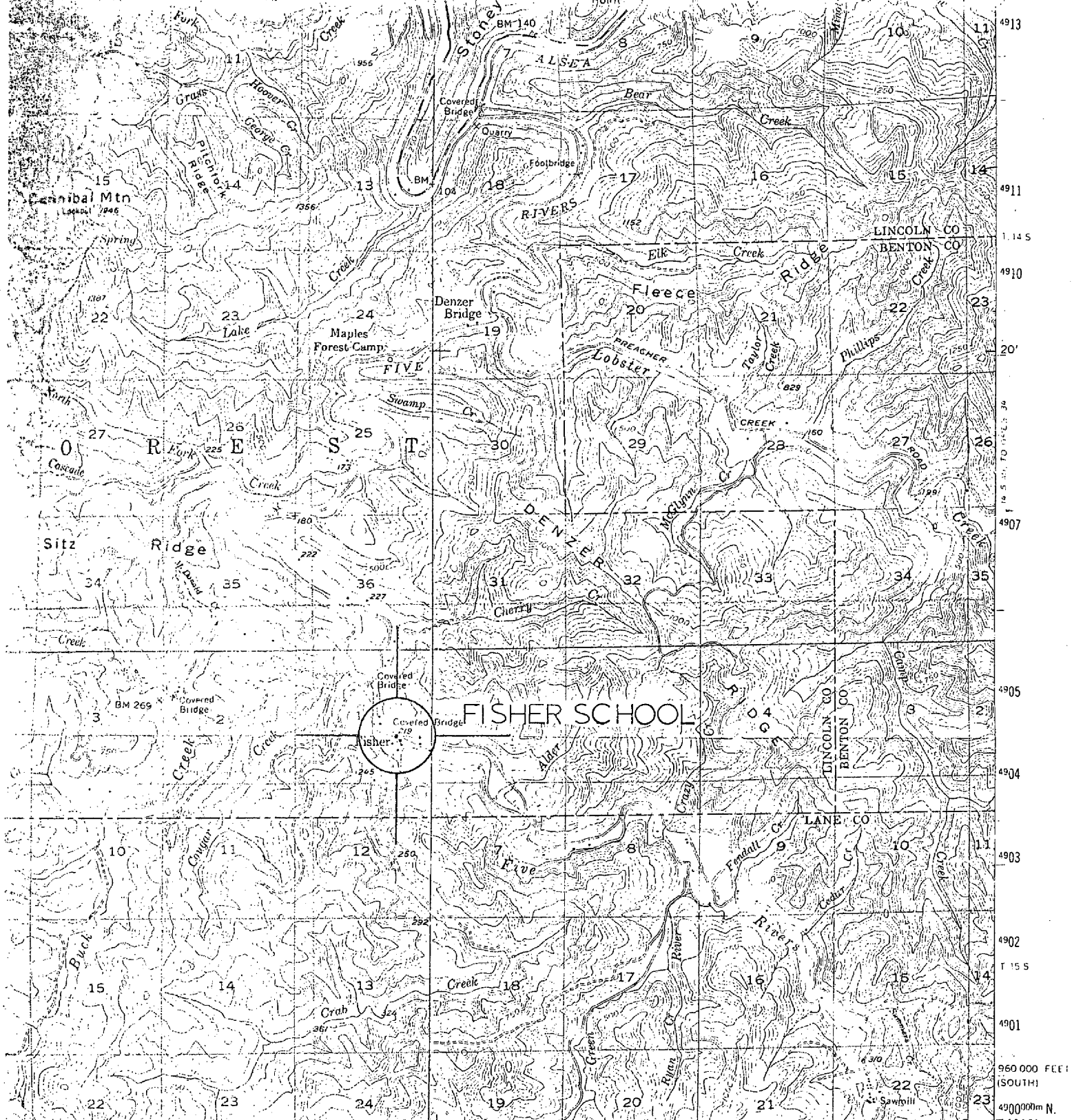
or State Historic Preservation Office Steinmann, Max. A Guide to the Covered Bridges of Lincoln County. (n.p.: The Ahtu, 1973).  
 Please enclose map Township 14 S Range 10 W Section 1

(over)

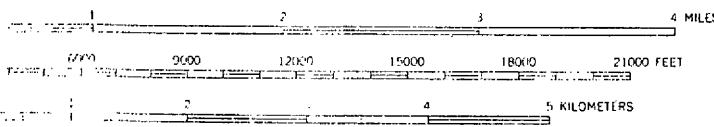
Bridge Index No. 41  
Fisher School Covered Bridge  
Vicinity of Fisher  
Lincoln County, Oregon  
North West Elevation

Stephen Dow Beckham Photo, 1976  
History Department  
Lewis and Clark College  
615 SW Palantine Hill Road  
Portland, OR 97219

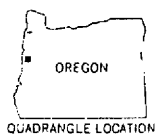




SCALE 1:62500



CONTOUR INTERVAL, 50 FEET  
ELEVATION IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy duty
- Medium duty
- Light duty
- Unimproved dirt

**FISHER SCHOOL COVERED BRIDGE**  
 10/432995/4904475  
 TIDEWATER, OREG.  
 N4415--W12345/15

1956

AMS 1272 IV-SERIES V792

**NORTH FORK YACHTS COVERED BRIDGE**  
 10/422765/4906530

FOR SALE SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 A LISTING OF THE MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST