



# United States Department of the Interior

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

The attached property, Ernest Bridge in Lane County, OREGON, reference number 79002094 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: *Randy J. Smith* 2-2-2010  
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places Date

THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION  
OREGON COVERED BRIDGES

Bridge Name and Number Earnest Bridge, Index No. 20

County Lane

Stream or River Mohawk River

Location Paschelke Road, off Marcola-Crawfordsville Road, ca. 3 miles NE of Marcola  
SE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 5; T.16S., R.1W., W.M. Marcola Quadrangle

Oregon Coordinate System, south zone: 932,400 ft. N., 1387,800 ft. E.

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 5700 square feet.

Present Owner Lane County Board of Commissioners  
Lane County Courthouse  
Eugene, OR 97401

Date of Construction 1938

Description of Bridge

Length of span	75 feet
Truss type	Howe truss
Cladding	Board and batten, vertical side walls
Roofing	Gable roof clad with corrugated sheet metal
Decking	Wood

Other salient features Semi-elliptical portal arches. Ribbon openings under eaves, either side wall. Small, hooded rectangular opening in one side elevation. Decorative, solid S-curve brackets "carry" eaves at bridge ends. Wood piers and cribs. Trestled approaches. Width of roadway: 17'. Rated load limit: 30 tons.

The original covered span at this location was erected by A. N. Striker in 1903. The 1938 replacement erected by Lane County is named for longtime local residents. It was refurbished in 1965 during the filming of a scene for the movie "Shenandoah".

Approaches rebuilt and structure painted January 1974.

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. Lane County Department of Public Works Covered Bridge Data Sheet, October 1976.

BRIDGE SECTION

Oregon State Highway Division

Sheet \_\_\_\_\_

Bridge Name \_\_\_\_\_

Calculations by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bridge No. \_\_\_\_\_

FYI -

During research for the Covered Bridge Study, I noticed a discrepancy in the spelling for the EARNEST covered bridge.

Our book (Hist. Hwy. Br. of OR), *Roofs over Rivers*, & the Natl. Reg. Nom. all list it as "ERNEST", while the sign on the bridge says "EARNEST."

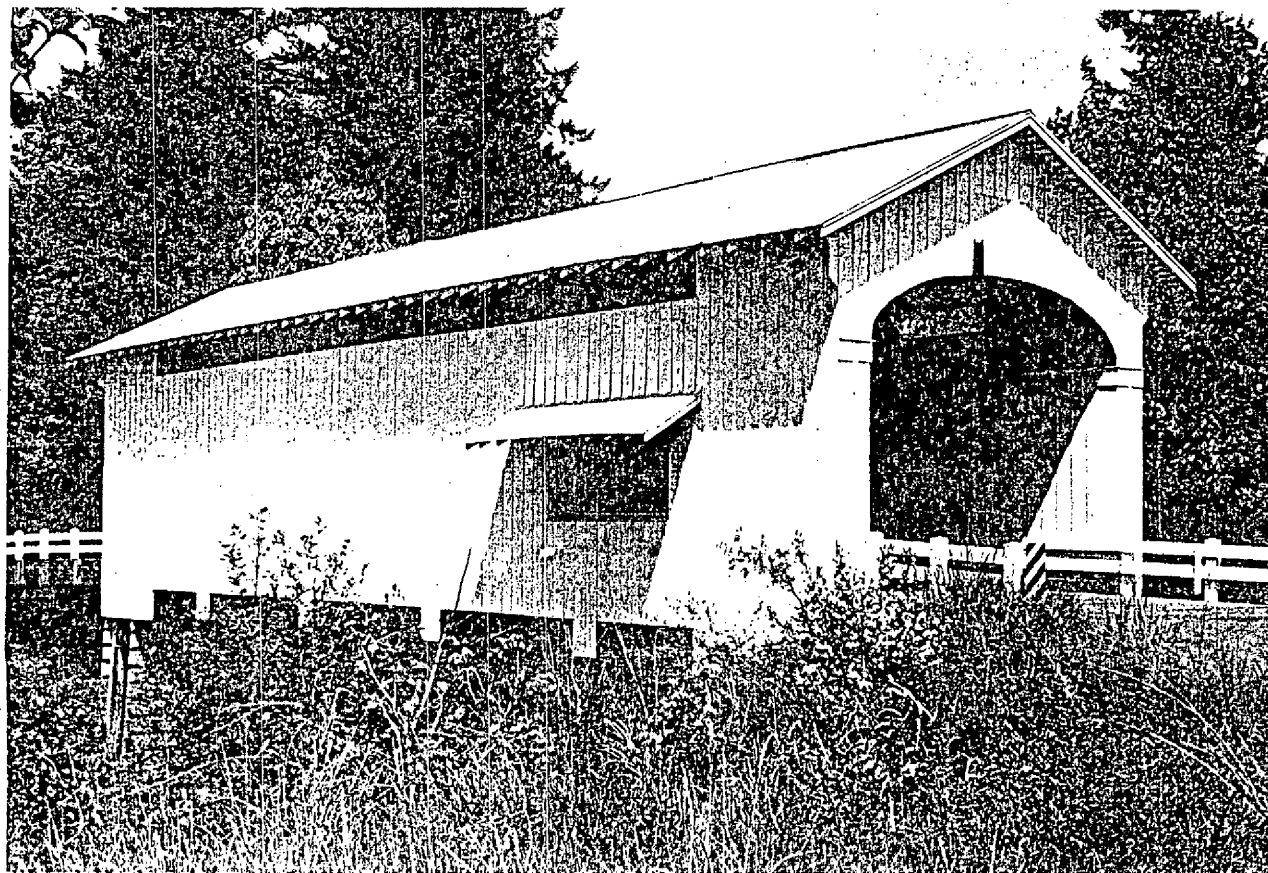
Marty West, Lane Co. Museum, checked it out for me, & the correct name (for longtime local residents in the Marcola area) is "EARNEST"

You may want to alter your records accordingly.

*J. Morris*  
2/88

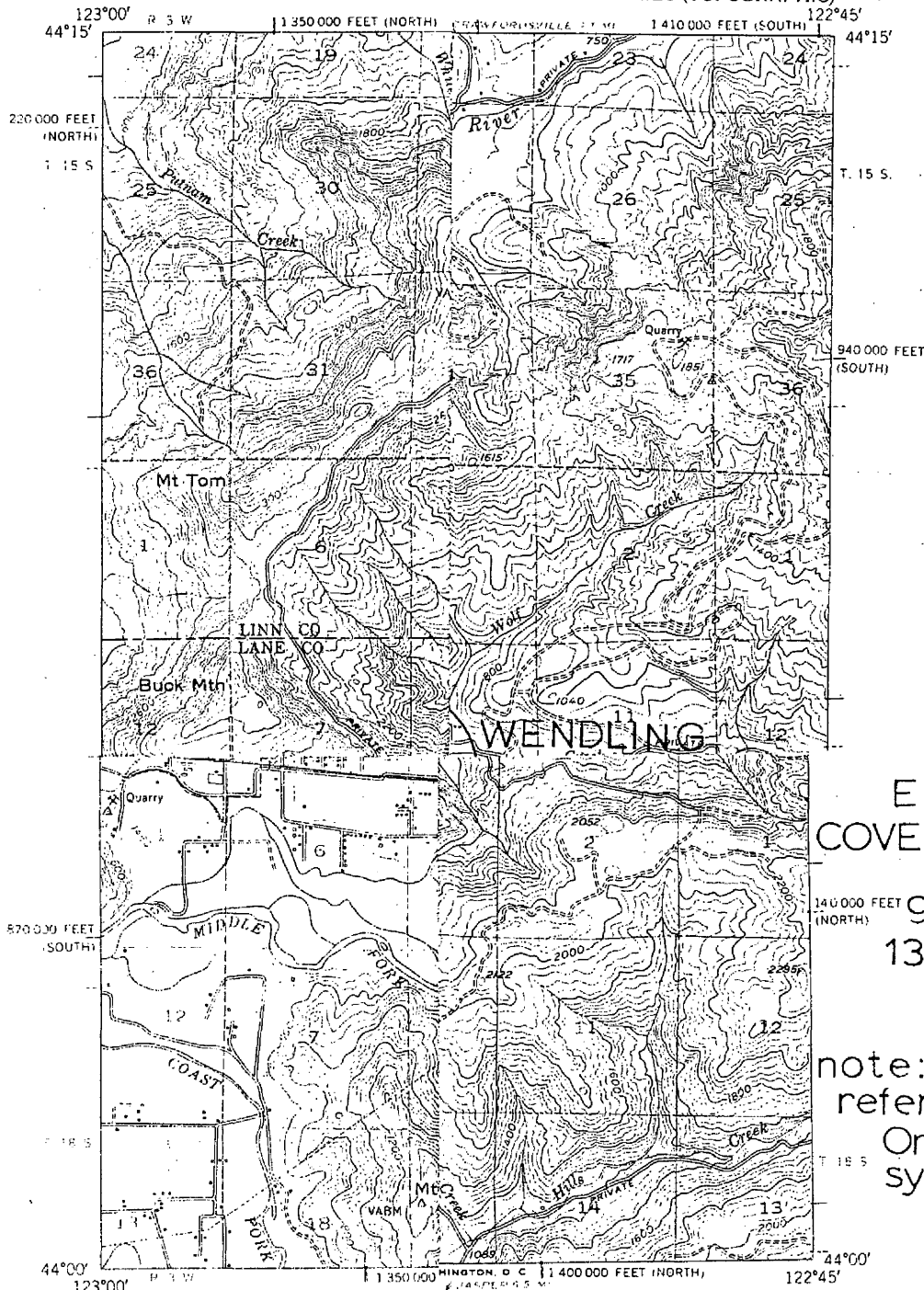
Bridge Index No. 20  
Earnest Covered Bridge  
Vicinity of Marcola  
Lane County, Oregon  
South East Elevation

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



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MARCOLA QUADRANGLE  
OREGON  
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



(HALSEY)

(SWEET HOME)

(COTTAGE GROVE)

(LOWELL 1:125000)

ERNEST #2  
COVERED BRIDGE

932,400 ft. N.  
1387,800 ft. E.

note:  
references are  
Oregon coordinate  
system, south  
zone

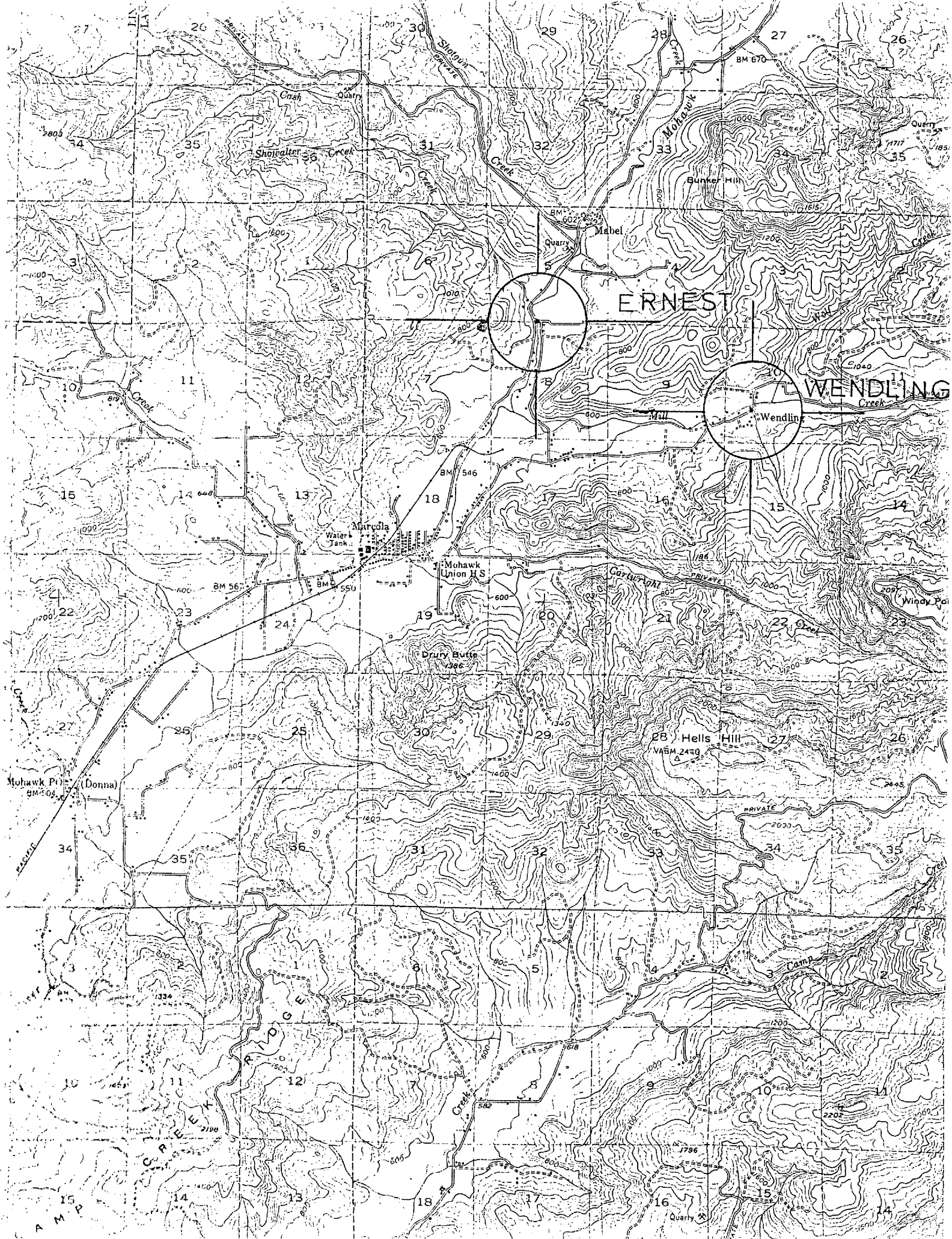
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geol  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex  
Aerial photographs taken 1949. Field check 1950  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Oregon coordinate system  
north and south zones  
Red tint indicates area in which only  
landmark buildings are shown  
Dashed land lines indicate approximate location  
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- U. S. Route
- State Route
- Light duty
- Unimproved dirt

MARCOLA, OREG.  
N4400-W12245/15

1950



ERNEST

WENDLING

Marcola

Mohawk Union H.S.

Hells Hill

Mohawk Pt. (Donna)

A M P

#20

Ernest Bridge  
Stream: Mohawk River  
Built: 1938  
World Guide No.: 37-20-35

T16S R1W S8  
Truss: Howe  
Length: 75 feet

The Ernest Bridge may be in the best condition of any covered bridge in Lane County, but strangely not because of work done by the county bridge department. In the mid-1960's a movie company was filming Shenandoah in the Mohawk Valley area and needed a covered bridge for a particular scene. The movie company requested permission from the county to "alter" the bridge to reflect Civil War architecture, and promised to restore the bridge to equal or better condition, a promise which was kept. The bridge received new siding and paint in 1965.

The original covered bridge at this site was erected by A. N. Striker in 1903. The 83-foot span was named the Adams Bridge. When it was replaced in 1938 by Lane County, the \$2,449.58 cost for construction included \$72.00 for wrecking the old bridge.

The new bridge, with upper chord dimensions of 12" x 12" x 50' and lower dimensions of 12" x 14" x 81½', was named after longtime residents of the area.

TO GET THERE:

From Springfield, travel northeast to Marcola on Marcola Road. <sup>turn right</sup>  
~~The bridge is located~~ Three miles past Marcola on Pachelke Road ~~and~~  
travel 1/8 mile to the bridge.

# 20

County Lane

Theme 2-A

Name  
(Common) Ernest Covered Bridge

(Historic) (same)

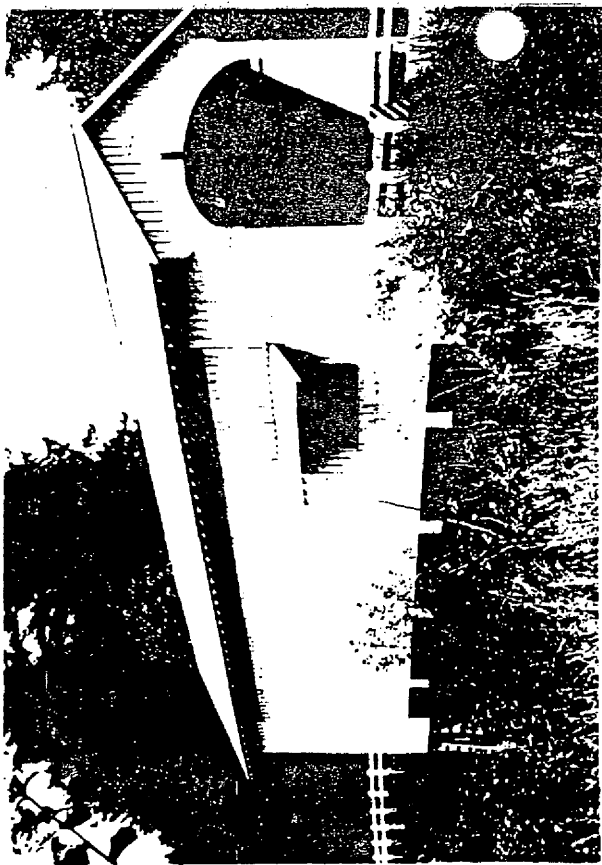
Address Junction of Bunker Hill Road, Paschelke Rd. and Marcola Road, near Marcola, Ore.

Present Owner Lane County

(Address) Eugene, Ore.

Original Use Bridge

Date of Construction 1938



Physical description of property and location

historical significance:

The Ernest Covered Bridge spans the Mohawk River about one mile east of Marcola, Oregon. It is located at the junction of Bunker Hill Road, Paschelke Road, and Marcola Road. The bridge has an exterior of vertical board and battens and a gable roof. A rectangular opening along the eaves on both the west and east elevations provides lighting. In addition there is a rectangular window on the west elevation.

Pasted on the inside walls of this bridge are circus posters advertising the "Sells-Floto, Al G. Barnes Combined Shows." There are nine of these posters pasted to the walls of the bridge. Since the Sells-Floto Circus was flourishing in the 1920's it is possible that this bridge may be earlier than the date 1938 provided by the Lane County Engineer.

The roof is corrugated sheet metal. The bridge is seventy-five feet long and is of Howe Truss construction. The trestle on the east elevation is twelve feet; that on the west elevation is forty feet long.

Continue back if necessary

Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 27 May 1976 Sources Consulted:

For Oregon State Historic Preservation Office "Oregon Covered Bridges," MS Typescript, Oregon State Highway Division, April, 1973, Salem, Oregon.

Please enclose map Township 16 <sup>N</sup><sub>S</sub> Range 1 <sup>E</sup><sub>W</sub> Section 8

(over)