NAER INVENTORY

U.S. Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

1. SITE I.D. NO

2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION: Bridges, Trestles, and Aqueducts

BEAM: concrete 7 5 8 5

3. PRIORITY: 1

5. DATE: 1929

4. DANGER OF DEMOLITION? (SPECIFY THREAT) ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ UNKNOWN

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT: OWNER ADMIN

7. OWNER/ADMIN: Walla Walla County

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE: Johnson Bridge

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS: County Engineer/Public Works Director
Walla Walla County Courthouse
Walla Walla, Washington 99362

10. STATE: WA COUNTY: 071 COUNTY NAME: Walla Walla CITY/VICINITY: Lowden CONG. DIST.: 05

STATE COUNTY COUNTY NAME CITY/VICINITY CONG. DIST.

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)
Crossing: Touchet River
S.T.R.: 35 08N 33E

12. EXISTING SURVEYS: ☐ NR ☐ NHL ☐ HABS ☐ HAER—I ☐ HAER ☐ NPS ☐ CL6 ☐ CONF ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL ☐ OTHER

13. SPECIAL FEATURES (DESCRIBE BELOW): ☐ INTERIOR INTACT ☐ EXTERIOR INTACT ☐ ENVIRONS INTACT

14. UTM ZONE 11 EASTING 372590 NORTHING 5108790 SIGN
SCALE ☒ 1:24 ☐ 1:62.5 ☐ OTHER QUAD NAME Touchet, Washington/Oregon

UTM ZONE EASTING NORTHING SIGN
SCALE ☐ 1:24 ☐ 1:62.5 ☐ OTHER QUAD NAME

15. CONDITION: 70 ☐ EXCELLENT 71 ☐ GOOD 72 ☐ FAIR 73 ☐ DETERIORATED 74 ☐ RUINS 75 ☐ UNEXPOSED 76 ☐ ALTERED 8[illegible] ☐ DESTROYED 85 ☐ DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY: Lisa Soderberg
AFFILIATION: HAER/Washington State Bridge Inventory
DATE: November 1979

17. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), HISTORICAL DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, EXTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

In 1929, a three-span concrete T-beam was constructed across the Touchet River by the county engineering department. This 126 foot structure consists of a 110 foot main span with two 8 foot approach spans. A portion of the 20 foot wide roadway is cantilevered from the deck. Concrete piers and wingwalls support the bridge.

The Johnson Bridge is the most striking of several structures designed by E.R. Smith throughout Walla Walla County during the 20's and 30's. George Harding was the contractor. Through the addition and integration of simple, subtle geometric shapes, the engineers have transformed a straightforward, commonplace bridge type into a structure which has an aesthetically compelling visual impact. The lower portion of the two short beam approach spans have been shaped into an arch which is mirrored in the curving lower edge of the three green geometric forms painted on the spans. The illusion of the arch form is also carried by the pattern of green shapes on the main span.

(CONT OVER)

18. ORIGINAL USE: vehicular
PRESENT USE: vehicular
ADAPTIVE USE:

19. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER
Walla Walla Department of Engineering files.

(CONT OVER)

20. URBAN AREA 50,000 POP. OR MORE? ☒ YES ☐ NO

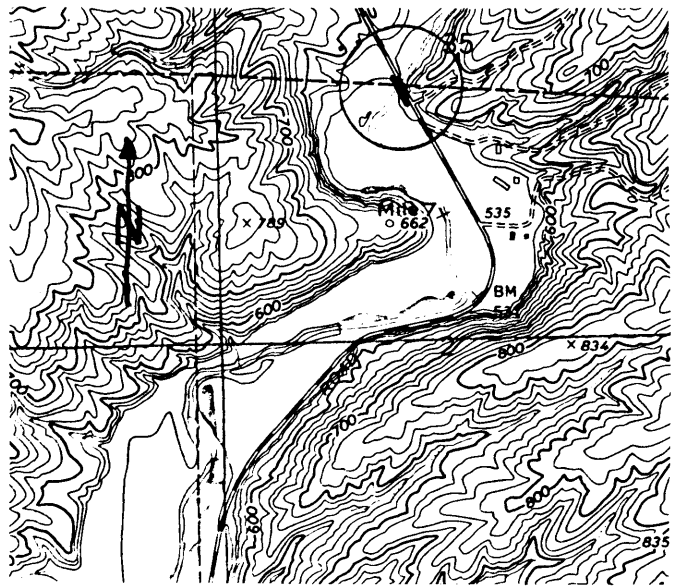
21. NW

22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY: ☐ YES, LIMITED ☒ YES, UNLIMITED ☐ NO ☐ UNKNOWN

23. EDITOR INDEXER

24. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES ☒ NO NAME DISTRICT I.D. NO

25. PHOTOS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



Significance

As the most impressive of several short spanned structures with similar ornamental motifs throughout Walla Walla County the Johnson Bridge reflects the forceful impact of a single creative engineer on regional bridge design.

REFERENCES (CONTINUED)

ABSTRACT

HAER NO | LC | TECH REPORT | HIST REPORT | CONTEMP PHOTO | HIST PHOTO | CONTEMP DRWG | HIST DRWG | COLOR PLATE | PHOTOGRAM | SW | FILM