



United States Department of the Interior

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

The attached property, Chambers Bridge in Lane County, OREGON, reference number 79002081 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 / B. R. Jones 2-2-2010
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places Date

THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION
OREGON COVERED BRIDGES

Bridge Name and Number Chambers Bridge, Index No. 37

County Lane

Stream or River Coast Fork Willamette River

Location ^{OFT} South River Road, near junction with ^{TALON} Main Street, Cottage Grove ^{EXTENSION}

NE¹/₄ NE¹/₄ Sec. 32, T.20S., R.3W., W.M.

Zone 10 E494480 N4848²²35 Cottage Grove 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 5880 square feet.
1/2 interest each:

Present Owner	<u>City of Cottage Grove</u>	<u>Mr. Alex Madonna</u>
	<u>Philip Kushlan, City Manager</u>	<u>Madonna Inn</u>
	<u>City Hall 503/942-5501</u>	<u>100 Madonna Road</u>
	<u>400 Main Street</u>	<u>San Luis Obispo, CA 93401</u>
	<u>Cottage Grove, OR 97424</u>	<u>805/543-3000</u>

Date of Construction 1936 ¹⁹²⁶

Description of Bridge

Length of span	78 feet
Truss type	Howe truss
Cladding	Board and batten
Roofing	Tin-clad gable roof
Decking	Wood

*CITY LIMIT BOUNDARY
DISCREET PIERCE -
MR. MADONNA - OWNER
MADONNA SECTION
OUTSIDE CITY BOUNDARY*

Other salient features Truncated rectangular portal arches. Lower truss elements exposed on either side elevation owing, at least in part, to loss of siding. Concrete piers.

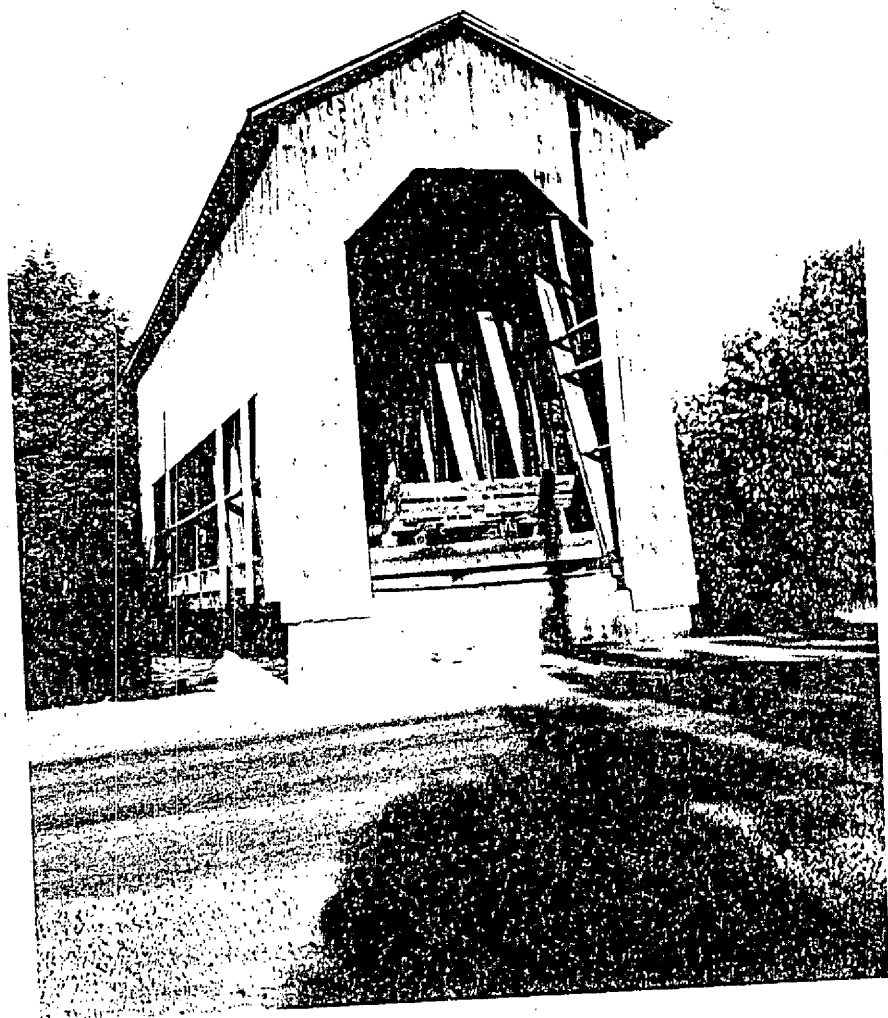
The bridge has been abandoned for some years. The westerly approach was removed to make way for South River Road right-of-way. Typical of covered railroad spans, the Chambers Bridge reaches a greater height from deck to roof bridge than highway bridges. Its large truss members were assembled to accomodate log trains pulled by steam locomotives.

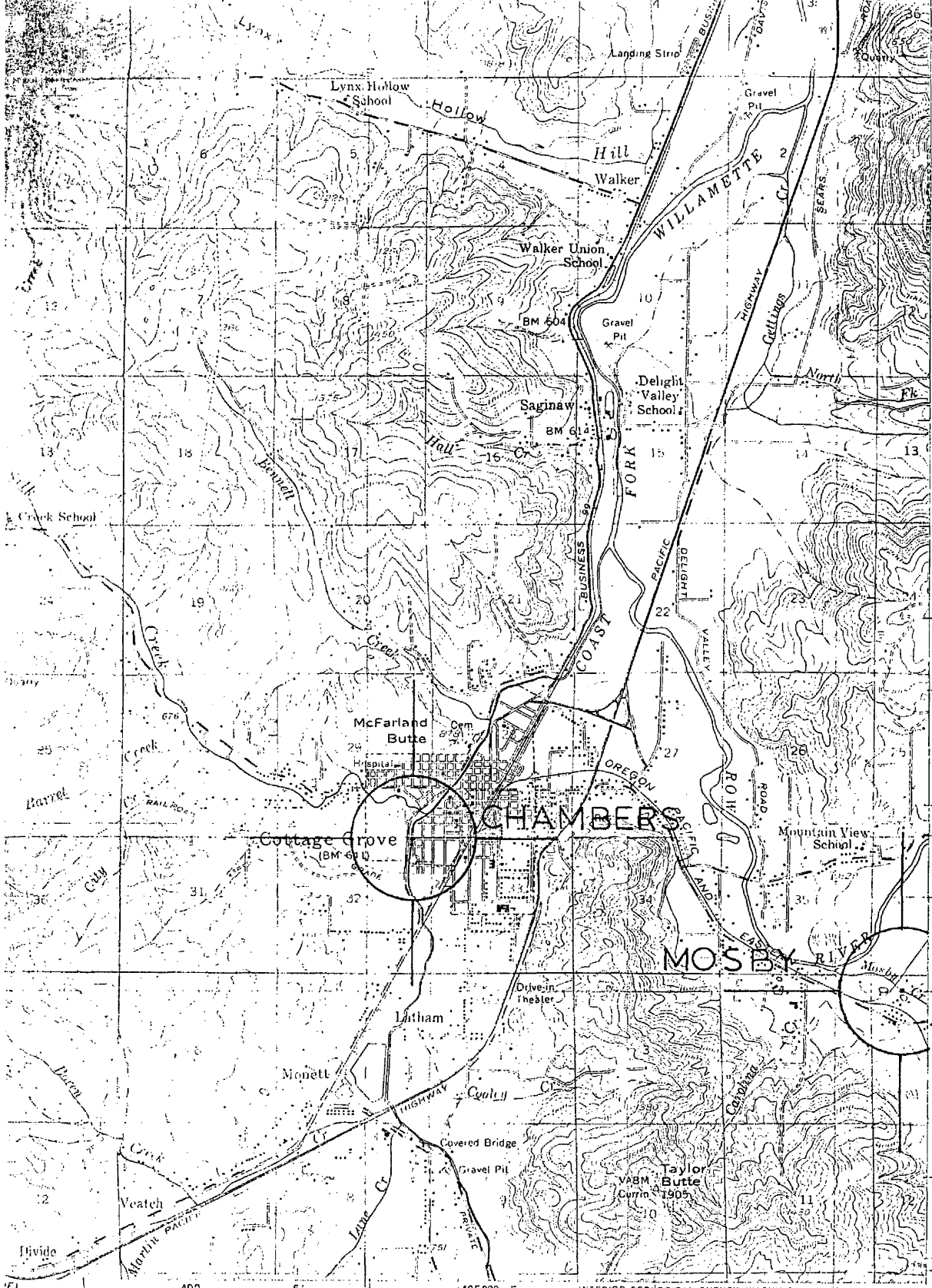
Legal description is included in the appropriate County Road Department right-of-way files and County Deed Records.

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.

Bridge Idex No. 37
Chambers Covered Bridge
Vicinity of Cottage Grove
Lane County, Oregon
West Elevation

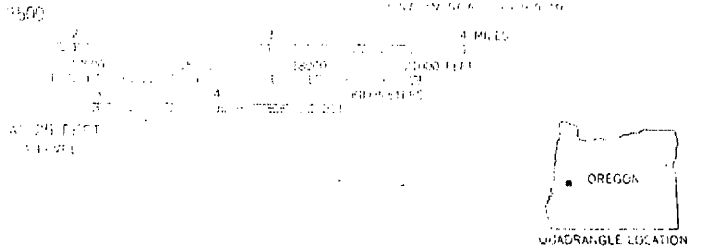
Nick and Bill Cockrell Photo, 1976
751 Piedmont NW
Salem, OR 97304





#37
 CHAMBERS COVERED
 BRIDGE
 10/494480/484863

#31
 MOSBY COVERED
 BRIDGE
 10/499720/484702



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	—————	Light-duty	-----
Medium-duty	—————	Unimproved dirt	-----
	()	U. S. Route	()
	()	State Route	()

COTTAGE GROVE, OREG.
 N4345—W12300/15

1957

AMS 1371 I—SERIES V792

#37

Chambers Bridge
Stream: Coast Fork Willamette River
Built: 1936 (Private)

T20S R3W S32
Truss: Howe
Length: 78 feet

The Chambers Bridge is the last covered railroad bridge in Oregon. It was built by the Oregon, Pacific and Eastern railroad for a logging spur which brought logs to the Frank Chambers Mill in Cottage Grove. The sawmill burned in 1943. Although the bridge trusses are now exposed, at one time the sides were completely enclosed to afford maximum protection for the timbers.

In the typical construction for railroad spans, multiple steel reinforcing rods were used to hold truss members of herculean proportions necessary to support the moving weight of rail payloads. As in most wooden railroad bridges, three steel rods connect the upper and lower chords. The end vertical truss members, however, use five rods to hold them in place. Hand-hewn truss members in the Chambers Bridge, like others, were preferred over mill-sawed timbers because wood fibers crushed by saw teeth allowed moisture to enter more readily than axe formed surfaces.

The western approach to the bridge has been removed to make way for the easement of ^{South} Smith River Road. Abandoned for years, the bridge has been a frequent target of arsonists as charred timbers attest. Fortunately, the bridge has not succumbed to fire.

Built to accommodate steam engines pulling logging trains!

The sides of the Chambers Bridge stretch much higher than highway covered spans, almost hiding a rusting metal roof.

Two other bridges in Oregon, the Pass Creek Bridge in Drain, and Wimer Bridge in Wimer, share ^{with the Chambers Bridge} the distinction of being the only covered bridges within the boundaries of a city.

TO GET THERE:

Travel to Cottage Grove and follow U.S. 99 (9th Street) to Main Street. Turn west and follow Main Street across the Coast Fork of the Willamette River. Before reaching the hospital, turn south onto South River Road. The Chambers Bridge is located one-quarter mile south of this point.