

## **United States Department of the Interior**

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

The attached property, the Belknap Bridge in Lane County, OREGON, reference number 79002097 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 treeper: 2-2-2010 Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places Date

## THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION ORL JN COVERED BRIDGES

Belknap Bridge, Index No. 23 Bridge Name and Number County Lane Stream or River McKenzie River At Rainbow, off Highway 126, ca. 3 miles W of McKenzie Bridge Location NW¼ NE¼ Sec. 20, T.16S., R.5E., W.M. McKenzie Bridge Ouadrangle Zone 10 E561800 N4890640 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 8400 square feet. Present Owner Lane County Board of Commissioners Lane County Courthouse Eugene, OR 97401 Date of Construction 1966 Description of Bridge 120 feet Length of span Howe truss Truss type Board and batten, vertical side walls Cladding Metal-clad gable roof Roofing Wood (?) Decking

Other salient features Rectangular-arched portals. Formally-placed louvered openings in south side wall have truncated triangular arch heads. Concrete piers. Width of road: 21'. Rated load limit: 39 tons. Windows added for ventilation in 1975. Although this is the newest structure in the Thematic Group, it succeeds three earlier covered spans at this location. The first two were erected in 1890 and 1911. The third, erected by Lane County in 1938, was destroyed by the Flood of 1964. The existing bridge, completed in 1966, was designed by the Oregon Bridge Corporation of Springfield (Merlin Stam).

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 Index No. 23 Belknap Covered Bridge Vicinity of Blue River Lane County, Oregon South East Elevation

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







Belnap Bridge Stream: McKenzie River Built: 1966 World Guide No.: 37-20-11

T16S R5E S20 Truss: Howe Length: 120 feet

The Belnap Bridge occupies a site in which a covered bridge has been in use since 1890. In that year, the original covered span was erected by Mr. T. Thomson. In 1911, this bridge was replaced by Lane County with another covered structure. The third covered bridge at this site was erected by the County in 1939 and was destroyed by the Christmas Flood of 1964. The current covered bridge was designed by the Oregon Bridge Corporation, Springfield, and was built by a contract let by the County. It was opened for traffic on October 31, 1966, and is the newest covered highway bridge in the State.

Several years ago, louvered gothic style windows were added to the south side of the bridge to give interior illumination.

## **TO GET THERE:**

Travel east of Springfield on US 126 to the town of McKenzie Bridge. One mile west of the town turn south on McKenzie River Drive to Belnap Bridge.

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## (Caption for Belnap Bridge)

The third covered bridge to occupy this site was photographed as it was being dismantled in 1939, after 28 years of service. Most covered bridges reach a critical point after 20 years of use and require extensive repairs to maintain the structure in a safe condition.

PHOTO: DREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY