# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property
historic nameUmpqua River Bridge No. 01822
other names/site numberUmpqua River (Reedsport) Bridge
2. Location
street & number Oregon Coast Highway No. 9 (US 101), MP 211.21 not for publication
city or town Reedsport vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Douglas code 019
zip code97439
3. State/Federal/Tribal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this Image: I have a summary continuous continuou
In my opinion, the property   meets   does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification
I, hereby certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register ☐ See continuation sheet. ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register
other (explain):  Signature of Keeper  Date of Action

5. Classification			
Ownership of Prop (Check as many boxes as a private public-loca public-State public-Fed	pply) al de		rces within Property sly listed resources in the count)  Noncontributing  buildings sites
Category of Property (Check only one box)		Number of contrib	structures objects Total  puting resources previously listed
	or Oregon Coast Highway Bridges,		
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from	instructions)	Current Functions Enter categories fro	
Transportation		Transportation	
Historic Subfunctions (Enter subcategories fr		Current Subfunction (Enter subcategories	
Road-related		Road-related	
7. Description			
Architectural Classific (Enter categories from instru		Materials (Enter categories from in	nstructions)
Late 19th and 20th Cer Classic Reviva Late Gothic Re Modern Movement Art Deco Moderne	ıl İ	Foundation Other	Concrete Steel Concrete
Narrative Description (Describe the historic and cu	rrent condition of the property on one or more conti	nuation sheets)	
See continuation sheet	S.		
8. Statement of Sig	nificance		
Applicable National R (Mark "x" in one or more box	Register Criteria es for the criteria qualifying the property for Nationa	l Register listing)	
⊠ A	Property is associated with events that our history.	have made a significa	ant contribution to the broad patterns of
□в	Property is associated with the lives of p	persons significant in	our past.

⊠c	re	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or epresents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and listinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
□ D	Р	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.
	a Considerations in all the boxes that ap	pply.)
□ A	owned by a religion	ous institution or used for religious purposes.
□в	removed from its	original location.
□с	a birthplace or a g	grave.
□ D	a cemetery.	
□ E	a reconstructed be	uilding, object, or structure.
□F	a commemorative	property.
□G	less than 50 years	s of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.
	of Significance ategories from instruction	nns)
Engine Transp	ering ortation	
Period	of Significance	
1933-3	6	
Signific	cant Dates	
Comple	eted in 1936.	
_	cant Person ete if Criterion B is ma	arked above)
Cultura	al Affiliation	
Archite	ect/Builder	
	B. McCullough, des and Carlson, Seattl	signer le, Washington, contractor
	ive Statement of S the significance of the p	Significance property on one or more continuation sheets.)
See cor	ntinuation sheets.	
9. Maj	jor Bibliographic	cal References
(Cite the	books, articles, and other	er sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)
prel	us documentation of liminary determinat viously listed in the	tion of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

Umpqua	River	Bridge	No.	01822
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Douglas County, Oregon

street & number	er_355 Capitol Street NE	telephone
city or town	Salem	stateOR_ zip code _97301

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

NPS Form 10-900a (8-86) OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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#### **Narrative Description**

The Umpqua River Bridge No. 01822 is a reinforced-concrete bridge with a central steel swing span. Its completion in 1936 eliminated an antiquated ferry service across the Umpqua River estuary. The bridge is located at milepost 211.21 on the Oregon Coast Highway No. 9 (US 101) at the north end of Reedsport, Douglas County, Oregon.

The Umpqua River Bridge's main span is a 430-foot steel through Parker truss swing span with a concrete deck. The span is electrically moved with a 60-horsepower motor by twin controllers—one located in the operator's house above the roadway in the center of the span, and the other along the sidewalk at the roadway level. The original permit for the bridge specifies that the span swing to a 90-degree angle to provide two channel throughways with a horizontal clearance of 195 feet each. However, at the request of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the builders of the bridge placed fenders at the piers and set the draw rest at an 80-degree skew. The result is that the actual horizontal clearance of the two channels when the bridge is open is 182 feet. When the span is closed vertical clearance above mean low water is 354 feet.

The swing span is flanked by two reinforced-concrete through tied arches each 154 feet long. The sway braces are reinforced curved concrete members. They maintain superstructure rigidity. A temporary "Considère" hinge was used near the crown of each arch rib to aid in construction.

The approaches are reinforced-concrete deck girder spans. The two on the north end are each 42 feet long. A total of twenty-three spans make up the south approach. These range from 42' to 70' in length, totaling 1,072 feet. From end-to-end, the bridge is 2,206 feet long. The roadway consists of two travel lanes measuring 27 feet curb-to-curb. Sidewalks are 3 feet wide.

On the Umpqua River Bridge, McCullough combined the vocabularies of classical and Gothic-style elements with the popular Art Deco and Moderne influences of the late 1920s and the 1930s. The bridge's concrete bents are tiered and ornamented in the Art Deco style with vertical detailing. Likewise, pier and column surfaces are broken by scoring strips. However, the web walls between main pier legs were cut away in the form of Gothic arches with sunburst rays. In addition, ornamental elbow brackets mounted at the top of the spandrel columns supporting and protruding beyond the sidewalks. The sidewalk balustrades include panels comprising small, stylized Gothic arches, which repeat the form seen in the piers and bents. They are stepped back in the Art Deco/Moderne philosophy to create shadow lines and increase visual interest.

Decorative Art Deco and classical elements are found throughout this structure. The reinforced-concrete tied arches have fluted Art Deco-style entry pylons, concrete portal braces with scored decorative cartouches, and scored slender deck hangers. Curved elbow brackets support the sidewalks. Piers consist of slender, fluted legs joined by Gothic arch-shaped webs that in series are reminiscent of the roof trusses of European cathedrals. The central steel swing span is devoid of ornamentation.<sup>2</sup>

The contract was awarded to Teufel and Carlson, of Seattle, Washington. It ran from 30 July 1934 to 7 April 1936. Resident engineers for the state were Dexter R. Smith and L. L. Jensen. The project consumed 215,000 human hours of labor. An average of 125 workers was employed each week, with a weekly payroll of \$2,500. The project consumed 10,000 cubic yards of concrete, 740 tons of structural steel and 650 tons of reinforcing steel. In addition, 3,500 cubic

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Oregon Department of Transportation, Bridge Section Maintenance File #1822, L. A. DeFrance, Assistant Maintenance Engineer, to G. S. Paxson, Bridge Engineer, 7 November 1952; O. C. Chase, "Design of Coast Highway Bridges," *Civil Engineering* 6 (October 1936): 648-51; ODOT, Environmental Section, Bridge File #1822, "Engineering Antiquities Survey," November 1982.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>"Bridge Log," Dwight A. Smith, James B. Norman, and Pieter T. Dykman, *Historic Highway Bridges of Oregon* (Portland: Oregon Historical Society Press, 1989), 120; Chase, "Design of Coast Highway Bridges," *Civil Engineering* 6 (October 1936): 648-51.

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yards of excavation was moved and 41,000 feet of piling was driven. Final cost for the bridge was \$581,000.

The Umpqua River Bridge opened on 2 July 1936 without ceremony. Since then, most of the maintenance on the structure has been routine. In 1937, manholes were installed in the traffic barriers to facilitate maintenance. That same year inspectors noted settling of the south approach, which was reinforced in 1940. In 1941, the bronze expansion plates were removed and repaired, and the transverse beams were reinforced with concrete brackets. On 15 October 1951, a ship struck the catwalk when the captain tried to take it through the open swing backwards without the aid of a rudder. The state repaired the bridge and contemplated bringing suit against the owners, but dropped the suit for fear that the case would bring to light the fact that the horizontal clearance of the open span did not meet the specification on the bridge permit. In 1953 the traffic barriers were re-decked with steel plates.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>"Job Record," File No. 1822 (Umpqua River Bridge), ODOT Bridge Section files, Salem; Oregon State Highway Commission, *Twelfth Biennial Report, for 1935-36*, 58.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>G. S. Paxson, "Umpqua Bridge is Third Costliest of Five Coast Structures, Opened July 2, 1936, Without Ceremony," *Reedsport Courier*, 25 September 1936; ODOT, Bridge Section Maintenance File #1822, "Bridge History Record of Maintenance," (1934 to 1953); J. A. Weber, Mechanical Engineer, to G. S. Paxson, Bridge Engineer, 15 July 1952.

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#### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Umpqua River Bridge No. 01822 is being nominated under the Oregon Coast Highway Bridges Multiple Property Submission. It is significant under National Register criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction of mid-twentieth-century reinforced-concrete arch bridge technology. Just as important, it is significant under criterion C as the work of a master, Conde B. McCullough, Oregon state bridge engineer from 1919 to 1936. The bridge is also significant under criterion A for its association with construction of the Oregon Coast Highway, which eventually ran the length of Oregon and connected with adjacent segments in California and Washington. The road would not have been complete without eleven major bridges, including the Umpqua River Bridge, and many other spans.

Europeans have lived in the present Reedsport area since the 1880s. Warren P. Reed owned 4,000 acres along the south shore of the Umpqua River, just north of Winchester Bay. By 1911, the Pacific Great Western Railway Company (later the Southern Pacific) began constructing a branch line from Eugene east to the mouth of the Siuslaw River at Florence and then south to the mouth of the Umpqua and then to Coos Bay to connect this coastal region with the interior of western Oregon. Reedsport, named for Reed's father Alfred, was incorporated the next year and became a shipping point for diary products and lumber. By the 1920s, the community had two sawmills, several canneries, and a creamery. Construction of the Oregon Coast Highway in the 1920s and completion of the Umpqua River Bridge in 1936 connected Reedsport by road with Florence to the north and Coos Bay to the south and made tourism an important component of the local economy.<sup>5</sup>

The Umpqua River Bridge possesses national significance under criterion C as one of the six major bridges that McCullough constructed on the Oregon Coast Highway between 1931 and 1936 and spanned the remaining barriers to efficient travel along the route—three bays and three river estuaries that relied on an outmoded ferry service. (The others were the Alsea Bay Bridge at Waldport, the Yaquina Bay Bridge at Newport, the Siuslaw River Bridge at Florence, the Coos Bay (McCullough) Bridge at Coos Bay, and the Rogue River Bridge at Gold Beach.) Completion of these bridges (one in 1932 and five in 1936) is considered the dividing line between the period of relative isolation and dependence on sea transportation for many of Oregon's coastal communities and their newfound association with each other along this ribbon of asphalt, known as US 101. The Umpqua River Bridge is the only one of the five PWA coastal bridges to be constructed with a swing span. It is also the longest swing span constructed in Oregon, and is the only one still in use on the state's highways.

The Umpqua River Bridge is also significant under criterion C as the work of a master, Oregon State Bridge Engineer, Conde B. McCullough, and due to its thematic association with several other major steel and reinforced-concrete bridges designed by McCullough and erected along the Oregon Coast Highway in the 1920s and 1930s. During his years as State Bridge Engineer, and later as Assistant State Highway Engineer, McCullough authored several books and many technical articles on bridge design and construction. He is significant for his use of innovative bridge technology, and for his visually appealing designs. He attained international recognition for the large-scale structures he designed to span the major rivers and estuaries, and several other thematically-similar concrete beam and girder structures, along the Oregon coast for the completion of the Oregon Coast Highway in the 1930s.

McCullough's bridges used many common design themes and elements, including stylized sidewalk railing balustrades; curved bracketing; arched curtain walls, often with bush-hammered inset panels; and Art Deco ornamentation, including entrance pylons, columns, stringers, piers and other vertical structural members. Eric N. DeLony, chief of the Historic American Engineering Record, remarked in his book, *Landmark American Bridges*, that this family of spans on the Oregon Coast Highway "represents some of the best and most innovative concrete and steel bridges in the world." The Gothic arch

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Stephen Dow Beckham, Land of the Umpqua: A History of Douglas County, Oregon (Roseburg: Douglas County Commissioners, 1986), 135-

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forms seen in the handrails and piers complement the Art Deco/Moderne verticalness seen in the pier legs and entry pylons to create a streamlined elegance.<sup>6</sup>

The Umpqua River Bridge is significant under criterion A because of its association with the construction of the Oregon Coast Highway in the 1930s. Completion of the Oregon Coast Highway was a major public works effort in the early and mid-1930s to establish an uninterrupted transportation route from California to Washington. This undertaking was aided by the Oregon Coast Bridges Project in which the federal Public Works Administration provided funds for the construction of five modern bridges to replace the existing slow, cumbersome ferries which serviced the crossings of the larger bays, rivers and estuaries. An immediate accomplishment of the route's completion was the construction jobs that it provided to many unemployed workers. In more long lasting terms, its completion was a major factor in the development of commerce and tourism in Oregon's coastal regions, and has since become one of the most notable scenic routes in the United States, and has been designated a National Scenic Byway.

The Umpqua River Bridge meets the property type and registration requirements for the C. B. McCullough Major Oregon Coast Highway Bridges Multiple Property Submission. It was completed during the period of significance (1927-36) on the then current alignment of the Oregon Coast Highway. It was designed by Oregon State Highway Department bridge engineers under the direction of Conde B. McCullough. Its primary or secondary main spans are reinforced-concrete arches. It possesses a high degree of original integrity of design and materials.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>Eric DeLony, Landmark American Bridges, (New York: American Society of Civil Engineers and Bulfinch Press, 1993), 125-35 (quote, 125).

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"Oregon Bridges Subject of Address Before AAUW," Salem Oregon Statesman, 21 January 1934.

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Say, Harold B. "Progress Takes Its Toll," Oregon Motorist 8 (May 1936): 13.

"Siuslaw Span Part of \$25,000,000 Road Investment," Eugene Register-Guard, 17 May 1936.

"Squabble Over Lumber Ties Up Five Bridges," Portland Oregon Journal, 9 July 1933.

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"Want Bridges Built of Wood," North Bend Harbor, 6 July 1933.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Years of Planning for Coast Bridges Bear Fruit in Series of Dedications," Marshfield Coos Bay Times, 1 June 1936.

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#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The property is described as beginning at the north end of the Umpqua River Bridge, at mile post 211.21 on the Oregon Coast Highway No. 9, and running 2,206 feet to the south end of the bridge. It is 60 feet wide (30 feet either side of center line on the bridge).

#### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes property associated historically with the Umpqua River Bridge.

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### **Photographs**

James B. Norman, Photographer, June 2003 (Original negatives housed at Oregon Department of Transportation, Salem, Oregon)

#### **Photographic Description**

View No.	Description
1	General view of the Umpqua River Bridge, view looking northeast.
2	General view of the bridge, view looking east.
3	General perspective view of the bridge, view looking northeast.
4	General perspective view of the bridge, view looking northeast.
5	General view of the bridge, view looking northwest.
6	General view of the bridge, view looking northwest.
7	Detail view of the truss portal, view looking north.
8	Detail view of the main swing span, view looking northwest.
9	Detail view of the reinforced concrete through truss span, illustrating "X" bracing and concrete hangers. Also visible in view: railing and entrance obelisk, view looking northeast.













