

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 97000739

Date Listed: 7/15/97

**Pecos River Bridge at Terrero
Property Name**

**San Miguel
County**

**NM
State**

Historic Highway Bridges of NM
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

7/22/97
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

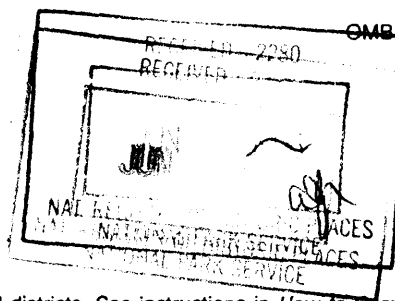
Although the historic context in the cover documentation covers a period extending until 1965, the period of significance for this bridge is its date of construction. The period of significance is 1921. The only significant date is 1921 (not 1944). This was confirmed by Mary Ann Anders of the NM SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



739

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 an 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 name Pecos River Bridge at Terrero

other names/site number NMSHTD # 239

2. Location

street & number 20 yds. W of NM 63 at Pecos River Crossing at Terrero not for publication

city or town Terrero vicinity

state New Mexico code NM county San Miguel code 047 zip code 87573

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Lynn Sebastian SHPO 5-28-97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

Beth Boland

7/15/97

Pecos River Bridge at Terrero
Name of Property

San Miguel, NM
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Highway Bridge Construction in NM

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: road-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation: pedestrian-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Howe type timber truss

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls wood

roof _____

other steel

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Pecos River Bridge at Terrero
Name of Property

San Miguel, NM
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

transportation

engineering

Period of Significance

1921-1965

Significant Dates

1921, 1944

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

U.S. Forest Service

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Pecos River Bridge at Terrero
Name of Property

San Miguel, NM
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 13 | 438720 | 3955170
Zone Easting Northing
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Kammer, Ph.D.
organization contract historian date Dec., 1996
street & number 521 Aliso Dr. NE telephone (505) 266-0586
city or town Albuquerque state NM zip code 87108

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7,8 Page 1

Pecos River Bridge at Terrero
San Miguel County, NM

Description

The Pecos River Bridge at Terrero, now serving as a pedestrian and equestrian bridge situated just to the west of the Pecos River bridge on NM 63 that replaced it, is a one-span timber bridge constructed by the U. S. Forest Service in 1921. The substructure consists of two concrete abutments and one timber pier which has recently been added to support the span. The deck of the bridge rests approximately six feet above the waterway.

The bridge employs a Howe through truss design with five panels of 15 feet each and with 1.75" steel rods used for the vertical members. The diagonal members are 10"x10" timbers. The total length of the span is 75 feet, and the roadway is 15 feet wide. The deck consists of 4"x4" timber topped with an asphalt surface and rests on timber stringers and crossbeams. Timber felloes flank the deck, and wood rails are bolted to the wood members of the truss. In 1944, as part of an effort to rehabilitate rotted elements, salvaged steel rails replaced the lower chords and salvaged steel hangers from old bridges replaced the original vertical members. Short sections of steel rails were also bolted to the concrete abutments as bridge shoes to reinforce the end posts.

Set in a high mountain canyon adjacent to the former mining district of Terrero and preserved by NMSHTD, the bridge conveys a strong feeling of an early Forest Service bridge project and, with the exception of the innovative restoration work completed in 1944, retains a high degree of integrity of setting, design, materials, workmanship.

Statement of Significance

Preserved and maintained by NMSHTD, the Pecos River Bridge at Terrero is historically significant for its long association with highway transportation in New Mexico dating to the first years of statehood when the federal government constructed many bridges located on federal lands that then became part of the state's federal or state highway system. The only Howe through truss design bridge remaining in New Mexico and one of the highest rated bridges in the bridge survey of 1987, the structure

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Pecos River Bridge at Terrero
San Miguel County, NM

Statement of Significance (continued)

is also significant for the ways in which it embodies the design, materials and methods of construction associated with that sub-type of bridge.

Located along the narrow canyon carved by the Pecos River as it rushes out of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the Pecos River Bridge at Terrero was one of four Howe through truss timber bridges undertaken along the upper portion of the river by the U.S. Forest Service in the early 1920s. By the late 1920s, the forest road had become NM 63 and served the Terrero mining district as well as increasing numbers of visitors seeking recreational opportunities in the upper Pecos country. Included in the highway department's maintenance control program, the timber bridges along NM 63 exhibited deterioration in the early 1940s, and most were eventually replaced. The bridge at Terrero, however, was refurbished in 1944 through an innovative program designed to make use of salvage materials as the country turned most of its building materials to the war effort. Salvage steel from railroad tracks and old bridges was substituted for many of the rotted timber members of the bridge, permitting the bridge to carry highway traffic until 1980s when a new bridge was constructed nearby. The original bridge was preserved.

The Howe through truss timber bridge design was employed in several bridge projects along the upper Rio Grande around the turn of the century. Its reliance on timber members made it ideal for the timber-rich regions of the state, and the iron rods which served as the vertical members supporting the deck and acting in tension required less costly shipping than did members of bridges fabricated exclusively of steel. The timber members also contributed to the rustic appearance of the bridge, an aesthetic consistent with much of the Forest Service's construction practices during the 1920s and 1930s. The bridge at Terrero is the last remaining timber bridge dating to the construction practices of that era.

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Pecos River Bridge at Terrero
San Miguel County, NM

Bibliography

New Mexico State Highway Department. "Bridge Department Structure Report, Bridge No. 239," March 24, 1929.

"Timber Trusses Built with Salvage Rail in Lower Chords." Road and Streets, April, 1945, p. 76.

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is a rectangular parcel measuring approximately 75 x 15 feet.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the bridge's substructure and its superstructure which comprise the historic bridge.