

# United States Department of the Interior

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

**The attached property, Wendling Bridge in Lane County, OREGON, reference number 79002095 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*  
*[Signature]*  
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

2-3-2010  
Date

THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION  
OREGON COVERED BRIDGES

Bridge Name and Number Wendling Bridge, Index No. 21

County Lane

Stream or River Mill Creek

Location Wendling Road, ca. 3½ miles NE of Marcola

NW¼ SW¼ Sec. 10, T.16S., R.1W., W.M. Marcola Quadrangle

Oregon Coordinate System, south zone: 928,200 ft. N., 1397,350 ft. E.

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 4800 square feet.

Present Owner Lane County Board of Commissioners

Lane County Courthouse

Eugene, OR 97401

Date of Construction 1938

Description of Bridge

Length of span	60 feet
Truss type	Howe truss
Cladding	Board and batten, vertical side walls
Roofing	Shingled gable roof
Decking	Wood

Other salient features Semi-elliptical portal arches. Ribbon openings extend the length of either side wall under the eaves. Decorative, solid S-curve brackets "carry" eaves at bridge ends. Roadway width: 16'. Rated load limit: 30 tons. Wood piers with concrete bases.  
Community and bridge were named for George X. Wendling, at one time director of the Booth-Kelly Lumber Company. A. C. Striker was Lane County Bridge Superintendent at the time the bridge was erected.

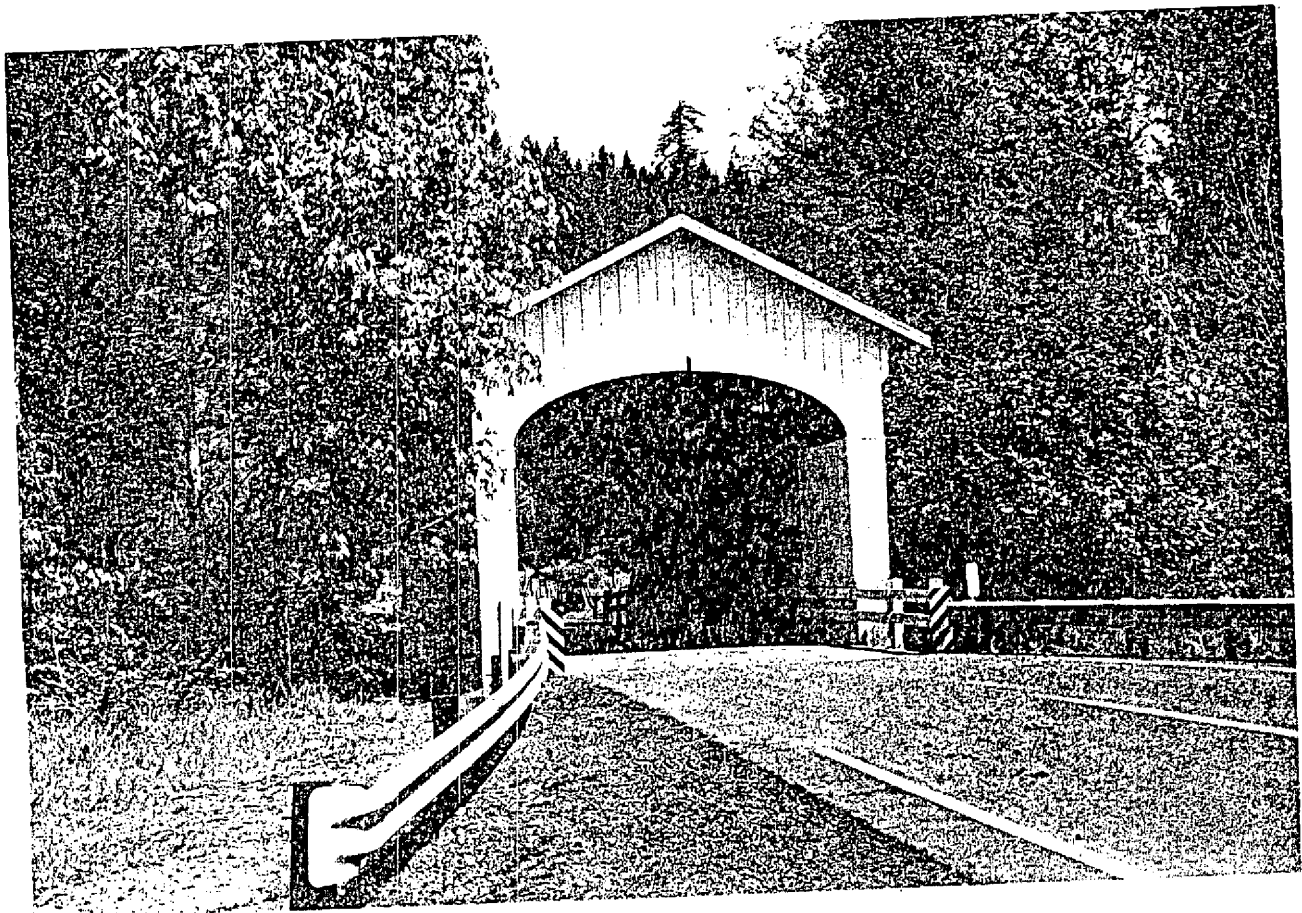
Dry rot in approaches.

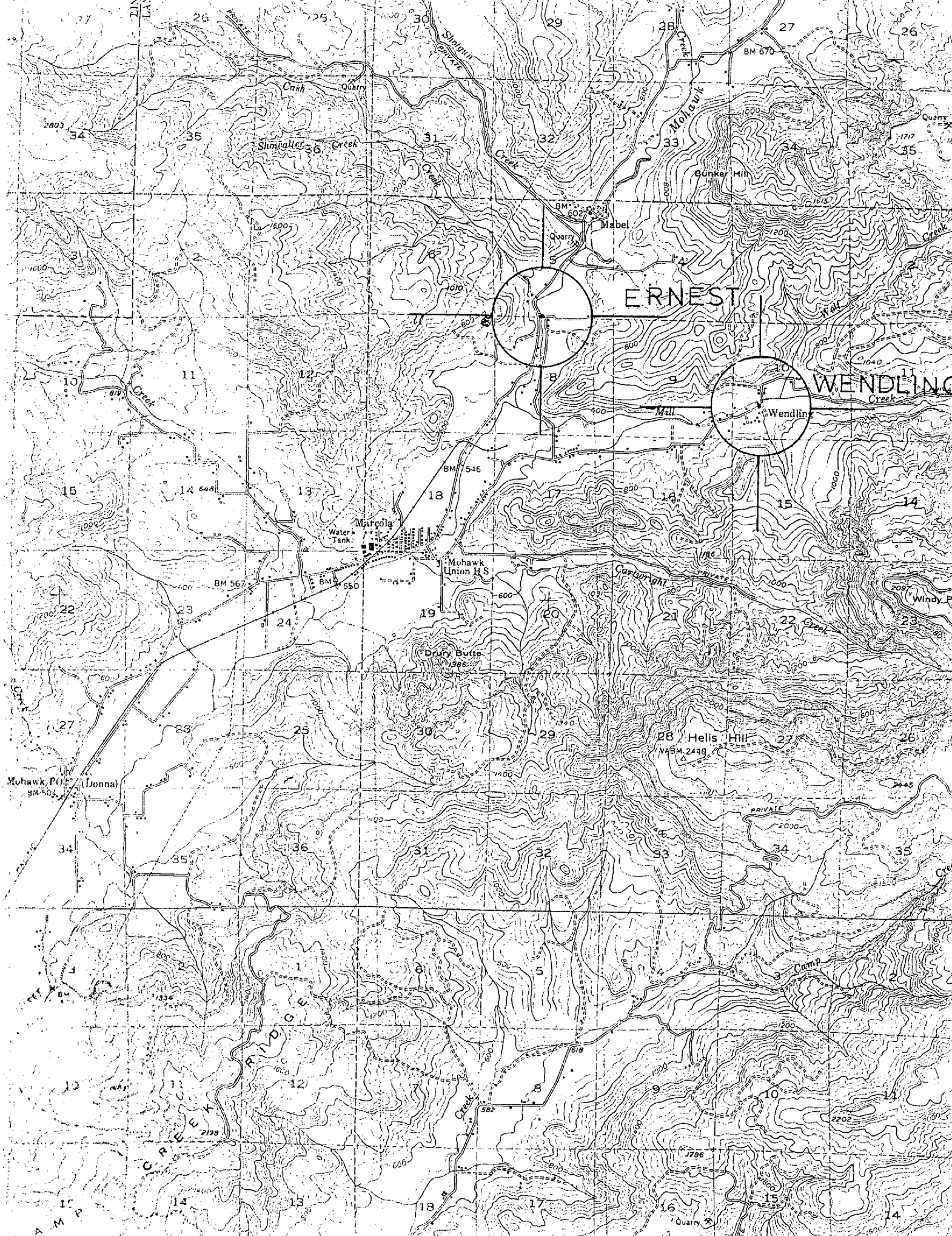
Legal description is included in the appropriate County Road Department right-of-way files and County Deed Records.

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 1979.

Bridge Index No. 21  
Wendling Covered Bridge  
Vicinity of Wendling  
Lane County, Oregon  
South West Elevation

Stephen Dow Beckham Photo, 1976  
History Department  
Lewis and Clark College  
615 SW Palantine Hill Road  
Portland, OR 97219





ERNEST

WENDLING

Mohawk P.O. (Donna)

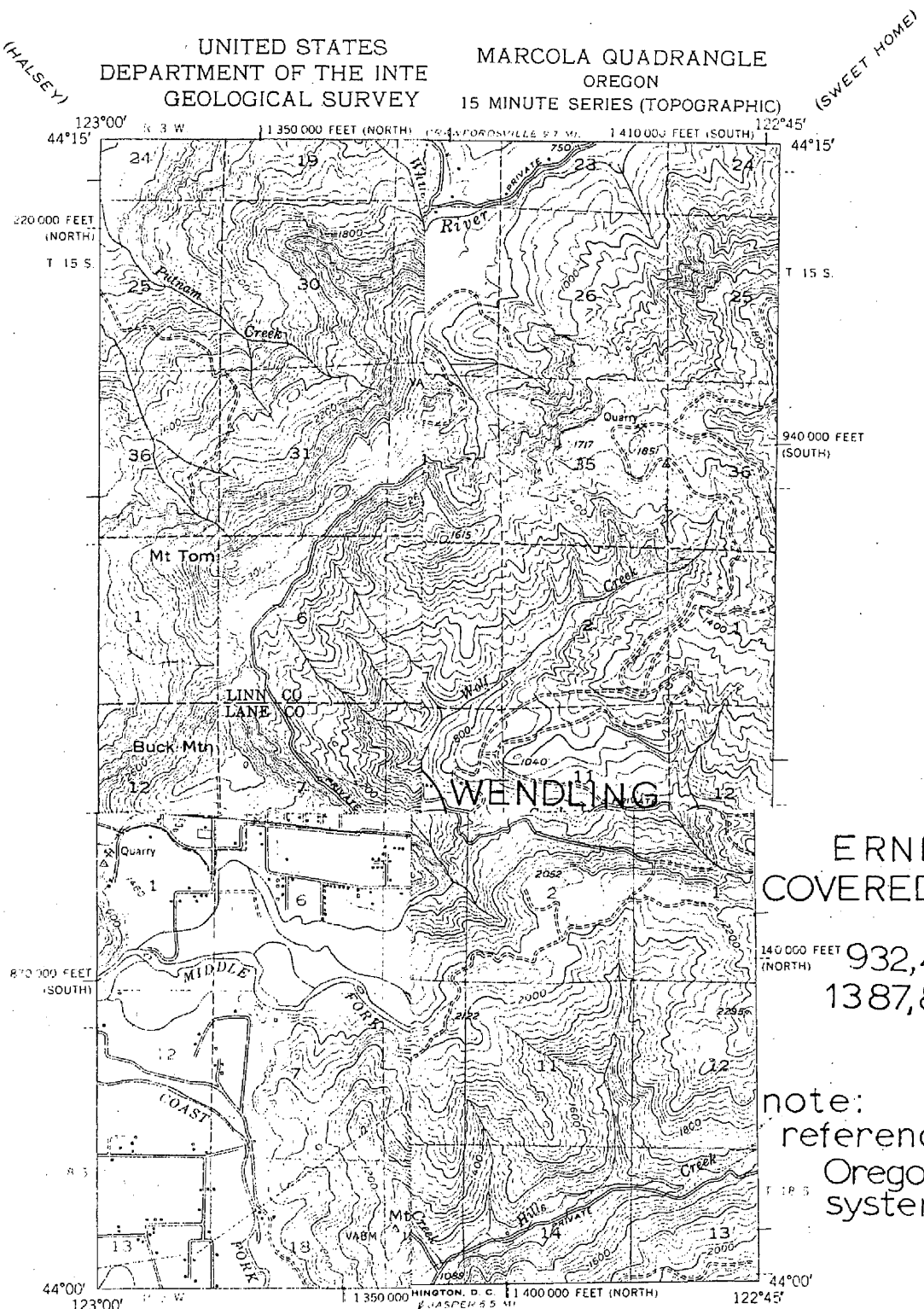
Mohawk Union H.S.

Helix Hill  
V.A.S.M. 2449

A.M.P.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MARCOLA QUADRANGLE  
OREGON  
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



ERNEST #2  
COVERED BRIDGE

932,400 ft. N.  
1387,800 ft. E.

note:  
references are  
Oregon coordinate  
system, south  
zone

(COTTAGE GROVE)

(LOWELL 1:25000)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex  
Aerial photographs taken 1949. Field check 1950

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Oregon coordinate system  
north and south zones

Red tint indicates area in which only  
landmark buildings are shown.

Dashed land lines indicate approximate location

Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Light-duty
- Unimproved dirt
- U. S. Route
- State Route

MARCOLA, OREG.

N4400-W12245/15

1950

# 21

Wendling Bridge  
Stream: Mill Creek  
Built: 1938  
World Guide No.: 37-20-36

TJ6S R1W S10  
Truss: Howe  
Length: 60 feet

The Wendling Bridge appears to be hidden on a winding road northeast of Marcola.

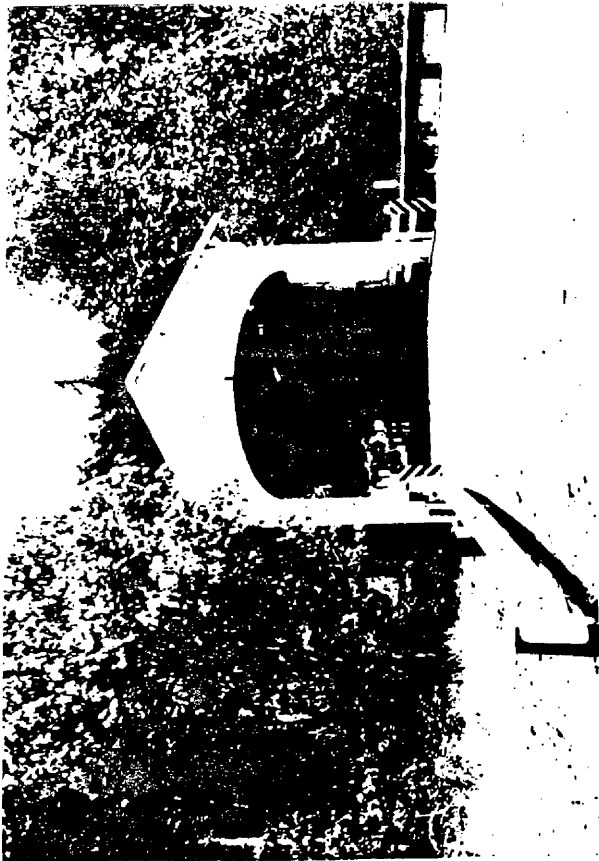
In the 1890's, George X. Wendling, director of Booth-Kelly Lumber Company, established a post office in the small town which bears his name.

Cross planking on the bridge approaches rumble slightly as traffic passes over them. Like nearby Ernest Bridge, the Wendling Bridge shows faded, peeling circus posters pasted on its walls between the truss members.

Lane County spent only \$2241 to build the bridge in 1938. Like many other short span bridges in the county, it uses single piece chords for Howe truss. The lower chords measure 12" x 14" x 65½ feet; the upper chords are 12" by 12" by 34 feet.

TO GET THERE:

Follow 14th Street northeast of Interstate 105, where it becomes Marcola Road, and travel to Marcola. Once in Marcola, turn east onto Wendling Road and follow it to the Wendling Bridge, only a short distance south of Wendling.



Sta Historic Preservation Office  
Oregon State Parks, Salem, 97310

#21

County Lane

Theme GA

Name  
(Common) Wendling Covered Bridge

(Historic) (same)

Address Wendling Road, Wendling, Oregon

Present Owner Lane County

(Address) Eugene, Oregon

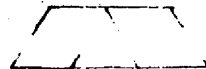
Original Use Bridge

Date of Construction 1938

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The Wendling Covered Bridge spans Mill Creek near Wendling, Oregon. Erected in 1938 this bridge is sixty feet long. The exterior is vertical board and batten. There is a gable roof. Open rectangular spaces at the eaves provide lighting. The only ornament on the bridge is a wood bracket located on the east and west portals near the eaves. A sign on the bridge states that A.C. Striker was the Bridge Superintendent at the time of its construction.

The truss construction is as follows:

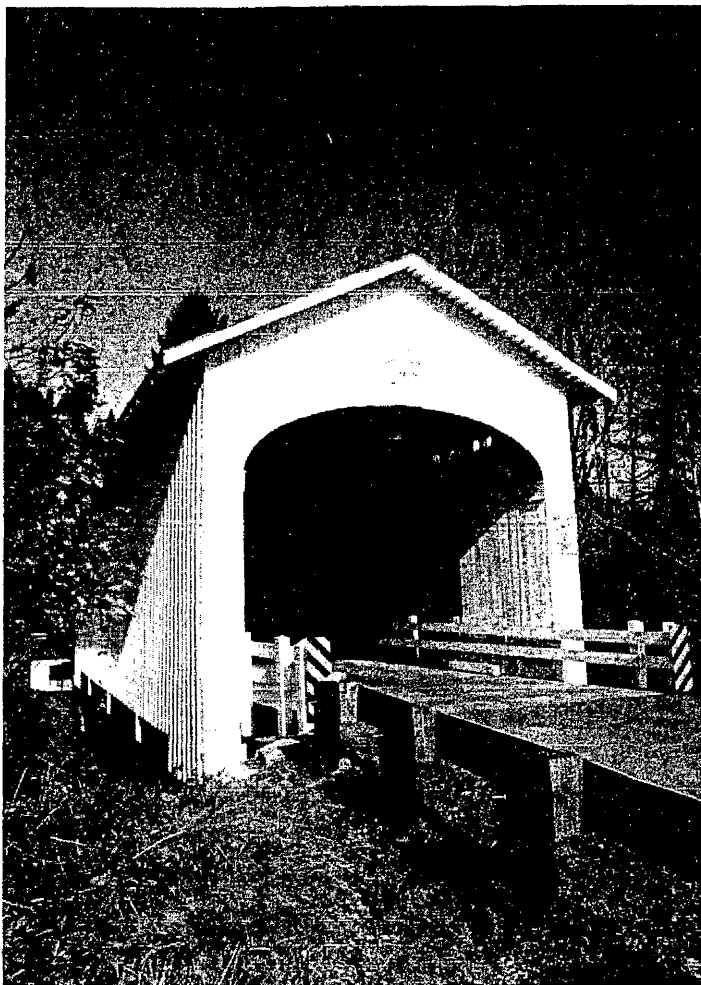


The wood trestles at the east and west elevation are each fifteen feet long.

Continue back if necessary

Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 27 May 1976 Sources Consulted:

For Oregon State Historic Preservation Office Coleman, Jean and John. "An Unforgettable Tour of Oregon's Beautiful Covered Bridges," Covered Bridge Topics, undated typescript, Vertical File, Sate Library, Salem, Ore.  
Please enclose map Township 16 <sup>N</sup> <sub>S</sub> Range 1 <sup>E</sup> <sub>W</sub> Section 10



**Left photo:** The Wendling Bridge now repaired by county crew which replaced the needle beam. This bridge spans Mill Creek near Marcola in Lane County.

**Lower photo:** Ritner Creek Bridge in Polk County now fully refurbished. This view shows the scaffolding used to replace the roof and apply a new coat of white paint. Also note the steps on the right end of the photo which allow visitors a safer walk to the water's edge.



**DUES:** Annual dues, \$7.50 per family are now due for 1991! In you have not yet paid, please help us out by sending yours now! Send to Betty Futrell.

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**Advertising rates:** \$3 per inch deep, 1/2 column wide. Please submit material for the **BRIDGE TENDER** to Bill Cockrell, editor, 3940 Courtney Ln SE, Salem, OR 97302.

The **BRIDGE TENDER**, a publication of the Covered Bridge Society of Oregon, 9070 SW Rambler Lane, Portland, OR 97223 is entered as Bulk Mail. Editor: Bill Cockrell. Production and Printing: Ralph Williams. Mailing: Jeannine Schmeltzer. Published quarterly. The Covered Bridge Society of Oregon is a chartered non-profit corporation.

Submission to the **BRIDGE TENDER** will be considered for printing by the editor. Upon request, submitted material and photos will be returned. Both color or black and white prints are acceptable, but they should be clear and of good quality.



## BRIDGE REPAIRS, REBUILDING COMPLETED IN 1990



Once again, traffic flows through the **Wildcat** (37-20-04) covered bridge, just off Highway 126 west of Eugene in Lane County. Crews worked during the summer to complete the rehabilitation which included a major overhaul of the structure. The roof, decking, bracing and other repairs makes the span look new again. A number of members reported that the bridge was reopened, and a trip to the bridge proved them right. The Wildcat span glows from the new wood and fresh paint.

At **Earnest Bridge** (37-20-35), most rehabilitation work is completed except for touch-up painting. Painting will be completed in the spring when the wood is dry. The renovation included concrete piers, new bracing, new approaches, and new decking. Visitors will be pleased to see the results, and photographers will note that some black berry bushes and trees have been removed making the bridge more accessible.



Lane County repaired the damaged needle beam at the **Wendling Bridge** (37-20-36). The old structure was enforced by a 4x6 crutch when the 1990 safari visited.

Traffic can now flow through the **Mosby Creek Bridge** (37-20-27) near Cottage Grove. This span also received major renovation this past autumn. This work included new decking, approaches, and piers. Also, a number of stringers were replaced and workers rebuilt the portal framing and added decorative portal brackets. New white paint will be added when weather permits.

Work has been completed on Polk County's **Ritner Creek Bridge** (37-27-01). New roofing, repairs to the flooring, new bracing, and new paint round out the repair work at that site. Although vehicular traffic does not pass through the span, the county determined the old wooden bridge met historic significance worthy of this attention. The bridge is now in excellent shape and looks good.

Upper: **Wildcat Bridge** in Lane County completely repaired.  
Lower: **Earnest Bridge** in Lane County nearing completion.

Several Linn County roofed structures were renovated during the past months. County funds matched with state covered bridge money helped the county gather support and interest to complete the renovation projects. Those bridges completed during the summer were **Hannah, Shimanek, and Gilkey**. Later this past fall, the **Larwood Bridge** (37-22-06) received considerable work, and was reopened just prior to Thanksgiving. Indications are that the **Short Bridge** (37-22-09) spanning the South Santiam River near Cascadia will receive major repair in the near future. Future issues of the BRIDGE TENDER will report on any work at that site.