

**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: 97000731

Date Listed: 7/15/97

**Percha Creek Bridge
Property Name**

**Sierra
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

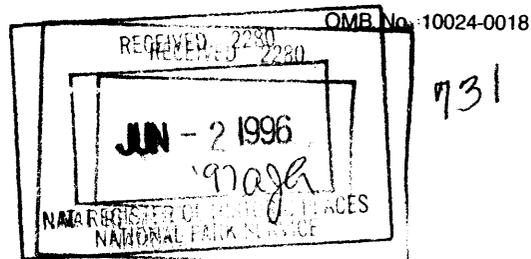
7/28/97
Date of Action

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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 1927. 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

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 Percha Creek Bridge

other names/site number NMSHTD # 1519

2. Location

street & number 10 yds. S of NM 152, 2 M. W of Hillsboro not for publication

city or town Hillsboro vicinity

state New Mexico code NM county Sierra code 051 zip code 88042

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.)

Lyn 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 Toland

7/5/97

Percha Creek Bridge

Sierra, NM

Name of Property

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)

Steel deck truss

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls

roof

other steel

Narrative Description

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

Percha Creek Bridge
Name of Property

Sierra, 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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

transportation

engineering

Period of Significance

1927-1965

Significant Dates

1927

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

William S. Henderson

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Percha Creek Bridge
Name of Property

Sierra, NM
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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1	3
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2	5	6	3	4	10
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3	6	4	4	8	6	10
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2

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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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7,8 Page 1

Percha Creek Bridge
Sierra County, NM

Description

The Percha Creek Bridge, located immediately south of the current highway bridge crossing Percha Creek on NM 152 two miles west of Hillsboro, is a one span Warren-design steel deck truss built in 1927 by the Ware Company of El Paso. The bridge crosses a deep canyon carved by the Rio Percha as it flows eastward out of the Black Range toward the Rio Grande.

The substructure consists of two concrete abutments and two concrete foundations located approximately forty feet below the deck of the bridge and situated on two flat rock surfaces carved into the canyon walls. The superstructure consists of a single span measuring 160 feet in length and flanked by two 25-foot timber approaches. The lower chords of the truss rest on the two foundations, and the top chords carry the deck load. Typical of a Warren design, the truss consists of four triangular-shaped panels measuring 40 feet in length and with each diagonal acting alternately in tension and compression. Vertical members bisecting each triangle provide stiffening. All of the truss members are riveted to the top and bottom chords. The roadway is 210 feet long and 19 feet wide and consists of a timber deck with an asphalt surface.

The bridge retains a high degree of integrity of setting, design, materials, workmanship and association with few alterations other than the continuous molded metal guardrails installed as a part of the bridge's routine upkeep. In 1995 the bridge was bypassed, but NMSHTD has preserved the bridge, installing parking areas at both ends of the bridge, offering pedestrian access, and erecting a sign noting its history.

Statement of Significance

Well-preserved and marked by a brown and white sign briefly recounting its history, the Percha Creek Bridge near Hillsboro is significant for its long association with highway transportation in New Mexico dating to the late 1920s. It is also significant as the oldest and highest rated bridge Warren design steel deck truss bridge in New Mexico, embodying the design, materials and methods of construction associated with that bridge sub-type.

United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
 Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 2

Percha Creek Bridge
 Sierra County, NM

Statement of Significance (continued)

During the 1920s as the highway department sought to complete the first phase of the state's modern road system by connecting all of the principle communities of the state, citizens from southwestern New Mexico lobbied strenuously for a road through the Black Range that would connect Silver City with the Rio Grande Valley north of Las Cruces. Delegations from Grant County often journeyed to Santa Fe to discuss their request with the State Highway Commission. In time, the citizens of Grant and Sierra Counties even agreed to the assessment of two additional mill levies to help fund the project. Nevertheless, the construction of the so-called Black Range Highway, now NM 152, proved to be a difficult task, achieved only incrementally during the late 1920s and not completed until the mid-1930s.

An early phase of the project on the east side of the mountains was constructing a road to the isolated village of Kingston, site of an early mining district. Funds raised by the mill levies were used to match federal funds under FAP 148-B to complete this section. The most challenging aspect of the project was the difficult terrain engineers faced, especially the deep canyons carved by Percha Creek, as they attempted to build a roadway through the foothills of the Black Range. Two miles west of Hillsboro where the creek had cut a canyon some 120 feet deep through precambrian granite, William S. Henderson, the project engineer, designed a deck truss to span the creek. Although the highway department had never used the design before, Henderson realized that with the waterway in the deep gorge well below the lower chords there was little danger of flooding and debris damaging the structure. Like many engineers who were aware of the susceptibility of through truss superstructures to damage from passing vehicles, he took the opportunity the deep gorge offered to avoid using a design with a trussed superstructure. Based on this precedent, in future projects New Mexico's highway engineers spanned other deep canyons with similar bridge designs.

The setting of the bridge over the deep gorge at Percha Creek imbues the bridge with a strong feeling of its historic appearance and the role it played in providing a highway link to one of the state's most remote mining districts. Contributing to this feeling of a bridge set in rugged terrain are the granite foothills of the Black Range, vegetated by cactus and yucca, that

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8,9,10 Page 3

Percha Creek Bridge
Sierra County, NM

Statement of Significance (continued)

surround the crossing site. When a new bridge was completed in 1995, NMSHTD preserved this unique steel deck truss bridge.

Bibliography

"Brief History of the Black Range Road." New Mexico Highway Journal, Vol. 7, No. 2 (February, 1929), pp. 10-11.

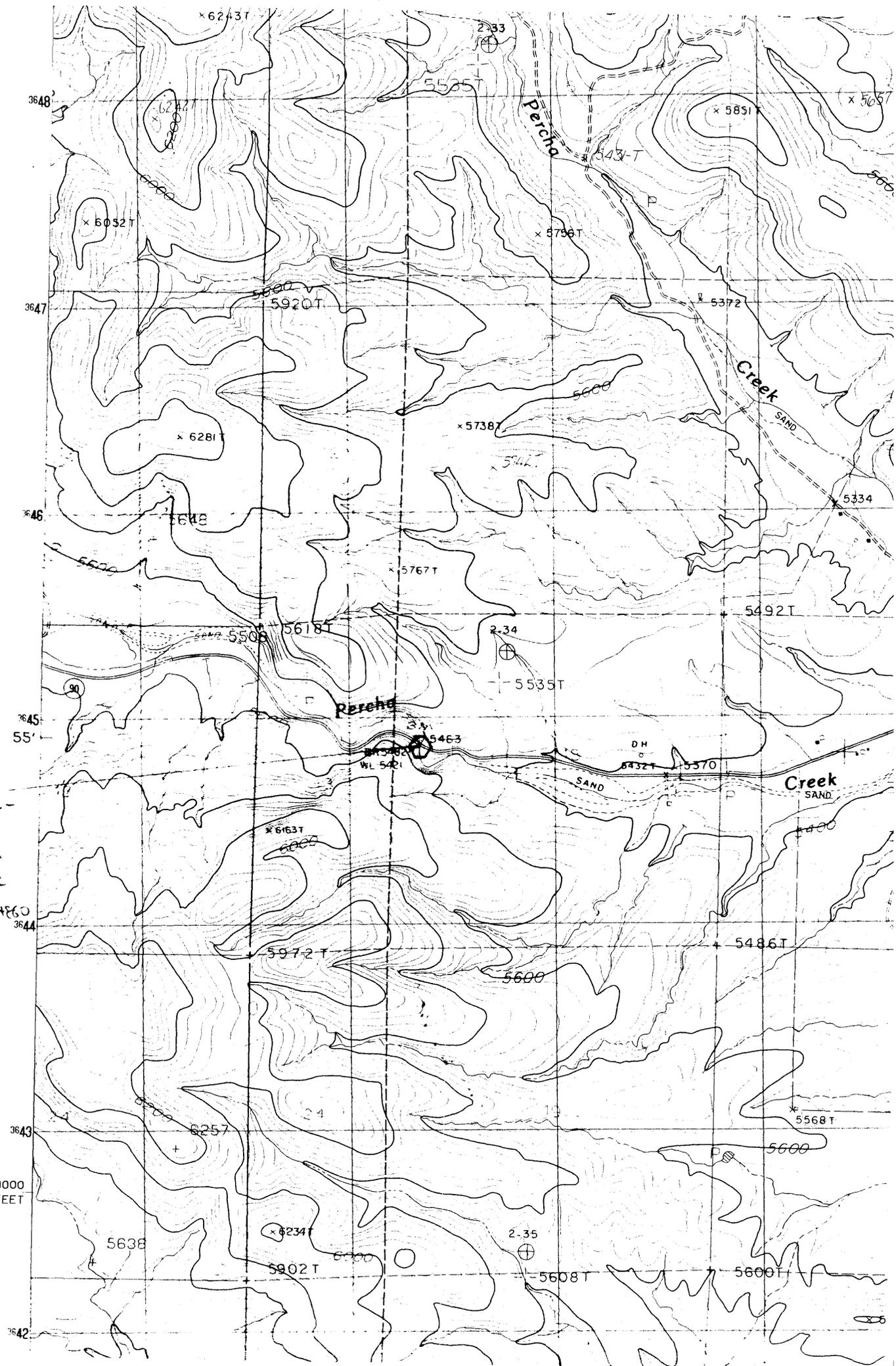
New Mexico State Highway Department. "Bridge Department Structure Report, Bridge No. 1519," March 13, 1930.

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is a rectangular parcel measuring approximately 210 x 20 feet.

Boundary Justification

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



Area near Pueblo
 in south
 Sierra Cr., NM
 JTM Reference
 12 256240 3644860

690000
FEET