

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 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 name Waccamaw River Memorial Bridge  
other names/site number SC Dept of Transportation ID # Horry 2 (262050103100)

2. Location

street & number Main Street/U.S. Highway 501 over the Waccamaw River not for publication   
city or town Conway vicinity   
state South Carolina code SC county Horry code 051  
zip code                     

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Mary W. Edmonds 7/8/94  
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy SHPO, S.C. Department of Archives & History, Columbia, S.C.  
State or 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 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  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): \_\_\_\_\_

M. J. M. Naz 8/26/94

         Signature of Keeper Date of Action

### 5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			buildings
			sites
			structures
			objects
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing \_\_\_\_\_ Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0  
Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

### Historic Resources of Conway Multiple Resource Area

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: TRANSPORTATION Sub: Road-related

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: TRANSPORTATION Sub: Road-related

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)  
y(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Continuous Steel Girder Bridge

#### Materials

foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_  
other Metal/Steel  
Concrete

#### Narrative Description

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

### 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 prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

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

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a 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)

ARCHITECTURE  
ENGINEERING  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1937  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Period of Significance**

1937  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Gooding, W.J., Bridge Engineer  
Tidewater Construction Company,  
Norfolk, VA, Contractors

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Approximately 2 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>17</u>	<u>681000</u>	<u>3745160</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	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 Greg Martin, Ben Burroughs, Connie Kincaid, & Henry Burroughs, Jr.

organization Conway-Main Street USA, Inc. date 4 March 1994

street & number 203 Main Street telephone (803) 248-6260

city or town Conway state SC zip code 29526

## 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name South Carolina Department of Transportation

street & number 955 Park Street, P.O. Box 191 telephone (803) 737-1300

city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29202

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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Waccamaw River Memorial Bridge  
name of property  
Horry County, South Carolina  
county and State

The Waccamaw River Memorial Bridge, which carries Main Street/U.S. Highway 501 over the Waccamaw River and the tracks of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, is a multi-span continuous steel girder bridge made up of four steel girder main spans with a maximum span length of 114 feet each and four continuous steel stringer approach spans; concrete piers support the bridge deck, and the entire bridge is 1270 feet long; the curb-to-curb width is 24 feet, with an overall width of 34.9 feet. It is notable for several features distinguishing it from similar South Carolina highway bridges of the period, such as its long horizontal curve in conjunction with a long vertical curve instead of the more common use of the vertical curve alone; the Gothic-influenced pointed-arch design of its concrete piers; and the use of 28 cast-iron light standards along the balustrade. The date of construction--1937--is inscribed on the the end of the concrete balustrade at either end of the bridge; a concrete marker stands at the northern approach to the bridge, with a bronze plaque bearing the inscription

THIS BRIDGE IS DEDICATED  
AS A  
MEMORIAL  
TO THE  
SONS AND DAUGHTERS  
OF HORRY COUNTY  
WHO SERVED IN THE WARS  
OF OUR COUNTRY

A single cast-iron light standard, identical to those along the balustrade, stands between the marker and the bridge itself.

The bridge was rehabilitated by the South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation (since renamed the South Carolina Department of Transportation) in 1992-93, with repairs and maintenance to the balustrade, the bridge deck, and the concrete piers supporting the bridge, all sympathetic to the original design of the bridge. This rehabilitation also included the replacement of the modern aluminum standards which had since replaced the originals; the replacement cast-iron standards, with fluted columns, duplicated the 1937 standards and were cast by Union Metal Company of Canton, Ohio, from the molds used to cast the original light standards.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 6

Waccamaw River Memorial Bridge  
name of property  
Horry County, South Carolina  
county and State

The Waccamaw River Memorial Bridge, constructed in 1937 and opened to the public in April 1938, is locally significant as an example of engineering techniques and architectural design used in the construction of South Carolina highway bridges during a period of remarkable growth in the state's highway system. Among its notable engineering and architectural features are its long vertical and horizontal curves and the Gothic-influenced pointed arches cut out of its concrete piers; the arches have been described as "a lavish treatment seldom seen in South Carolina bridges" in a 1993 bridge inventory project sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation.<sup>1</sup> It is also significant for its association with the growth and development of the Grand Strand-Myrtle Beach area as a resort in the first half of the twentieth century.

This bridge, which was designed under the supervision of W.J. Gooding, Bridge Engineer of the South Carolina Highway Department and constructed at a cost of some \$370,000, replaced an earlier one-lane bridge which had been the only bridge connecting the town of Conway with the developing resort town of Myrtle Beach and the wide Atlantic beaches known as the Grand Strand. The bridge was also specifically designed to be "capable of handling the tremendous volume of motor traffic" from Conway to Myrtle Beach and points beyond, a volume of traffic which had grown dramatically during the 1920s and 1930s. It was designated as a memorial to Horry County citizens who served in America's wars from the American Revolution through the First World War at the request of Colonel Henry L. Buck, a prominent citizen of Horry County and member of the State Highway Commission.<sup>2</sup>

The ceremonies opening the bridge, held on 1 April 1938, were attended by what reporters estimated as "a crowd of not less than 15,000" who saw the dedication of "a handsome steel and concrete bridge . . . considered by those who are familiar with bridge construction as being one of the finest in the Nation."<sup>3</sup> The extent of the local enthusiasm over the completion of the Waccamaw River Memorial Bridge is evident from the newspaper accounts of the dedication and from a poem Mrs. Charles R. Scarborough of Conway wrote for the occasion which began:

The Bridge! The Bridge! It was opened today!  
The handsome new bridge in the town of Conway  
It is your bridge, and my bridge, and everybody's, too  
It is free for the crossing; it is welcome to you!

Mrs. Scarborough's verses caught the spirit of the occasion and the purpose of the bridge more than she knew when she wrote, "With speeches and races and playing of bands/Our county brings greetings to more distant lands."<sup>4</sup> Chief Highway Commissioner Ben W. Sawyer congratulated Conway on its new bridge, claiming that "this bridge across the Waccamaw river stands as a monument to public cooperation; cooperation on the part of Horry county authorities and the state highway department," and going on to urge the construction of

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<sup>1</sup>Rudolph E. Elling and Gayland B. Witherspoon, "A Study of Pre-1951 Non-Metal Truss Highway Bridges of South Carolina," (Columbia: South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation, 1993), p. 21. The Waccamaw River Memorial Bridge was one of 15 bridges in the state recommended for possible nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by this study.

<sup>2</sup>"New Bridge Will Be Memorial to Horry Soldiers," The Field, 7 April 1938.

<sup>3</sup>"Thousands See Opening of the New Wac[c]amaw River Bridge," The Field (Conway, S.C.), 7 April 1938.

<sup>4</sup>"Bridge Opening Inspires Poem By Local Lady," The Field, 7 April 1938.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Waccamaw River Memorial Bridge  
name of property  
Horry County, South Carolina  
county and State

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more bridges and roads in the South Carolina lowcountry, observing, "The Coastal section should and could be made a play ground for the people of South Carolina and large numbers of people from neighboring states. Such a development is economically feasible and socially desirable. The one essential prerequisite is more and adequate hard surfaced roads."<sup>5</sup> The Waccamaw River Memorial Bridge is an excellent resource illustrating the expansion of transportation in the twentieth-century South Carolina lowcountry.

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<sup>5</sup>"Chief Highway Commissioner Ben M. Sawyer's Bridge Opening Address," The Field, 7 April 1938.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Waccamaw River Memorial Bridge  
name of property  
Horry County, South Carolina  
county and State

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Elling, Rudolph E., and Gayland B. Witherspoon. "A Study of Pre-1951 Non-Metal Truss Highway Bridges of South Carolina." Columbia: South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation, 1993.
- "Bridge Opening Inspires Poem By Local Lady," The Field (Conway, S.C.), 7 April 1938.
- "Chief Highway Commissioner Ben M. Sawyer's Bridge Opening Address," The Field (Conway, S.C.), 7 April 1938.
- "New Bridge Will Be Memorial To Horry Soldiers," The Field (Conway, S.C.), 7 April 1938.
- "Some Sidelights On The Opening Of The New Bridge," The Field (Conway, S.C.), 7 April 1938.
- "Thousands See Opening of the New Wacamaw River Bridge," The Field (Conway, S.C.), 7 April 1938.



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 9

Waccamaw River Memorial Bridge  
name of property  
Horry County, South Carolina  
county and State

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line on the accompanying Horry County Tax Map 137-6, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property is restricted to the Waccamaw River Memorial Bridge and its immediate setting.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section PHOTOGRAPHS Page 10 Waccamaw River Memorial Bridge  
name of property  
Horry County, South Carolina  
county and State

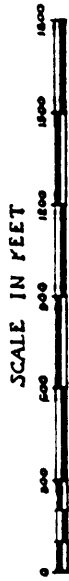
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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Waccamaw River Memorial Bridge  
Location of Property: Conway, Horry County, South Carolina  
Name of Photographer: Connie Kincaid, Conway-Main Street USA  
Date of Photographs: March 1994  
Location of Negatives: Conway-Main Street USA, Conway, S.C.

1. View of light standards and bridge roadbed, looking SE over the Waccamaw River
2. View looking E
3. Detail of balustrade and piers
4. Detail of balustrade, piers, and light standards
5. Detail of piers and steel girders
6. Detail of piers

# CITY OF CONWAY, S. C.

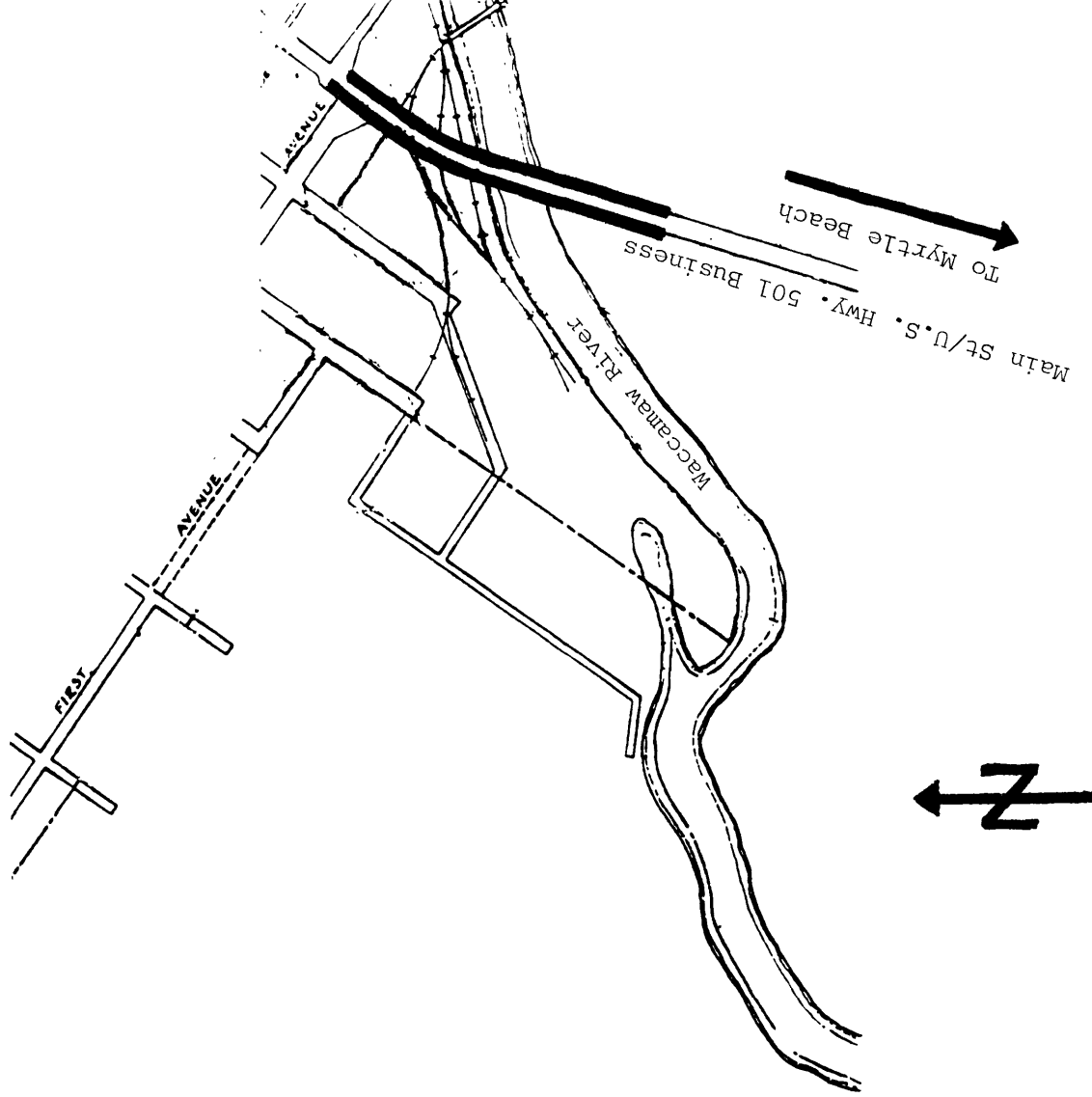


1 DECEMBER 1960

LEGEND:

EXISTING STREET  
STREET DEDICATION  
CITY LIMIT

Waccamaw River  
Memorial Bridge



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: 94000994

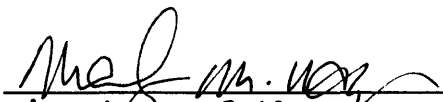
Date Listed: 8/26/94

Waccamaw River Memorial Bridge  
Property Name

Horry County SOUTH CAROLINA  
State

Historic Resources of Conway MRA  
Multiple Name

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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.

for   
Signature of the Keeper

8/26/94  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 5

This nomination is amended to change the count from one contributing building to one contributing structure, as is indicated in the property category.

This change was confirmed by phone with the South Carolina SHPO (8/26/94)

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