



United States Department of the Interior

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

The attached property, Lost Creek Bridge in Jackson County, OREGON, reference number 79002070, 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 17474. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

[Handwritten Signature]
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

2-2-2010
Date

THEMATIC GROUP NOMINATION
OREGON COVERED BRIDGES

Bridge Name and Number Lost Creek Bridge, Index No. 14

County Jackson

Stream or River Lost Creek

Location Lost Creek Road, off South Fork Little Butte Creek Road, ca. 5 miles SE
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 3, T.37S., R.2E., W.M. Lakecreek exit from
Highway 140

Zone 10 E520670 N4696515 Lakecreek Quadrangle

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 3540 square feet.

Present Owner Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Jackson County Courthouse

Medford, OR 97501

Date of Construction 1919

Description of Bridge

Length of span	39 feet
Truss type	Queenpost truss, modified
Cladding	Vertical board, vertical side walls
Roofing	Shingled gable roof
Decking	Wood

Other salient features Portal boarding missing on west end. Truncated rectangular portal arch, east end. Exposed cantilevered buttresses either side. Ribbon openings extend length either side wall under eaves. Width of roadway: 11'10".

Among the five oldest covered bridges standing in the state, the Lost Creek Bridge is also the shortest span in the Thematic Group.

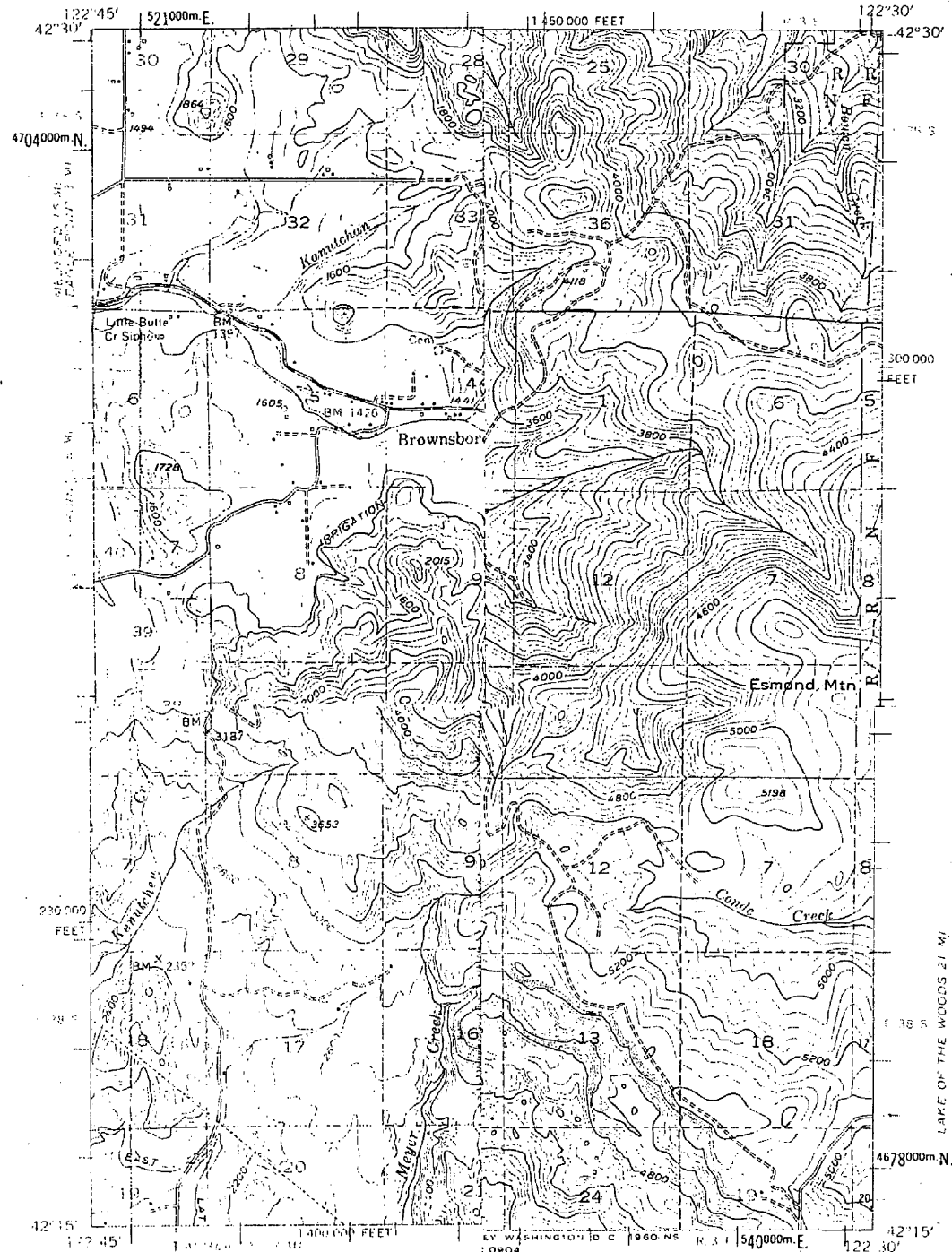
The bridge has been bypassed by a new crossing downstream.

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.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

LAKECREEK QUADRANGLE
OREGON—JACKSON CO.
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



(TRAIL)

(RUSTLER PEAK)

(TALENT)

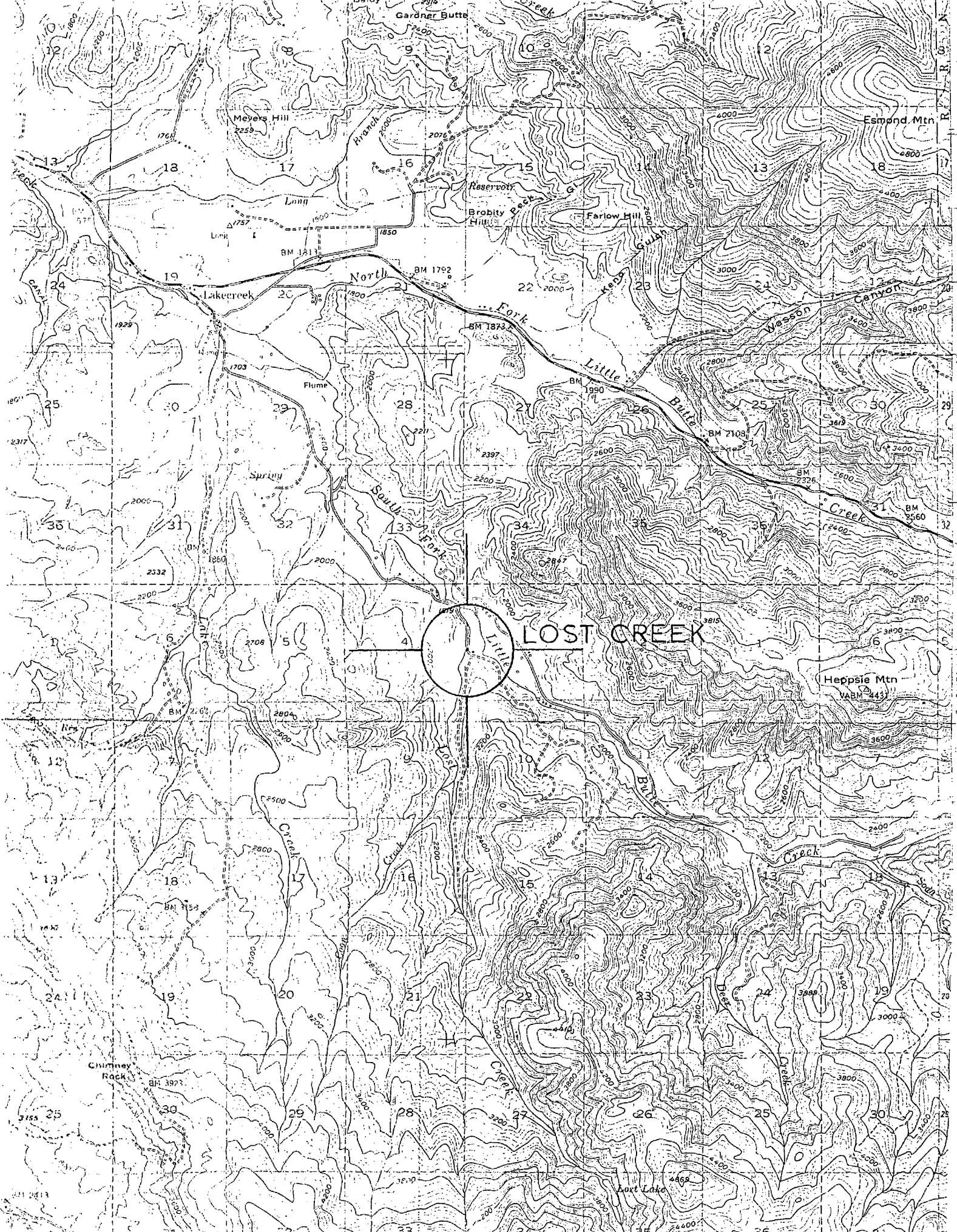
(HYAT) RESERVOIR

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological
Survey of the United States
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by multiframe method
Aerial photographs taken 1951. Field check 1954
Plane projection: 1927 North American datum
1000-foot grid based on Oregon coordinate system, south
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid tic
zone 10, shown in blue
Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———
 Unimproved dirt ———

ELOPE COVERED BRIDGE #12
 /534595/4691980
 LAKECREEK, OREG.
 44.215 W 122.30115

1954
CREEK COVERED BRIDGE #14
 /520670/4696515



LOST CREEK

Heppsie Mtn
VABM 443

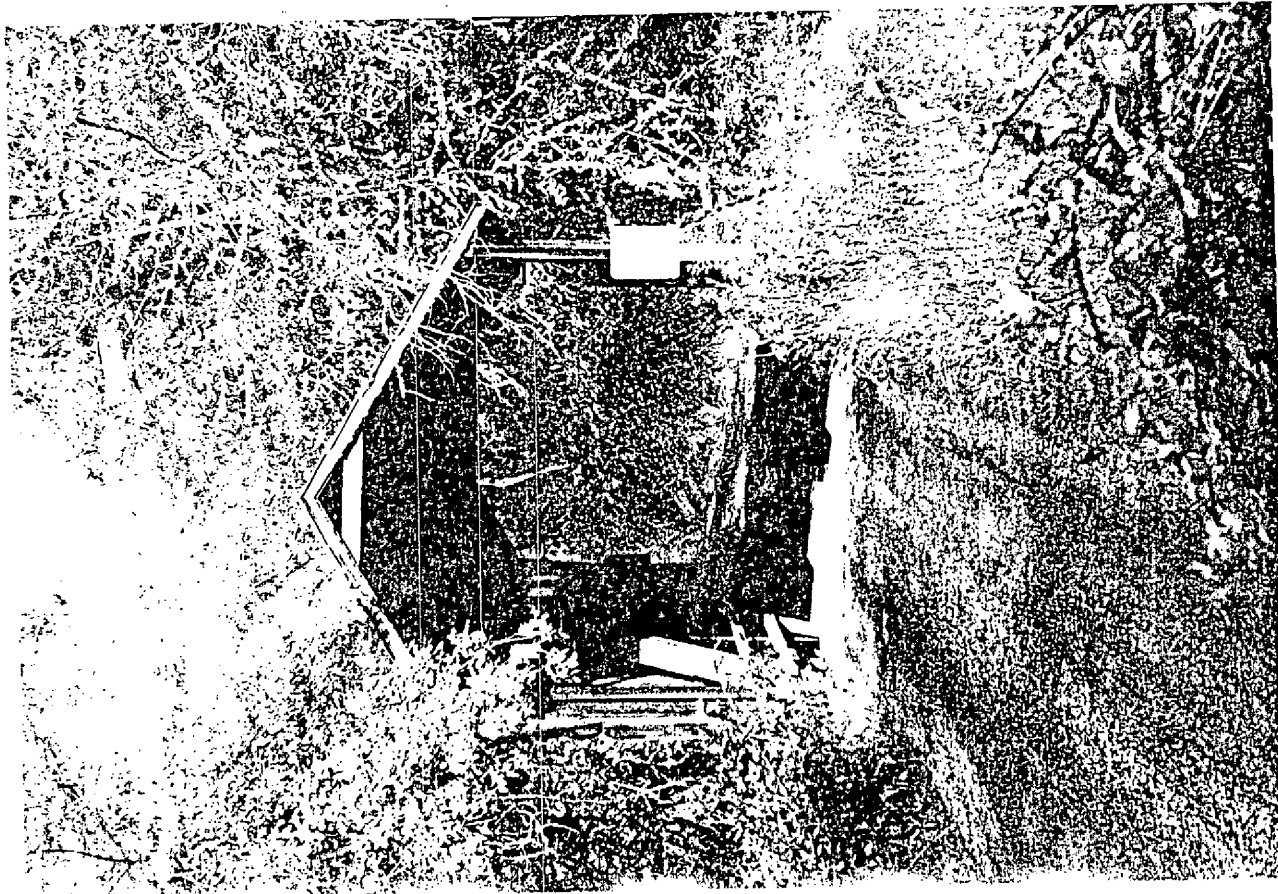
Meyers Hill
2259

Baldy Gardner Butte
2914

Esmond Mtn

Chimney Rock
BM 3923

Lost Lake
4868



Bridge Index No. 14
Lost Creek Covered Bridge
Vicinity of Lake Creek
Jackson County, Oregon
West elevation

Nick and Bill Cockrell Photo, 1976
751 Piedmont NW
Salem, OR 97304

Lost Creek Bridge
Stream: Lost Creek
Built: 1919
World Guide No.: 37-15-03

T37S R2E S3
Truss: ~~Howe~~ modified queenpost
Length: 39 feet

#14

The Lost Creek Bridge is the shortest of all the Oregon covered bridges, at just 39 feet in length. The structure is located on a lightly travelled gravel road, and although still used daily, the bridge has an 8-ton load limit imposed.

Features of the bridge include the usual county queenpost truss design, daylighting by the use of slit windows above the truss tops, a shingle roof, and flying buttress braces. The bridge does not have the usual rounded portal designs at each end, having open ends. The rough, wooden flooring consists of diagonal planking. The hand-hewn truss members are notched and fitted with long bolts through the members, securing them tightly in place.

The bridge was nearly lost in the 1964 Christmas flood. As swirling waters and heavy debris lashed at its piers, residents and concerned bridge enthusiasts prayed during the night that the bridge be saved. According to a local newspaper, the skies opened and the water receded as morning came. The journalist questioned: Was the bridge saved by prayer?

Many Jackson County residents claim the Lost Creek Bridge to have been built as far back as 1874, making it the oldest covered bridge in Oregon. Historians, however, agree that the bridge was actually constructed in 1919.

To get there: From Medford, travel approx. 5 miles north on Highway 62, turn east on Highway 140 for about 14 miles to the Lake Creek exit. From the exit, travel approx 5 miles to the bridge.

Caption: interior

The flooring at the Lost Creek Bridge consists of planking laid in a diagonal pattern. Additional planks laid lengthwise help to support the weight of passing traffic.

The queenpost truss is modified by an "X" within the truss arrangement.

Caption: exterior

"The old bridge on the county lane" appears to show signs of neglect. The moss-covered shingled roof and water-stained siding add to the atmosphere of remoteness, although the bridge supports daily users.