

BENTON COUNTY CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY II
1984 - 1986

COUNTY AREA: Fairmount

RESOURCE #: 577

PHOTO #: MM 8/ 00 0

PROP. CLASS:

ORIGINAL USE: Bridge

SIZE:

PRESENT USE: Bridge

PROPERTY ADDRESS: Spans the Willamette River at Albany (east of the
Highway 20 bridges)

T 10S R 3W S 6 1/4 SE

TAX LOT:

COMMON NAME: Railroad Bridge over the Willamette River at Albany
HISTORIC NAME:

PRESENT OWNER: Southern Pacific Transportation Co.

OWNER'S ADDRESS: 2099 Roosevelt Blvd., Eugene, Oregon

ORIGINAL OWNER: Southern Pacific

ARCHITECT:

BUILDER: American Bridge Co.

THEME: Engineering; Transportation

PERIOD/ DATE: Mid 20th Century/ 1921

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNATION/ TYPE: Through riveted swing span bridge

Condition: Good

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GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND IMMEDIATE SETTING

This Southern Pacific railroad bridge spans the Willamette River north to south between Albany and Benton County. The railroad tracks at the bridge's southern terminus are located between Madison and La Fayette Streets in Albany. At the northern terminus of the bridge, on the Benton County side, a long, wooden trestle system carries the tracks over the low-lying alluvial lowlands adjacent to the Willamette River in the vicinity of the Springhill Golf course. The Highway 20 bridges cross the Willamette River west of the railroad bridge.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

This Southern Pacific railroad bridge is a 543' through riveted span with 140' of the span of swing span. The date 1921 is visible on the top of the bridge at least on the Albany side. The bridge and associated trestle work are the result of seven different building episodes with all of the trestle work on either side later than the bridge. The bridge was built by the American Bridge Co. which built many bridges for Southern Pacific.

Swing span bridges were designed to allow river traffic to pass. The engines which moved the span were removed several years ago. However, the mechanism is still intact and with advance notice, the span

GHPO # 763

can be moved "by hand."

In general, swing-span bridges are locally significant because of the technology and because this type of bridge is becoming rare in the state. Southern Pacific has approximately four other swing-span bridges remaining in Oregon and the bridge at Albany may be the most recent. Of course, other railroads in the state also have examples of swing-span bridges. Benton County currently has two examples of swing-span bridges: this railroad bridge and the VanBuren Street bridge spanning the Willamette River at Corvallis. The Corvallis bridge is older, dating from 1912, and is also very significant for its pre-rivet construction technology.

SOURCES CONSULTED

Manske, Martha, Personal Communication, Oct. 31, 1985 (Ms. Manske works in Public Relations for the Southern Pacific Transportation Co.).

Norman, James B., Personal Communication, Nov. 1, 1985 (Mr. Norman is a researcher for the Oregon State Highway Department).

Taylor, Mr., Personal Communication, Nov. 1, 1985 (Mr. Taylor works for Southern Pacific Transportation Co. in the bridge division for this region).

Recorded by: Mary Kathryn Weber
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Date: Nov. 11, 1985

BENTON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

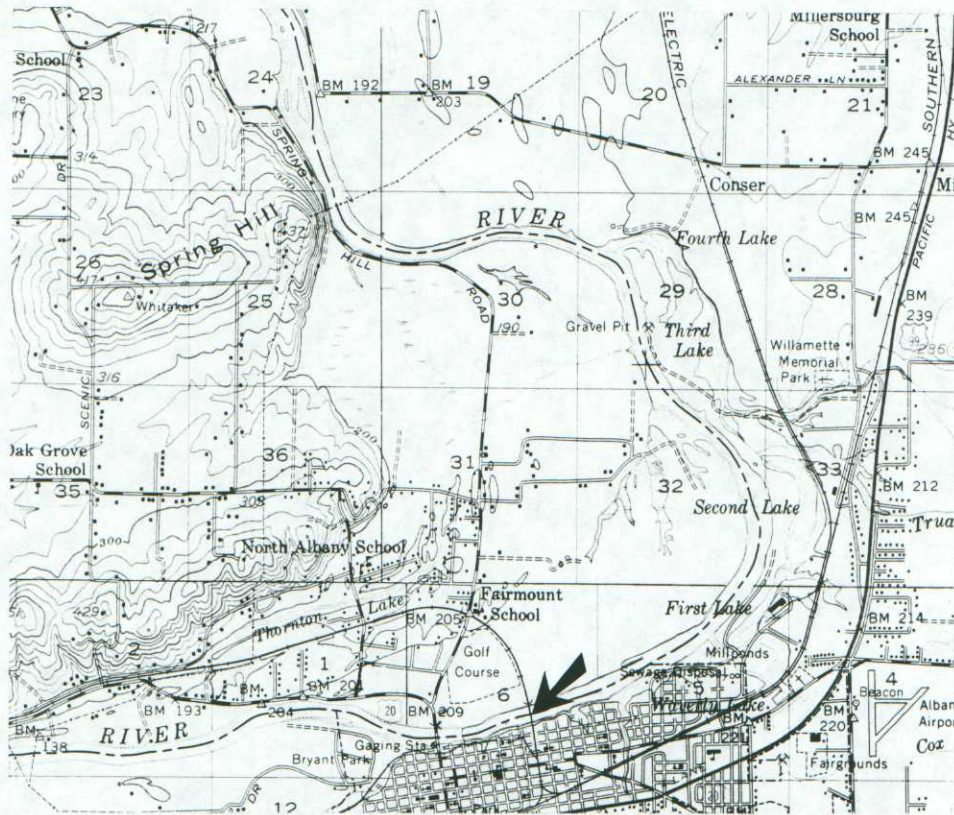
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Linn??



Photo No. MM 8

View to east



ALBANY QUADRANGLE

SHPO # 463

T 11 R 3 S 6



Photo No. 00/0

View to south

577
TRESTLE/BRIDGE

