



LINN COUNTY INVENTORY OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

Historic name Jacob Conser Bridge

Inventory number 243

Address _____

Vicinity crosses the Santiam River at Jefferson

Township 10S Range 3W Section 11

U.S.G.S map Albany

Theme Engineering

Present use Bridge

Present owner State of Oregon

Recorded by Elaine Smith

Date recorded February 2, 1983

Date of Construction: 1932-33

Style: Art Deco-Bridge Stanchions

Condition: Excellent to Fair Deteriorated

Description: Reinforced concrete, three arch span; arches each 200 feet long; bridge is 24 feet wide and total span length is 780 feet.

Historic Significance: This bridge was built by the Clackamas Construction Company for \$102,710 and was located on the original Pacific Highway route. The bridge was built under the direction of Conde B. McCullough, who was the State of Oregon bridge engineer in the 1920s and 30s and was one of the foremost authorities on arched bridges in the world. Several larger and more well known examples of McCullough arched bridges exist on the coast.

When the bridge was built, it was dedicated to Jacob Conser and a plaque on the bridge reads: "Dedicated to Jacob Conser/Pioneer of 1848 who operated the first ferry at this place and contributed generously to the development of this community."

Conser contributed significantly to the development of both the City of Jefferson on the Marion County side of the Santiam and the Linn County community. He obtained a license to operate the ferry at this location in 1852 from the Linn County Court. It was located a few miles upstream from the ferry started by Milton Hale in 1846 at Syracuse (see Milton Hale Ferry Crossing survey sheet). In 1852, Conser also presented a petition to the county court for a road from his ferry to intersect with the road from Syracuse to Brownsville (known then as Kirks). This road later became part of the Pacific Highway.