

# 20 Covered Bridges



16 Wendling



17 Wildcat Creek



15 Unity



14 Stewart



20 Chambers



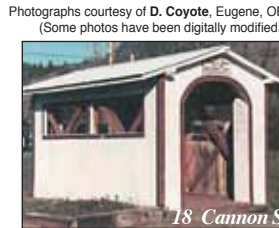
13 Pengra



12 Parvin



19 Centennial



18 Cannon St.

Photographs courtesy of D. Coyote, Eugene, OR  
(Some photos have been digitally modified.)



11 Office Bridge

**10 — Mosby Creek Bridge** • Constructed in 1920 (Restored in 1990) • Cost \$4,125 • Span 90 ft. • Design, timber through (Howe) truss • Open to traffic • Located on Layng Road east of Cottage Grove ... This is Lane's oldest covered bridge and is typical of most of the smaller covered bridges in the County. It is located in one of the most picturesque settings.

**11 — Office Bridge** (Cover photo) (The longest covered bridge in Oregon) • Constructed in 1944 • Cost (unknown) • Design, triple (Howe) truss • Open to traffic • Located at the north edge of the town of Westfir ... Built with triple trusses and beams to support logging trucks, this bridge originally connected a mill with the mill office, hence its name. Westfir was a company town built in 1923 by the Western Lumber Company. A covered walkway along one side of this bridge gives it a unique look, along with its red exterior with white trim and all white interior.

**12 — Parvin Bridge** • Constructed in 1921 (Restored in 1986) • Cost \$3,617 • Span 75 ft. • Design, Howe truss • Closed to trucks • Located southeast of Pleasant Hill, off Rattlesnake Road on Lost Valley Lane ... Named for a pioneer family, this current bridge replaced one erected in the late 1880s. This bridge is in daily use by automobiles and is easy to photograph.

**13 — Pengra Bridge** • Constructed in 1938 (Restored in 1994) • Cost \$7,334 • Span 120 ft. • Design, timber through (Howe) truss • Open to traffic • Located on Place Road just off Jasper-Lowell Rd ... Named for the first General Surveyor of Oregon in 1862, this bridge has the two longest bridge timbers ever cut in Oregon. Measuring 16"x18"x126' the timbers were

rough-hewn in the woods and then finished on site. This bridge location is a photographer's delight.

**14 — Stewart Bridge** • Constructed in 1930 (Restored in 1996) • Cost \$4,125 • Span 60 ft. • Design, Howe truss • Open to pedestrians only • Located on Garouette Road just off Mosby Creek Road near Cottage Grove.

**15 — Unity Bridge** • Constructed in 1936 (Restored in 1994) • Cost \$4,469 • Span 90 ft. • Design, Howe truss • Open to traffic • Located 2.8 miles north of the community of Lowell ... This bridge represents the "standard" Lane County bridge design typical of the era. An eye-level full length awning window on one side provides cross traffic visibility for motorist safety.

**16 — Wendling Bridge** • Constructed in 1936 • Cost \$2,241 • Span 60 ft. • Design, Howe truss • Closed to trucks • Located at milepost 3.5 on Wendling Road ... Named for George Wendling who was not only the director of the old Booth-Kelly Lumber Co., but also established the post office and built the company town that bore his name.

**17 — Wildcat Creek Bridge (aka Austa Bridge)** • Constructed in 1925 (Restored in 1990) • Cost (unknown) • Span 75 ft. • Design, timber through (Howe) truss • Open to traffic • Located near Siuslaw Rd. off State Highway 126 near Mapleton ... This bridge spans Wildcat Creek near the Siuslaw River in a very picturesque setting. A sidewall opening allows motorists to see oncoming cross traffic.

**Other Local Bridges**  
(These bridges are not owned or maintained by Lane County)

**18 — Cannon Street Bridge** (Footbridge) • Constructed in 1988 • Span 20 ft. • Timber design • Located on Cannon Street in Greenway Park in the city of Lowell ... This privately constructed bridge doesn't span a waterway, but rather serves as a community conversation piece.

**19 — Centennial Bridge** (Footbridge) • Constructed in 1987 • Span 84 ft. • Design, timber through (Howe) truss • Located adjacent to City Hall in downtown Cottage Grove ... Utilizing timbers from dismantled County bridges, a local volunteer work force completed this bridge to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Cottage Grove.

**20 — Chambers Bridge** (Oregon's only covered railroad bridge) • Constructed in 1925 • Span 78 ft. • Design, timber through (Howe) truss • Located in Cottage Grove at the intersection of South River Rd. at Harrison St. ... Originally built for trains to bring logs to a local mill, this bridge was in use for just seven years when the mill burned down and the trains stopped rolling. It is long abandoned, and in very poor repair, but the heavy steel railroad reinforcing is still in place.

Lane County on the Internet — <http://www.lanecounty.org>  
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In  
Lane County  
Oregon

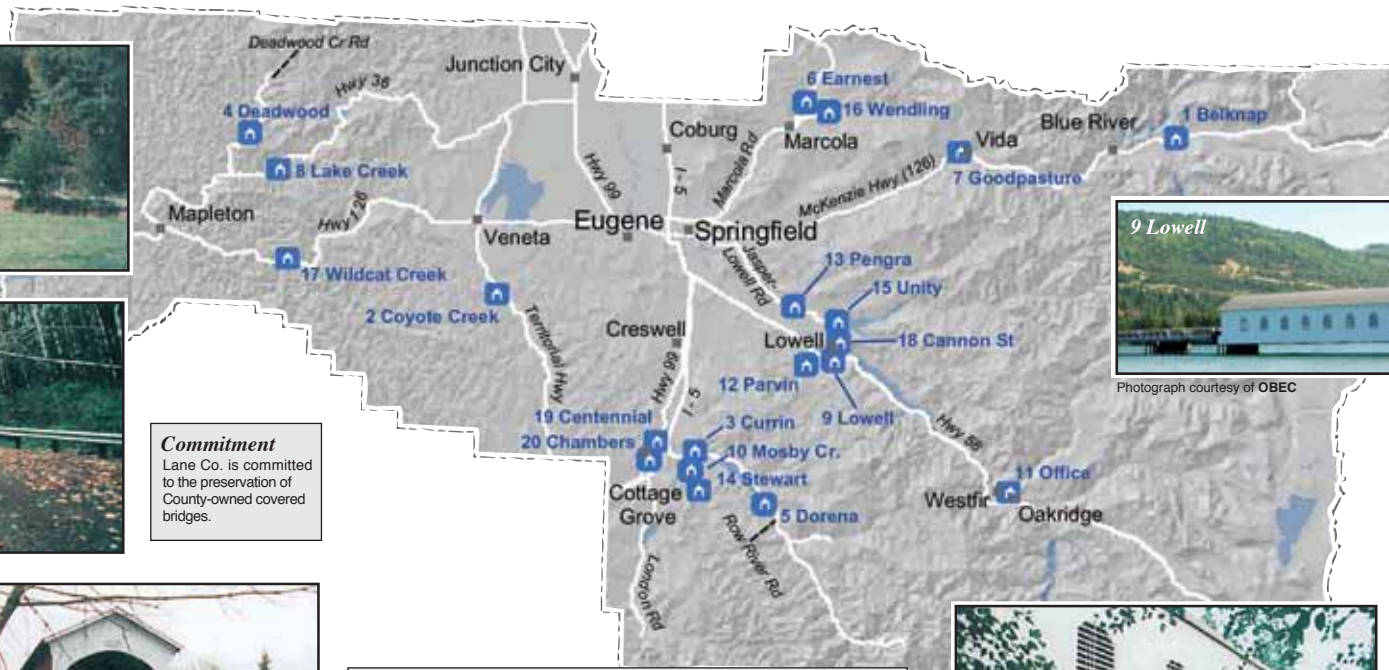
# Lane County Covered Bridge History

Lane was the first Oregon county to build covered bridges on a large scale and still maintains more than any other county west of the Mississippi. Early bridges used a truss and housing design furnished by the Oregon State Highway Department and as a result most of the County's bridges are similar in appearance.

During and after WW I steel was in short supply but wood was plentiful, so the County kept right on building them. A 1915 editorial in a Eugene newspaper reported, "Lane County is convinced that wooden bridges properly built will last as long as steel and they know the cost is much less." During this time County bridges were built under the direction of Bridge Superintendent Art Striker.

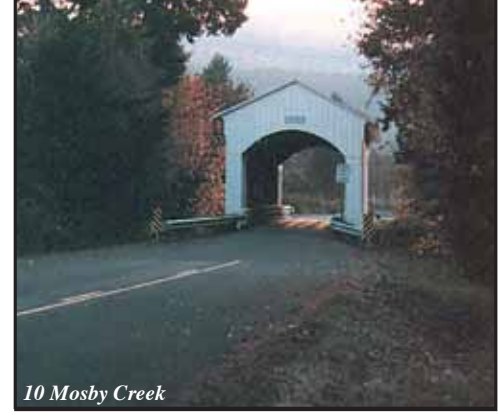
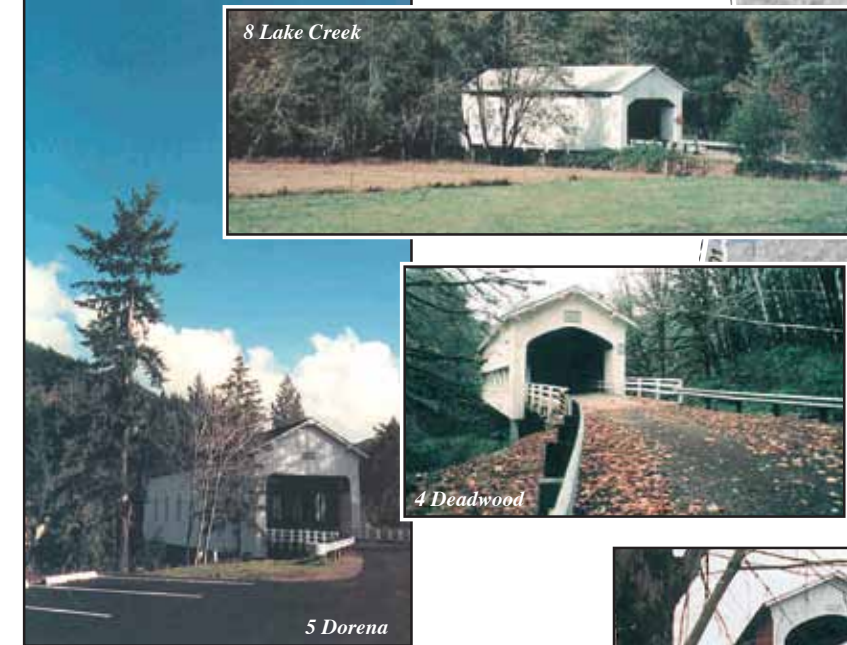
Two local builders, Nels Roney and A.S. Miller & Sons, competed for contracts to build the very first bridges in the County. The craftsmanship of both of these builders was a testimony to their dedication and skill.

Lane's covered bridges attract many tourists to the area each year, so the County is reluctant to remove them. Sixteen bridges are listed on the National Register of Historical Places, fourteen are still open to traffic, a testimony to timely rehabilitation and continued good maintenance. Road Funds maintain the ones open to traffic, but no Federal funds are used to maintain any of the others.



**Commitment**  
Lane Co. is committed to the preservation of County-owned covered bridges.

**Preservation is in the details**  
The Oregon State Department of Transportation requires steel guardrails on all bridge approaches. When covered bridges are restored in Lane County, wooden rails are replaced with visually identical rails made of rectangular steel tubing, rather than using cheaper stamped steel guardrails seen on modern bridges.



- 1 — **Belknap Bridge** • Constructed in 1966 (Restored in 1990) • Cost \$86,430 • Span 120 ft. • Design, timber through (Howe) truss • Open to traffic • Located on King Road West off McKenzie River Drive ... Built in 1966 this is the fourth covered bridge built at this location. This bridge is named for R.S. Belknap who built the Belknap Springs resort.
- 2 — **Coyote Creek Bridge (aka Battle Creek Bridge, Swing Log Bridge)** • Constructed in 1922 (rehabilitated in 2007) • Cost (unknown) • Span 60 ft. • Design, timber through (Howe) truss • Closed to trucks • Located on Battle Creek Road just off Territorial Highway south of Veneta ... This bridge is located on the original Territorial Highway (built in 1851) which was the first road through Lane County.
- 3 — **Currin Bridge** • Constructed in 1925 (Restored in 1995) • Cost \$4,696 • Span 105 ft. • Design, timber through (Howe) truss • Open to pedestrians only • Located on Layng Road just off Row River Road near Cottage Grove ... Named after a pioneer family in the area, this bridge replaced an earlier covered bridge built in 1883. Currin Bridge is the only one in Lane County with white portals and red sides.
- 4 — **Deadwood Bridge** • Constructed in 1932 (Restored in 1986) • Cost \$4,814 • Span 105 ft. • Design, Howe truss • Closed to trucks • Located five miles north of Hwy. 36 just off Deadwood Creek Road on Deadwood Loop ... Considerable architectural attention has been given to this structure, including false end beams, semi-elliptical portal arches with trim, and a large visibility opening along one side. The setting is a photographer's delight.
- 5 — **Dorena Bridge (aka Star Bridge)** • Constructed in 1949 (Restored in 1996) • Cost \$16,547 • Span 105 ft. • Design, Howe truss • Open to traffic • Located on Shoreview Drive off Row River Road near Cottage Grove ... Named after the town of Dorena which was covered by water when the reservoir of the same name was completed in 1949. Rehabilitated and modified with new windows in 1996, this bridge now serves as a rest area and a popular site for weddings.
- 6 — **Earnest Bridge (aka Paschelke Bridge)** • Constructed in 1938 • Cost \$2,949 • Span 75 ft. • Design, Howe truss • Open to traffic • Located on Paschelke Road just off Marcola Road near Marcola ... The second bridge at this location, this bridge appeared in the 1964 movie Shenandoah where it was "altered" to be a Civil War prop then "restored" to its original condition.
- 7 — **Goodpasture Bridge** • Constructed in 1938 (Restored in 1987) • Cost \$13,000 • Span 165 ft. • Design, Howe truss • Open to traffic • Located just off State Highway 126 at the Leaburg Dam near Vida ... Named after a pioneer family homestead, this is Lane County's most visible and probably most photographed covered bridge. The outstanding architectural details include 10 gothic, louvered windows on each side, false end beams, and semi-elliptical portal arches. This is bridge is tied with Lowell Bridge for second longest covered bridge in OR.
- 8 — **Lake Creek Bridge (aka Nelson Mt. Bridge, Nelson Bridge)** • Constructed in 1928 (Rebuilt in 1984) • Cost \$3,339 • Span 105 ft. • Design, timber through (Howe) truss • Open to traffic • Located on Nelson Mt. Road, just off State Highway 36, 30 miles west of Highway 99 ... This is the only County bridge not listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Located near the old Nelson Forest Service camp, this bridge is in a very photographable rural setting.
- 9 — **Lowell Bridge** • Constructed in 1945 (Restored in 2006) • Cost \$25,473 • Span 165 ft. • Design, timber through (Howe) truss • Open as an interpretive tourist information center • Located just off State Hwy. 58 at the Lowell intersection ... At 24 ft. this is the widest covered bridge in the County. The bridge was raised 6 ft. in 1953 before Dexter Dam was completed and the reservoir filled for the first time. This bridge is tied with Goodpasture Bridge for second largest bridge in the state.

Photographs courtesy of D. Coyote, Eugene, OR (Some photos have been digitally modified.)