85-foot-long single-span Howe truss

Bridge Location:
Cottage Grove, Oregon

Bridge Owner:
City of Cottage Grove

Greg Ausland, PE, Project Manager, gausland@obec.com
Tony LaMorticella, PE, SE, Sr. Project Engineer, TLaMorticella@obec.com

OBEC Consulting Engineers
BUILT IN 1925 TO CARRY TRAINS ACROSS THE COAST FORK OF THE WILLAMETTE RIVER

Note short smokestacks
SERVING THIS SAWMILL IN COTTAGE GROVE, OREGON
J.H. Chambers sawmill

Bridge shown at upper left
MILL, ON EAST BANK, CLOSED IN 1951

Mill pond visible on left of this 2006 photo
TRESTLE FROM WEST REMOVED
bridge left standing but not maintained for 60 years

Rail bed about 8 feet above current road elevation
GAPING HOLES IN ROOF LED TO ADVANCED DECAY
FIRES WERE BUILT INSIDE BRIDGE AT LEAST TWICE

Fire on bottom chord near mid-span
EXTENSIVE DETERIORATION

Corbels upstream side rotted away completely

Bottom chord crushing at both ends
• 2006 City of Cottage Grove obtains ownership of bridge.
• 2007 OBEC Consulting Engineers inspects and documents bridge.
• 2009 Funding by FHWA through National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation program.
• 2009 Additional funding through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
• 2010 High winds almost destroy remaining structure.
  Safe removal becomes an emergency.
• 2011 Rehabilitation construction Grand Opening, December 3, 2011
EMERGENCY REMOVAL WORK PLATFORM

Built adjacent to the bridge and rolled under
STRUCTURE STABILIZED WITH BRACING

First outside  then inside
SYSTEMATIC DISASSEMBLY

Using man lifts and large crane
STORAGE AND INVENTORY

Chord pieces kept in order  Splice assemblies kept together
**INDOOR STORAGE**

Hanger rods with upset threads

Potentially reusable material stored under cover
All original hardware was shot-blast cleaned, painted and reused
Approximately 25% of wood in reconstructed bridge was resawn from sound sections of original members.
RECONSTRUCTION ON TRACKS

Bridge rehabilitation construction done on dry land
COMPLETED BRIDGE ROLLED INTO PLACE
DEDICATION – DECEMBER 3, 2011
NOW PART OF
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN TRAIL

East approach

West approach

Chambers Covered Railroad Bridge
DECK PATTERNED TO MIMIC RAILS AND TIES
INTERPRETIVE DISPLAYS

Chambers Covered Railroad Bridge
INTERPRETIVE DISPLAYS
Chambers Covered Railroad Bridge

2012 Oregon Heritage Excellence Award
2012 Daily Journal of Commerce Oregon Top Projects, First Place Renovation Award
2013 ACEC Oregon Engineering Excellence Grand Award