Bridge Marketing: Honeydew Bridge Humboldt County, California: Available For Relocation and Reuse

(Proposals Due: February 1, 2024)

HISTORY

The Honeydew Bridge was built in 1920 by the Mercer-Fraser Company of Eureka, California, and is a single-lane (17 foot wide), two-span, 386-foot-long structure (two 187 foot spans) in Humboldt County where Mattole Road crosses over Mattole River approximately 13 miles west of Highway 101 in the town of Honeydew. Built in 1920, the existing bridge is a timber decked, rivet-connected Camelback (Parker/Pratt) steel truss bridge. The bridge's period of significance is 1920 (the year of construction) and, although contemporary repairs to the structure are evident like welded members in the portal cross frame, the structure retains sufficient historic integrity to convey its historic significance. Each span is 187 feet in length (center to center of supports). The structure's character-defining features are the two camelback trusses and substructure, along with the concrete seat abutments, single concrete pier, and timber deck and railings. The extant pressure treated timber deck and railings replaced an earlier deck and railings, some of which occurred in the 1990s (as noted in Caltrans bridge inspection reports). Records indicate that new decking and railings can be considered as in-kind replacements and as such they contribute to the bridge's character.

SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY

In 2003, Caltrans determined that the Honeydew Bridge was eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, which specifies structures that "embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction." Caltrans identified the bridge as an "excellent example" of a rare and significant bridge type from the early 20th century. The Camelback truss design was an innovation that allowed for longer spans with less material to reduce overall construction costs. The 2003 report stated that three bridges of this type currently exist, and the Honeydew Bridge has a substantially longer span than the other two remaining examples. The bridge had previously been evaluated in 1986 and had been rated as not eligible for National Register listing.

Members of the Honeydew community have expressed appreciation for the aesthetic and historic character of the bridge. The geometric patterns of the truss structure and the bridge's rustic nature contribute to its representation of an earlier era. While the basis for the bridge's eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places is tied specifically to the engineering design aspects of the bridge within a state context, the community's attachment to the bridge is primarily based on aesthetics and general historical character.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY HONEYDEW BRIDGE OVER MATTOLE RIVER RELOCATION AND REUSE PROPOSALS

The proposals shall include:

- An outline of transportation and reassembly of the bridge, including a description of the property to which the recipient will relocate and reassemble the bridge.
- The intended use of the bridge at the relocation and reassembly site
- A proposed timetable for the work, the duration of which shall not exceed two years from removal of the original structure to completion of the relocation and re-assembly.
- The applicant must be able to provide a bond and prove that it has the wherewithal to accomplish transportation and reconstruction at a new location.

- Agree to reassemble, rehabilitate, and maintain the whole or partial structure in accordance with recommended approaches in The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitation Historic Buildings (U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1983).

Please contact the following person for a Proposal Checklist and to submit your proposal or ask any questions you may have:

Tony Seghetti at tseghetti@co.humboldt.ca.us

Additional documents relating to this bridge and its planned replacement can be found at the following website: https://humboldtgov.org/2216/Honeydew-Bridge-Replacement