

Burton Road Bridge  
Burton Road, spanning Little Weiser River  
Cambridge vicinity  
Washington County  
Idaho

HAER No. ID-8

HAER  
ID,  
44-CAMB.V,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record  
Western Region  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94102

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Burton Road Bridge

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Location: Route #93879A, 1.8 miles south and 1.0 miles east of  
Cambridge, Idaho, over the Little Weiser River  
Cambridge vicinity, Washington County, Idaho

Date of Construction: 1910

Present Owner: Washington County, Idaho

Present Use: Farm market road

Significance: One of only a few Idaho bridges built by prominent  
western contractor Charles G. Sheely. One of the  
first steel bridges in Washington County and may have  
set standards for local steel bridge building.

Historian: Rebecca Herbst  
National Park Service

Assembled by: Ronald M. Blakley  
Blakley Engineers, Inc. (Chartered)  
Caldwell, Idaho

September 1985

### Statement of Significance

During the period of 1908 and 1910, six steel bridges were constructed under the authority of Washington County. The Burton Road Bridge, crossing the Little Weiser River just south of the old town of Salubria, was one of the first to be completed. The town of Salubria is no longer in existence, but the present town of Cambridge, Idaho, is within approximately two miles of this bridge site.

The bridge is on a major farm-to-market road, providing a primary access from hill country, cattle ranches and dry land grain farms and from river valley farms with diversified small grains, corn and hay crops. It provides access to the commercial services and the railroad at Cambridge, Idaho.

The Burton Road Bridge is significant as one of the few Idaho bridges built by the prominent western contractor, Charles G. Sheely. In addition, it appears likely that the two Sheely bridges were the first steel bridges built in Washington County and, as such, undoubtedly set local standards for steel bridge building.

### Bridge Description

The Burton Road Bridge is a 135-foot single span Pratt pin connected steel truss. The steel trusses are comprised as follows:

Upper chords are laced channels with cover plates, lower chords are steel I bars, verticals are laced channels and diagonals are flat I bars and square I bars with turn buckles. Counter ties are doubled in the center panel. The floor system consists of steel I beam floor beams, timber stringers and a timber deck with bituminous surfacing. A lattice railing extends along either side of the bridge. The structure is supported on concrete abutments.

The Charles G. Sheely Co. of Denver, Colorado, was a major contractor who erected standardized truss bridges throughout the western region. This and one other bridge across the Little Weiser River are the only examples of his work in southwestern Idaho.

### Proposed Modification

Due to increased highway loads, heavier and wider farm equipment, and higher traffic speeds, it is necessary to completely replace the Burton Road Bridge, in order to maintain service to the community. Therefore, the entire existing structure will be dismantled and removed and will be replaced by a prestressed and reinforced concrete structure that is adequate in strength and in width to provide complete service for double lane traffic.

Principal References

Bridgeplate - Charles G. Sheely.

Washington County Commissioners Minutes, September 25, 1909.

Weiser Signal, September 1910.

Herbst, Rebecca, Idaho Bridge Inventory, Volume 1, History: Idaho  
Transportation Department, 1985.

LOCALITY MAP  
BURTON ROAD BRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE QUAD

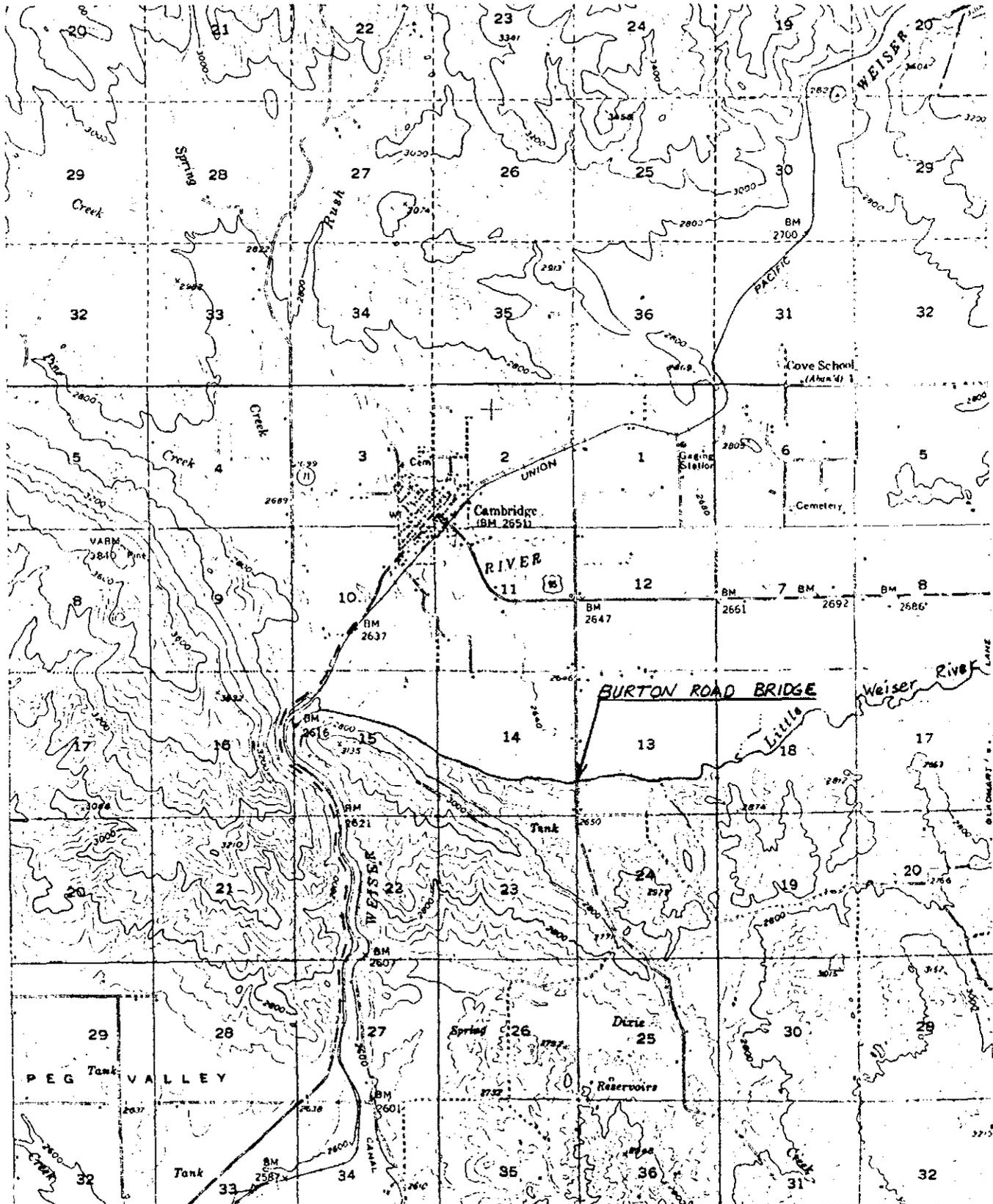


PHOTO KEY MAP  
BURTON ROAD BRIDGE

SCALE: 1" = 50'

