

Tour created by Bob and Kathleen Ellis

Abiqua Creek (Gallon House) Covered Bridge

Background: The Gallon House Bridge, the last of Marion County's original covered bridges, is located over Abiqua Creek a little more than a mile northwest of Silverton.

The name Gallon House was due to the bridge's use as a "pigeon drop" for liquor at the north entrance. Operators at a liquor dispensary nearby sold "white lightening" whiskey by the gallon to Silverton residents. At the time, Silverton was "dry," not allowing liquor to be sold in town, while Mt. Angel was "wet."

The Gallon House along Abiqua Creek was in Mt. Angel territory. During the 1964 Christmas Flood, the bridge suffered considerable damage. The County Board of Commissioners, however, decided the bridge should be repaired and maintained as an historical landmark, as it was the only covered bridge in the county at the time.

In 1985, the old wooden structure was closed to all traffic when a damaged chord rendered it useless. County road crews repaired the bridge to accept traffic up to a 10-ton limit by reinforcing a lower chord, as well as making repairs to the beams and flooring.

Also included in the renovation was a change in the size and shape of the portals. The revamped portals were hinged to allow them to be opened for taller loads when necessary.

In 1990, because of poor structural condition, the bridge was rehabilitated to mint condition and the hinged portals were removed.

Since its construction in 1916, the bridge has been repaired numerous times. Historian Ben Maxwell describes a prior bridge repair in 1960: "Marion County recently reconstructed the old Gallon House bridge near Mt. Angel just for the sake of preserving a landmark. It still looks like an overgrown doghouse – at least they could have painted it red for the sake of conformity."



County: Marion
Stream: Abiqua Creek
Bridge Length (ft): 84
Year Built: 1917

Salem Power Canal (Stayton-Jordan) Covered Bridge

Background: Prior to 1986, the Jordan Bridge spanned Thomas Creek in neighboring Linn County several miles east of Scio. The original bridge location had once been the site for a dam, a cheese factory, two mills and a general store.

When Linn County announced the aging Jordan Bridge was to be replaced in 1986, Stayton residents asked if they could take title to the structure. A covered bridge preservation company was formed, enlisting the help of numerous volunteers and Marine Corps reservists for the 6th Engineering Battalion in Salem.

The span was rebuilt over the Salem Power Canal to serve as a foot bridge connecting two parks. The process of rebuilding the Jordan Bridge occupied nearly two years, culminating in a dedication ceremony in June 1988.



County: Marion
Stream: Salem Power Canal
Bridge Length (ft): 90
Year Built: 1998

In the Tuesday, December 27, 1994, edition of The Stayton Mail, the headlines read "A community dream in ashes." The bridge had caught fire December 20th at 2 a.m. when Christmas lights ignited the roof. Photos of the still standing charred trusses depicted the scene. The city decided to demolish the trusses and burn what remained of the bridge.

Local citizens toiled throughout 1997 and 1998 to construct a new covered bridge at the site. The new bridge incorporates glue-laminated members for added strength and was dedicated in September 1998.

time

Next planned rest stop in 24.6 miles.

Next covered bridge in 3 miles.

Odometer reading

Leg length

		start at Oregon Garden Resort 895 W Main St. Silverton, Or.	
0.0	0.0	Drive thru parking lot to Oregon Garden entry,	9:30 AM
0.4	0.4	turn right onto Main St.	
1.0	0.6	left at McClaine St. / OR-213	
1.4	0.4	right at S. James St.	
2.5	1.1	left at Hobart Rd NE	
3.0	0.5	right at Gallon House Rd. NE	
3.4	0.4	arrive at Gallon House Covered Bridge	

9:40 AM

Next planned rest stop in 21.6 miles.

Next covered bridge in 21.6 miles.

3.4		drive through bridge, continue on Gallon House Rd.	
3.8	0.4	left at stop sign onto Downs Rd. NE	
4.3	0.5	left at stop sign onto Mount Angel Hwy. NE	
4.5	0.2	right at Nusom Rd NE	
5.8	1.3	left at Torvand Rd NE (sign on left)	
7.8	2.0	left at stop sign onto Hazelgreen Rd. NE	
8.7	0.9	right at Brush Creek Dr NE	
		cross Silverton Rd NE / OR-213	
10.6	1.9	left at stop sign onto Selah Springs Rd. NE	
11.3	0.7	right at stop onto Cascade Hwy. NE	
20.1		straight at stop sign	
22.5		straight at traffic signal	
24.3	13.0	left at Traffic signal onto E. Washington St. (past Stayton Plaza)	
24.6	0.3	right at N 7th Ave	
24.7	0.1	left at Park Rd into Pioneer Park parking lot	
24.7		Stayton-Jordan Covered Bridge adjacent to street, restrooms in park	10:30 AM

Thomas Creek (Hannah) Covered Bridge



County: Linn
Stream: Thomas Creek
Bridge Length (ft): 105
Year Built: 1936

Background: The Hannah Bridge spans Thomas Creek just 1.5 miles from Jordan, where a covered bridge also crossed the stream until 1986. Thomas Creek was named for Frederick Thomas, who obtained a Donation Land Claim and settled on the banks of the creek in 1846.

In 1853, John Joseph Hannah arrived by wagon train and was granted a 151-acre tract of land bound by Thomas Creek and Bilyeu Creek. Hannah built one of the first sawmills in the area, powered with water from Bilyeu Creek.

In 1912, another covered bridge crossed Thomas Creek just east of the present structure, according to Aileen Howell, granddaughter of Hannah. Lumber from the dismantled bridge was used by the Hannah family to build a tool shed and sheep barn.

During the summer months, the bridge is a popular spot for swimmers often jumping from the bridge into the deep pool beneath.

Several television commercials have been filmed at the site.

Thomas Creek (Shimanek) Covered Bridge

Background: As Linn County's newest and longest covered bridge span, the Shimanek Bridge offers an exception to the usual open-sided structure with rounded portals.

Red paint, portal design and louvered windows are features similar to the former span, which was built in 1927, and found on no other bridge in Linn County. Rods in the truss are grouped into a series of four instead of the usual three at each compression joint. The bridge shares the white painted interior of other Linn County bridges.

In 2002, a Linn County bridge crew repaired damage caused by the 1996 flood. The crew also replaced the horizontal housing material on the south end, and the structure was then repainted.



County: Linn
Stream: Thomas Creek
Bridge Length (ft): 130
Year Built: 1966



The first bridge built at this location is believed to have been constructed as early as 1861, while the first documented covered bridge was built in 1891 for a cost of \$1,150.

In 1904, the county rebuilt the bridge, only to have it washed out in 1921. Its replacement lasted until 1927, when high water damaged the piers and the span was replaced.

Trees were blown against the fourth covered bridge at this site during the Columbus Day Storm of 1962. The resulting damage forced the county to restrict the covered bridge to a 2-ton load limit with single lane traffic.

The bridge was destroyed soon after, and in 1966 the current Shimanek Bridge was completed, the fifth covered bridge to occupy this site.

It has been rumored that the 1891 bridge had a welcomed accommodation of a two-hole toilet built into the foundation, a luxury not found at the current covered bridge.

Next planned rest stop in 34.9 miles.

11:00
AM

Next covered bridge in 12.2 miles.

Odometer reading

Leg length

zero odometer

- 0.0 Leave Pioneer Park, going west on Marion Street
pass Covered Bridge Café 510 N. 3rd Ave.
- 0.3 0.3 left at stop sign onto 1st Ave.
- 1.0 0.7 left at Kingston Jordan Rd Se towards Lyons
- 2.1 1.1 left at stop sign after crossing tracks onto Kingston Lyons Dr.
- 3.7 1.6 right to stay on Kingston Lyons Dr.
- 4.2 0.5 straight onto Huntley Rd SE
- 5.9 1.7 left after stop sign onto Kingston Jordon Rd
- 6.4 0.5 right at Valley View Drive. Go up the hill for approximately
9/10's mile and after the 90 degree left turn may be
the most panoramic view on the tour route.
- 8.9 2.5 right at stop onto Kingston Jordan Rd.
- 9.3 0.4 right at stop onto Albany Lyons Hwy / OR-226
- 9.8 0.5 left at Jordon Rd
- 10.8 1.0 right at Camp Morrison Dr.
The top of this plateau marks the spot where French Trappist
Monks established a 400 acre colony and monastery at the
beginning of the 20th Century.
Sitting next to the old church is the Bilyeu cemetery where John S.
Thomas is buried. He was one of five Thomas families living along
Thomas Creek which some say was named after Fredrick Thomas.

11:30
AM

12.2 1.4 arrive at Hannah Covered Bridge spanning Thomas Creek.

Next planned rest stop in 23.3 miles.

Next covered bridge in 4.4 miles.

- drive through Hannah Covered Bridge
- 12.2 left at stop onto Albany Lyons Hwy / OR-226
- 14.4 2.2 right onto Shimanek Bridge Dr.
- 16.5 2.1 left at stop onto Richardson Gap Rd
- 16.6 0.1 drive through Shimanek Covered Bridge

11:40
AM

Crabtree Creek (Larwood) Covered Bridge

Background: The attractive Larwood Bridge was built to Highway Commission specifications which included a standard 105-foot length, partially exposed trusses, white-wash interior and rounded portals.

In 2002, the bridge was temporarily closed to repair the exposed diagonal timbers in the upstream truss. Water and insect damage had weakened the wooden pieces.

The covered span is located three miles north of Lacombe, next to Larwood Wayside Park. Roaring River, which empties into Crabtree Creek near the bridge, is the only river to flow into a creek, an oddity in U. S. geography that was featured in Ripley's Believe It or Not.

The Larwood community was named for William Larwood, who settled on the banks of Crabtree Creek and Roaring River in 1888. He platted the little town, built a store and blacksmith shop, and operated a post office from 1893 to 1903.

A prior covered bridge was built about this time over Crabtree Creek, and for a while, covered bridges spanned Roaring River and Crabtree Creek just a few feet apart. The town and old covered bridges are gone, but the rebuilt water powered mill and the present covered bridge are reminders of the area's previous activities.

The adjacent park is frequented by fishermen and swimmers.



County: Linn
Stream: Crabtree Creek
Bridge Length (ft): 105
Year Built: 1939

Crabtree Creek (Hoffman) Covered Bridge

Background: This covered bridge spans Crabtree Creek one mile northeast of the town of Crabtree. Both the town and the creek were named for John Crabtree, who settled in the area in 1845.

Gothic style windows grace this structure, instead of the usual open Linn County truss design.

The portal design, originally rounded when the bridge was constructed, was enlarged and squared to allow passage of larger loads. The upper chords show signs of being shaped by hand and as most bridge crews in 1936 had yet to use power tools, logs were often cut nearby.

Shaping of the chord timbers was done with hand adzes prior to being placed across the stream.

The roofed river crossing was built by Lee Hoffman following State Highway Department specifications.



County: Linn
Stream: Crabtree Creek
Bridge Length (ft): 90
Year Built: 1936

Next planned rest stop in 18.9 miles.

Next covered bridge in 17.7 miles.

16.6		continue south on Richardson Gap Road	
17.6	1.0	left at Rodgers Mountain Loop	
19.0	1.4	right on Rogers Mountain Loop	
26.2	7.2	left on Richardson Gap Road.	
29.2	3.0	left at Oupor Dr. Just past small bridge	Watch out for pot holes !
30.7	1.5	left to stay on Oupor Dr.	Don't go straight onto Meritt.
33.8	3.1	left at stop sign onto Fish Hatchery Dr.	
34.1	0.3	left at stop sign at Y to stay on Fish Hatchery Dr.	
34.3	0.2	drive through Larwood covered bridge	
34.4	0.1	right onto Fish Hatchery Drive	
34.9	0.5	right into Roaring River County Park.	12:00 PM

Have picnic lunch and visit the Larwood Bridge for pictures

Next planned rest stop in 37.7 miles.

Next covered bridge in 10.1 miles.

Odometer reading

	Leg length		
		zero odometer	
0.0		left out of park onto Fish Hatchery Drive	1:15 PM
0.8	0.8	at stop turn left and cross Larwood Covered Bridge	
		bear right at junction to stay on Fish Hatchery Dr.	
5.4	4.6	right at Freeman Rd.	
7.2	1.8	at stop, right onto OR-226 / Albany Lyons Hwy.	
7.8	0.6	left at Hungry Hill Rd.	
10.1	2.3	arrive at Hoffman Covered Bridge	1:30 PM

Thomas Creek (Gilkey) Covered Bridge

Background: The Gilkey Bridge spans Thomas Creek and until 1960, it proudly stood next to a covered railroad bridge.

Gilkey was once a town of some activity, as noted by a nearby sign: "Gilkey Station was established when the railroad arrived in 1880 and was named in honor of Allen and William Gilkey. Gilkey served as a shipping point for farm products."

Just about all but the sign and the bridge are now gone, and the sign is totally faded. The familiar swimming rope is tied to the framework of the bridge, and during the summer swimmers enjoy this area of Thomas Creek. Youngsters often grow tired of swinging on the rope and seek more excitement by climbing up to the roof and jumping into the cool water below.

In 1997, the bridge had to be closed due to damage caused by an overloaded vehicle. The load had overstressed the bridge and broke the timber shear keys in some of the lower chord joints. Temporary cables were installed to keep the bridge up under its own weight.

Permanent repairs were designed and constructed in 1998 and the bridge was reopened to traffic.



County: Linn

Stream: Thomas Creek

Bridge Length (ft): 120

Year Built: 1939 *1998

Bridge information from State of Oregon website

http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/BRIDGE/covered_bridges.shtml

Which credits as a Source: "Roofs Over Rivers" by Bill and Nick Cockrell

Information presented in cooperation with the Covered Bridge Society of Oregon

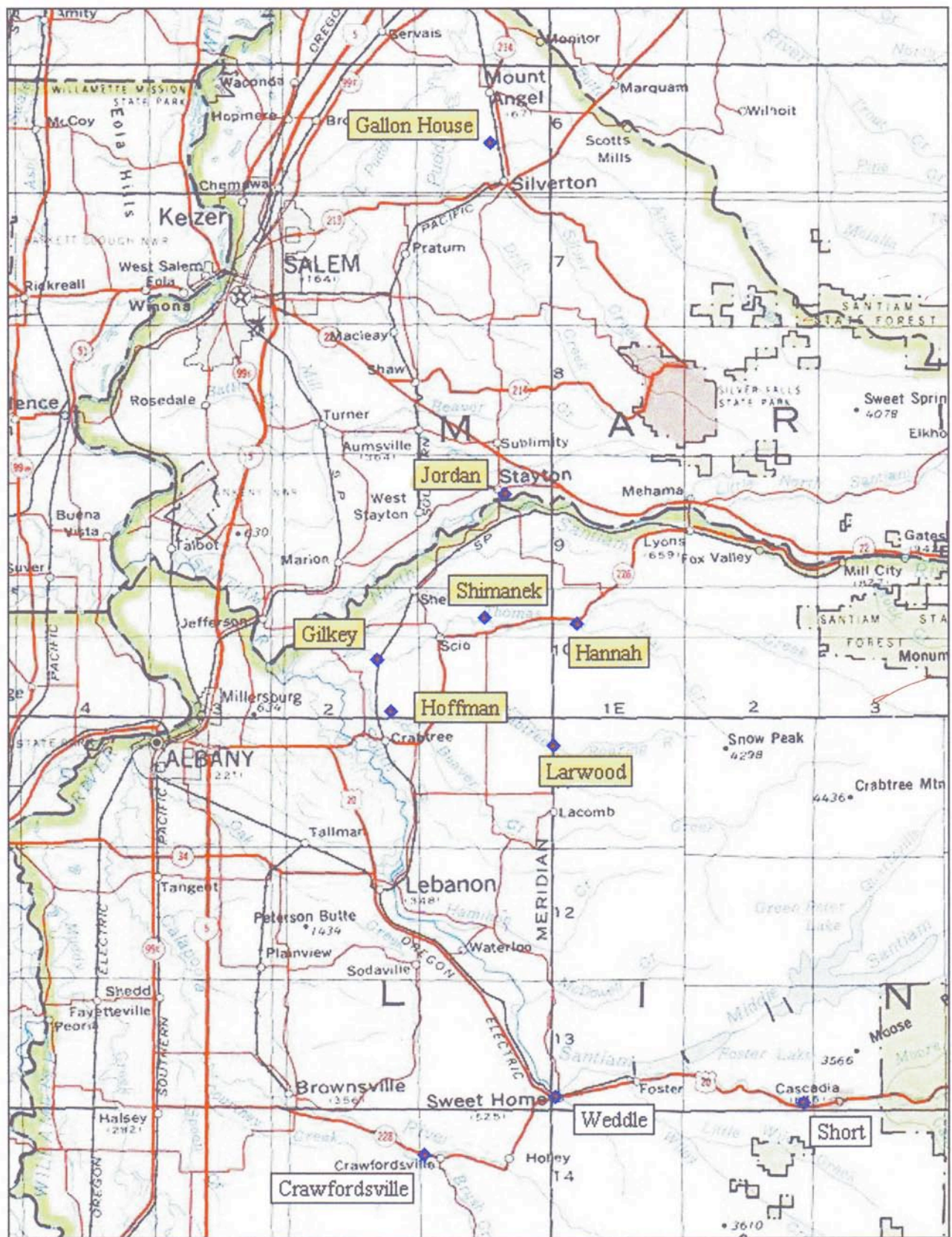
Odometer reading

Leg length

10.1		Drive through Hoffman Covered Bridge and continue on Hungry Hill Rd.	
11.7	1.6	right at stop onto Crabtree Dr.	
12.7	1.0	right at stop onto Gilkey Rd.	
15.6	2.9	left at stop onto Kelly Rd.	
18.6	3.0	right at stop onto Jefferson Scio Dr.	
20.2	1.6	right at Robinson Dr.	
21.2	1.0	right at yield sign onto Goar Rd.	
22.3	1.1	arrive at Gilkey Covered Bridge	1:46 PM

22.3		Drive through Gilkey Covered Bridge and continue south on Goar Rd.	
22.6	0.3	left onto Gilkey Rd.	
26.0	3.4	left at stop onto OR-226 Albany Lyons Hwy.	
26.5	0.5	right at blinker, east on SE 1st Ave / OR-226 Albany Lyons Hwy	
28.7	2.2	left at Richardson Gap Rd.	
30.4	1.7	right at Ridge Dr.	
31.5	1.1	left at Gisler Rd.	
33.2	1.7	right at Sandner Dr.	
33.6	0.4	becomes Kingston Jordan Rd.	
36.7	3.1	right at stop onto Stayton Scio Rd. SE	
37.4	0.7	right on E. Marion St.	
37.7	0.3	arrive at Stayton-Jordan Covered bridge in Pioneer Park	2:15 PM

In addition to the Stayton-Jordan Bridge, Pioneer park offers picnic facilities and hiking trails that wind through woodlands and marshes all the way to the North Santiam river banks. A visitor may spot beaver or other wildlife along the walking trail. Occasionally one will even see a western pond turtle basking in the sun among the trees.



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This concludes the covered bridge tour

Odometer reading

Leg length

0.0		To Return to tour the Oregon Garden	2:50 PM
0.0		right out of parking lot onto N 7th Ave.	
0.1	0.1	left at E. Washington St.	
0.4	0.3	right at N 1st Ave.	
14.7	14.3	arrive at Oregon Garden Resort on your right and on to Portland	
0.0		continue North on Main St.	
0.7	0.7	left at N 1st St. / OR-214	
11.9	11.2	right at signal to stay on OR-214 / OR-99e	
13.1	1.2	left at signal onto Mount Hood Ave. / OR-214	
15.4	2.3	right toward I-5 towards Portland	

		To return to the Portland area	3:15 PM
0.0		right out of parking lot onto N 7th Ave.	
0.1	0.1	left at E. Washington St.	
0.4	0.3	right at N 1st Ave.	
1.5	1.1	right to merge onto OR-22/N Santiam Hwy.	
13.5	12.0	Take exit 1B to merge onto I-5 N toward Portland	

Stayton to Portland 60 miles = 1 hour

Stayton to Oregon Garden, 15.4 miles = 20 minutes

Oregon Garden to Portland, 45 miles = 1 hour