

Oregon Historic Site Form

Glenmorrie Stone Bridge
3177 Stonebridge Way
Lake Oswego, Clackamas County

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: **3177 Stonebridge Way** apprx. addr
3177-3176

historic name: **Glenmorrie Stone Bridge**

Lake Oswego vcnt **Clackamas County**

current/
other names: **Poplar Way Bridge**

Optional Information

assoc addresses:
(former addresses, intersections, etc.)

location descr: Bridge on Poplar Way where Stonebridge Way intersects. (This section of Poplar Way has been vacated)

block nbr: N/A lot nbr: 10 tax lot nbr: 2800, 2

township: 2 S range: 1E section: 11 1/4: CD

zip: 97034

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type: **structure** height (# stories): _____

total # eligible resources: **1** total # ineligible resources: **0**

elig. evaluation: **eligible/significant**

NR status: _____

primary constr date: **1892** (c.) secondary date: _____ (c.)
(optional--use for major addns)

NR date listed: _____ (indiv listed only; see Grouping for hist dist)

primary orig use: **Road Related (vehicular)**

orig use comments: _____

secondary orig use: _____

prim style comments: _____

primary style: _____

sec style comments: _____

secondary style: _____

primary siding: **Field Stone**

siding comments: _____

secondary siding: _____

plan type: _____

architect: **John Gower**

builder: _____

comments/notes: **Exterior Alterations or Additions, Approximate Date: Poplar Way was vacated, 1964**

GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

survey project name or other grouping name: Historic Survey and Inventory 2009-2010 2010 Survey & Inventory Project

farmstead/cluster name: _____ external site #: _____
(ID# used in city/agency database)

SHPO INFO FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed: _____

ILS survey date: **6/28/2010**

RLS survey date: **6/28/2010**

Gen File date: _____

106 Project(s)



View facing southwest

ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

(Include expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings, and alterations)

The Glenmorrie Stone Bridge is located in the Glenmorrie Plat southeast of Oswego Lake between Old River Road and Glenmorrie Drive. Built circa 1892, the bridge originally connected Canyon Drive (now Stone Bridge Way) to Poplar Avenue at a three-way intersection, but, since an October 1964 county commissioner order, this southern-most section of Stone Bridge Way has become a vacated road. The bridge is part of two private residential properties on the east and west, and a vacant property to the south.

The beam bridge is constructed of dry laid basalt rubble masonry and measures approximately thirty feet wide and forty feet long. Approximately four feet up from the stream's silt bottom is a series of eight-foot iron railroad rails that span the four-foot opening through where the stream flows. These iron rails provide structural support for the additional eight feet of rubble basalt that is piled on top. The bridge is topped by slag, a dark shiny stone-like byproduct from the iron furnace, along with six inches of gravel made out of smooth light brown stones, approximately 1' x 2' in size. Since this bridge was vacated in 1964, dirt and plants have grown over the top of the gravel deck. Although it would require substantial vegetation removal to restore the original appearance of the bridge, the stone structure appears to be intact and in good condition. This resource is likely unsuitable for automobile traffic but is in substantial condition to support pedestrian traffic if the area were to become a public place. The City of Lake Oswego is currently considering purchasing this resource from the owner.

The bridge was constructed as part of Parker F. Morey's original Glenmorrie estate. The majority of the bridge is located on Jesse Bullock's original Donation Land Claim, but the north sliver of the bridge and the northeast retaining wall are on Felix Collard's Donation Land Claim. This retaining wall, also made of dry-laid basalt rubble, begins at the northeast corner of the bridge and curves to the north and then east on a vacated portion of Stone Bridge Way (originally Canyon Drive). There is also a retaining wall on the west side of Poplar Way, beginning approximately thirty feet up the creek from the bridge and continuing at least two hundred feet beyond the bridge, down Poplar Way toward Old River Road and Morey's Landing, although today this connection is blocked by a private residence. On the east side of the bridge, two modern wooden flumes divert water from the stream to and around an augmented natural pool on the property to the east of the bridge.

The bridge is divided among three properties in the Glenmorrie Plat; 3176 Stonebridge Way, to the east, 3177 Stonebridge Way to the west and a vacant property with no situs address to the south. The two Stonebridge Way properties have residences built in 1978 and 2003, respectively.

Although the setting has been altered from Morey's original well-manicured landscape, the Glenmorrie Stone Bridge retains excellent integrity of materials, location, craftsmanship, design, association and feeling. This resource is likely eligible for Local Landmark or National Register listing.

HISTORY

(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period [preferably to the present])

The Glenmorrie Stone Bridge, built circa 1892 is significant as an example of one of the last remaining stone transportation structures that originally defined the character of P. F. Morey's estate and later the Glenmorrie neighborhood.

Parker F. Morey, Scottish engineer and founder of Portland General Electric Company, purchased property near Sucker (Oswego) Lake in the late 1880s to create a "riverside estate" for his family between Portland and Oregon City, the locations where his business interests were mainly focused. Morey had control of the hydroelectric generation rights at the Oregon City Falls and through his company, which preceded Portland General Electric, built the first electric transmission line between the two cities in 1892. Morey added subsequent acreage to his Oswego property, purchasing land on the Donation Land Claims of Felix A. Collard, Jesse Bullock, and Gabriel Walling, until his country retreat that he called "Camp Morey" totaled 640 acres. P. F. Morey later coined "Glenmorrie" as the name for this estate. This land included a small cove with a gently sloping sand beach along the Willamette River on which river steamers often landed, a location that has since been referred to as Morey's Landing. The Morey family frequently held parties at the estate for up to eighty guests at a time, transporting Portland guests via steamboat to and from their Oswego property.

Morey imported plants and trees from all over the world for his property. He hired John Gower, a renowned English gardener who had been working at Stanford University to supervise the planning and building of Morey's landscaped estate. Gower worked with Morey for several years at the estate. Gower had a regular staff of gardeners and farm workers and "often oversaw crews of laborers who worked on the estate's winding roads and stone work," both of which are character-defining features of Morey's original estate and the later platted Glenmorrie Park neighborhood. Morey was closely involved in the plant choices for the various gardens and orchards, particularly the apple orchards, at the estate.

Gower acquired a horse-drawn scraper in 1892 and with laborers, many of them Chinese, used this to cut wide trenches for roads. The trenches were then partially filled with slag, a bi-product in the iron-making process from the Oregon Iron and Steel Company furnace in Oswego. Morey had hundreds of cubic yards of gravel delivered to his landing to top-dress the roadbed before rolling the road to create a flat firm surface. The stone bridge was built using dry-laid stone for the structure and then finished using this process. The construction date for the bridge was 1892 or slightly later, after Gower had the scraper in his possession.

Poplar Way was the southern-most road on Morey's property, named after the Lombardy Poplars Gower ordered from France and planted along the road. The Glenmorrie Stone Bridge was constructed to span an unnamed stream along Poplar Way. Canyon Drive was likely constructed at the same time to connect with Poplar Way just beyond the west end of the bridge, as this road shares a lower retaining wall with the basalt base of the bridge. During the construction of Poplar Way, the ravine was more steeply-sided near the bridge's location, so stone walls were constructed along the southern side to prevent landslides and hold the roadbed in place. These retaining walls remain intact.

A 1966 account of the Glenmorrie Park neighborhood development, by John C. Kuhns, then President of the Glenmorrie Cooperative Association, indicates that travel to Glenmorrie was most popular by boat. The Moreys and their visitors would arrive "from a boat landing, near the lower end of Poplar Lane, [then follow] a tree-bordered road followed a small creek, then across a stone bridge up past the barns northerly and over another

Oregon Historic Site Form

Glenmorrie Stone Bridge
3177 Stonebridge Way
Lake Oswego, Clackamas County

bridge up to the manor house." The subject stone bridge is that the same that Kuhns acknowledges, with Poplar Lane being the tree-bordered road to the south.

P.F. Morey retired from Portland General Electric in 1902 for health reasons and then lived at his Glenmorrie estate until his death in July 1904. His widow, Clara and son, Fred P. Morey, secured a deal with the Western Improvement Company to survey, subdivide, and plat the property in 1910 under the name, "Glenmorrie Company," which F. P. Morey managed. The properties were platted on large lots to sell to buyers looking to built residences that highlighted upscale suburban lifestyles. Unfortunately, the Glenmorrie subdivision did not develop at the rate F. P. Morey anticipated and for several years, the apple orchard on the property provided a steadier income than property sales. According to deed records, Clara Morey, maintained property interest in Glenmorrie, owning and selling more than thirty lots until the middle of the 20th century. In 1977, the Glenmorrie Park community incorporated with Lake Oswego to gain sewer access, as septic systems had rampantly been failing in the previously unincorporated Clackamas County community.

The bridge is one of the few remaining stone elements of Gower's original English estate design, which along with the winding roads, stream corridors, older trees, and the large informal layout of parcels, defines the character of P.F. Morey's estate and the Glenmorrie neighborhood. The high integrity and significance of this resource makes it eligible for Local Landmark listing. The resource is also likely eligible for National Register listing under Criterion C for Transportation as the only intact stone bridge in Lake Oswego and for Landscape Architecture as a rare Oregon resource associated with John Gower's landscape design.

RESEARCH INFORMATION

(Check all of the basic sources consulted and cite specific important sources)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title Records | <input type="checkbox"/> Census Records | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property Tax Records | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Histories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Biographical Sources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHPO Files | <input type="checkbox"/> Interviews |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Obituaries | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> State Archives | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Photographs |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Directories | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building Permits | <input type="checkbox"/> State Library | |

Local Library: Lake Oswego Public Library University Library: _____

Historical Society: _____ Other Repository: Multnomah County Public Library

Bibliography: "Beautiful Land Bought," Morning Oregonian, July 17, 1910, 8.

Board of County Commissioners of Clackamas County, State of Oregon, "Order No. 12022," October 7, 1964, Clackamas County Deed Book 647 page 789.

City of Lake Oswego. "City Council Study Session Minutes," May 9, 2000.

City of Lake Oswego. "SFR City Parcels," City of Lake Oswego Planning Files, 2010.

Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners, "Order No. 12022, In the matter of the vacation of S. Stonebridge Way (Canyon Drive) and Poplar Avenue, located in Section 11 and 14, T. 2S., R. 1E., W.M." (County Clerk, Book 647 page 789), October 7, 1964.

Glenmorrie Company. "Glenmorrie" brochure, 1910.

Kuhns, John C. The Story of the Glenmorrie Cooperative Association. City of Lake Oswego, 1966.

Lake Oswego Public Library, Historic Photograph Index, <http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/tools/library/photos/> (Accessed June 28, 2010).

Lawson, Coleen, Sonja Kollias, Carl Hoffman, Charles Bishop. "Glenmorrie Neighborhood Plan," City of Lake Oswego, Oregon, 2000.

"Morey Tramps," Society, Sunday Oregonian, July 30, 1893, 9.

Yates, Herb. "P. F. Morey and his Dream, The Glenmorrie Ranch," in In Their Own Word: Reminiscences of Early Oswego, Oregon, edited by City of Lake Oswego Public Library Staff and Volunteers. Lake Oswego, OR: Lake Oswego Public Library, 1976, pp. 121-133.



Glenmorrie_Bridge_1



Glenmorrie_Bridge_2



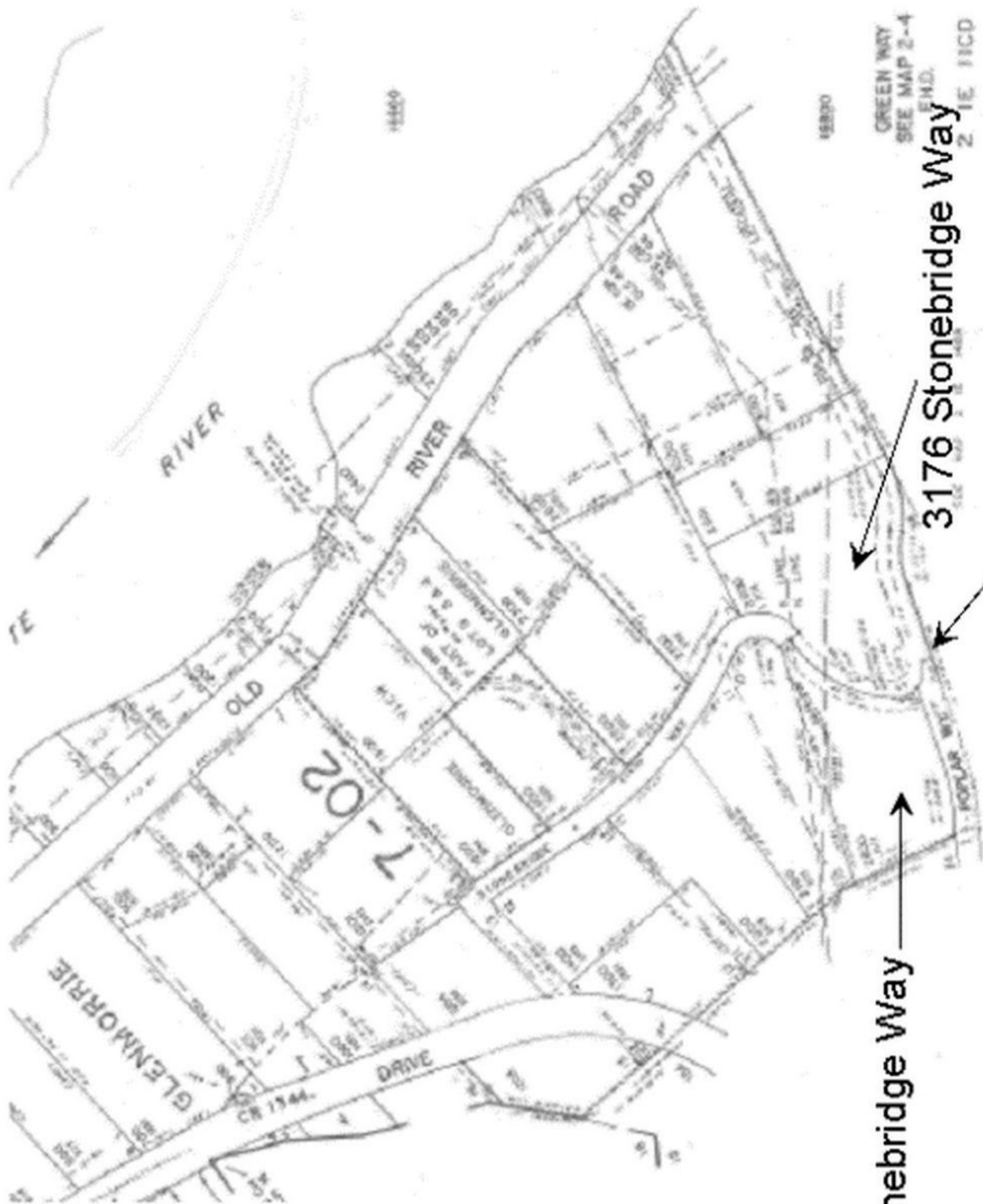
Glenmorrie_Bridge_3



Glenmorrie_Bridge_4



Glenmorrie_Bridge_5



3177 Stonebridge Way →

→ 3176 Stonebridge Way

→ **GLENMORRIE STONE
BRIDGE**

Privately owned property

No situs address

GREEN WAY
SEE MAP 2-4
E.M.D.
2 1E 11CD

