

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Baker's Camp Covered Bridge

Other names/site number: Hillis Bridge

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: County Road 650 North over Big Walnut Creek.

City or town: Bainbridge State: IN County: Putnam

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<hr/>	<hr/>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Baker's Camp Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Putnam County, IN
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

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Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Covered Burr arch-truss

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: Limestone
walls: WOOD: Weatherboard

roof: METAL
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Baker's Camp Covered Bridge, built in 1901 in Floyd Township, Putnam County, has a clear span of 128 feet over Big Walnut Creek. The single-span Burr arch sets atop cut stone abutments. The bridge has vertical plank siding and features a metal roof. The bridge continues to carry vehicular traffic on County Road 650 North.

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Narrative Description

The Baker's Camp Covered Bridge (photo 0001) was built in 1901 by J. J. Daniels. The single-span bridge is 128 feet long with Burr arch truss (photo 03) that rests on cut stone abutments rising approximately 14' above Big Walnut Creek below (photo 07). The bridge is approximately 17' wide with a portal approximately 13' wide. The bridge is 13' tall from the deck to the ridge. The bridge is positioned in an east/west alignment over Big Walnut Creek and carries Putnam County Road 650 North, formerly the Danville-Rockville Road. The general terrain around the bridge is wooded with some agricultural land to the west and a low-flowing creek below the bridge. Modern wood guardrails are installed to each side of the road in front of the portals. The road approaches to the bridge are asphalt. The cut limestone abutments that support the bridge are composed of eighteen courses of stone with capstones. They are approximately 14' tall and feature stepped wing walls (seen in photos 05, 07).

The heavy oak timber frame is composed of sawn lumber with the Burr arches spliced together (photo 03). Fourteen panels of oak timber X-bracing are below the bridge deck and overhead. Floor boards composing the bridge deck are perpendicular with the flow of traffic. Wood runners, parallel with the flow of traffic, form a wide lane atop the deck boards. A modern wood rail is attached to braces in the walls about two feet above the deck. A modern wood curb is at the deck. The bridge's sides are covered with vertical planks, painted red (photos 04-05). The top of the walls are left open for ventilation. Two openings are located near the center of each side of the bridge. They have pent roofs supported by braces with metal on the roofs. Each end wall that forms the segmental-arched portal has a gabled wall (photos 01, 04). The end walls are also covered with vertical planks. Rafters and spaced boards form the understructure of the roof on which the metal roof is installed. The bridge remains open to vehicular traffic on County Road 650 North. The bridge went through rehabilitation campaigns in 1989 and 2014, when the new metal roof was installed.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENGINEERING

TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

1901-1932

Significant Dates

Significant Person (last name, first name)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

Daniels, Joseph J.

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins when the covered bridge was constructed in 1901. While the bridge continues to be used for local vehicular traffic, the period of significance ends in 1932, the year a new alignment for Highway 36 opened for traffic, north of the bridge. This lessened the use of Baker's Camp Covered Bridge.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Baker's Camp Covered Bridge, 1901, is a fine example of a wooden Burr arch bridge and is one of nine covered bridges extant in Putnam County. Baker's Camp Covered Bridge is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places based on two criteria. Criterion A is applicable under transportation as an area of significance. The bridge, which created an important crossing on the Danville-Rockville Road over Big Walnut Creek in Floyd Township, embodies the importance bridges served to the early development of transportation in the county. Criterion C is applicable with engineering as an area of significance. The bridge represents the development of the Burr arch in wood form prior to the use of steel or concrete for bridge construction had been in full development. The relative rarity of surviving examples of covered bridges further establishes the significance of the Baker's Camp Covered Bridge.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

ENGINEERING & TRANSPORTATION

Baker's Camp Covered Bridge is an example of the Burr arch (photo 03) with a free span of 128 feet rising about 18' above Big Walnut Creek. The Burr arch was the invention of Theodore Burr (1771-1822), an inventor-engineer from Connecticut, who patented the design on April 4, 1817 (patent no. 2769). The Burr arch functions in tandem with king post trusses for rigidity in the span. While there is some debate as to which member functions for loading versus providing rigidity, the arch or king truss, it is understood that the members must function together. The arch is generally capable of the span and load, but not without failure if not compensated with additional members for rigidity. The bridge type was used in the developing western part of the country and enjoyed significant use in Indiana.

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The oldest extant covered bridge in Indiana is thought to be the Ramp Creek Bridge that crosses Raccoon Creek at the entrance to Brown County State Park. The Burr arch bridge was built between 1836 and 1838 in Putnam County and moved to the park in 1932. This was one of two dual-lane bridges thought to be the first covered bridges constructed in Putnam County with public funds. The bridges were located on the New Albany-Crawfordsville Turnpike which is modern-day U.S. 231. The Ramp Creek Bridge spanned Ramp Creek near Fincastle near the Putnam-Montgomery County Line while the other bridge spanned Big Raccoon Creek near the small village of Raccoon.¹ There are estimated to have been 31 covered bridges constructed in Putnam County from the time the dual-lane bridges were constructed until 1922 when the last one was built over Little Walnut Creek.² While generally thought of as a mid-19th century method for bridge construction, Putnam County Commissioners continued to commission covered bridges into the first two decades of the 20th century. Today, the county retains nine of its historic covered bridges that date from 1880 to 1922.

These are the following:

Cornstalk Covered Bridge (1917), Burr arch truss by J. A. Britton
Pine Bluff Covered Bridge (1886), Howe truss by J. A. Britton
Rolling Stone Covered Bridge (1915), Burr arch truss by J. A. Britton
Baker's Camp Covered Bridge (1901), Burr arch truss by J. J. Daniels
Edna Collins Covered Bridge (1922), Burr arch truss by Charles Hendrix
Dunbar Covered Bridge (1880), Burr arch truss by J. J. Daniels
Oakalla Covered Bridge (1898), Burr arch truss by J. J. Daniels
Houck Covered Bridge (1880), Howe truss by Massillon Bridge Company
Dick Huffman Covered Bridge (1880), Howe truss by E. Anderson & Sons

Baker's Camp Covered Bridge was the first of those 20th century constructs. The bridge was built in 1901 for an important east/west route in Indiana known as the Danville-Rockville Road. A crossing was in the general vicinity as early as the 1870s; the current bridge is named for nearby Baker's Camp. The Danville-Rockville Road became part of the Indiana State Highway Commission's routes in 1919, however, it was not until 1932 that a new alignment was made for what would become Highway 36 north of this bridge. At that time, the crossing's importance would have dramatically declined with construction of the new segment of Highway 36.

Baker's Camp Covered Bridge was constructed by Joseph J. Daniels. Daniels was born in Marietta, Ohio in 1826, and first worked for his father who was an agent for Thomas Long, who invented the Long Truss. He constructed his first bridge in 1851 in Parke County, then left to be the construction engineer for the Evansville & Crawfordsville Railroad where he constructed several covered railroad bridges. After working for the railroad, Daniels settled in Rockville and promoted his own bridge-building business where he employed the Burr arch most often. His last bridge was built in 1904 after a portfolio of about sixty bridges he constructed.³

¹ Romine, pg. 5

² Romine, pg. 6

³ Felkner, Charles. *Parke County Covered Bridges Thematic Resource National Register of Historic Places form*

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Prior to 1855, most bridges in Indiana were either privately built by landowners or were constructed by private companies who may have required the payment of tolls. The state legislature authorized county governments to construct or financially assist with the construction of bridges in 1855. By 1870, county governments had the sole responsibility for constructing bridges, which is essentially still in place today. Crossing waterways up to this point was done either by fords or ferries. Eventually, open wood structures were built, then later, contractors built wood bridges on stone abutments. Stone arched bridges were being introduced at the same time.

Indiana's wood bridge builders often favored the Burr arch truss which combined king post trusses with a stiffening double wood arch. J. J. Daniels and the Kennedy Brothers, active in Rush County, both favored Burr arch trusses. The majority of surviving wood truss bridges in Indiana are Burr arch designs. The Howe Truss concept is more determinate in that specific members act in either compression or tension, while for the Burr arch, the arches have a role that is difficult to determine, even today. Both truss types offered viable solutions to spanning Indiana's waterways before iron or concrete became the most sought after solutions.

Indiana has the third highest number of covered bridges in the nation. Between 1820 and 1922, it was estimated that 600 covered bridges were constructed of various truss patterns. By 1977, 102 were extant, which dwindled to 98 extant covered bridges by the early 1990s. The first covered bridge in Indiana was constructed around 1820 at Mooresville (now Floyd's Knob); several more followed through the late 1830s. Several covered bridges were constructed during this early time across the National Road (Richmond to Terre Haute) and then the Michigan Road (Madison to Michigan City). A litany of internal infrastructure improvements during the 1830s was brought to a halt during financial woes the state faced in the 1840s.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

Baker's Camp Covered Bridge
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Allen, Richard S. Covered Bridges of the Middle West. Bonanza Books, New York: 1970

archINform (website accessed January 23, 2023) Burr arch truss:
<https://www.archinform.net/stich/2683.htm>

Atlas of Putnam County, Indiana. J. H. Beers & Co. Publishers, Chicago: 1879.

Black, Archibald. The Story of Bridges. McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York: 1936.

Boykin, Linda L. *The Wooden Age of Indiana's Covered Bridges*, Butler University Thesis, 1986.

Gould, George E. Indiana Covered Bridges Thru the Years. Indiana Covered Bridge Society, Indianapolis: 1977.

Felkner, Charles. *Parke County Covered Bridges Thematic Resource National Register of Historic Places form* (1978).

Indiana State Highway Maps: 1919, 1926, 1932

Ketcham, Bryan. Covered Bridges on the Byways of Indiana. Oxford Printing Co., Oxford, Ohio: 1949.

Reed, Robert. Indiana's Covered Bridges. Arcadia Publishing, Chicago: 2004.

Romine, Malcolm S. *The Covered Bridges of Putnam County, Indiana*. Mitchell Fleming Printing, Knightstown, IN: 2021.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

___ previously listed in the National Register

___ previously determined eligible by the National Register

___ designated a National Historic Landmark

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): HB-2010, 133-250-25011

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16S | Easting: 519263 | Northing: 4399933 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The south and north boundaries are lines parallel to and 10 feet south and north of the edge of the bridge and extend along the right-of-way for County Road 650 North which is approximately 40 feet wide. Similarly, the east and west boundaries are lines parallel to and 10 feet east and west of the edge of the portals. Nothing in this boundary description should be construed as intent to include adjacent private property.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary described includes the outer extents of the covered bridge, its abutments, all parts of the wooden bridge, and the portion of County Road 650 North alignment that features approaches to the bridge.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kurt West Garner
organization: Putnam County Heritage Preservation Society, Inc.
street & number: 12954 6th Road
city or town: Plymouth state: IN zip code: 46563
e-mail: kwgarner@kwgarner.com
telephone: 574-780-1423
date: February 1, 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
-

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Baker's Camp Covered Bridge
City or Vicinity: Bainbridge
County: Putnam State: Indiana
Photographer: Kurt West Garner
Date Photographed: July 18, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at west portal

1 of 7.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at bridge from west approach

2 of 7.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking east through bridge from west end

3 of 7.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at bridge from east approach

4 of 7.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at east portal

5 of 7.

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at openings in bridge's south wall

6 of 7.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at bridge from west creek bank

7 of 7.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

BAKER'S CAMP COVERED BRIDGE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF
HISTORIC PLACES

PUTNAM COUNTY, IN
SKETCH MAP



01 = PHOTOGRAPHS

BIG WALNUT CREEK

02



07

01

03

04

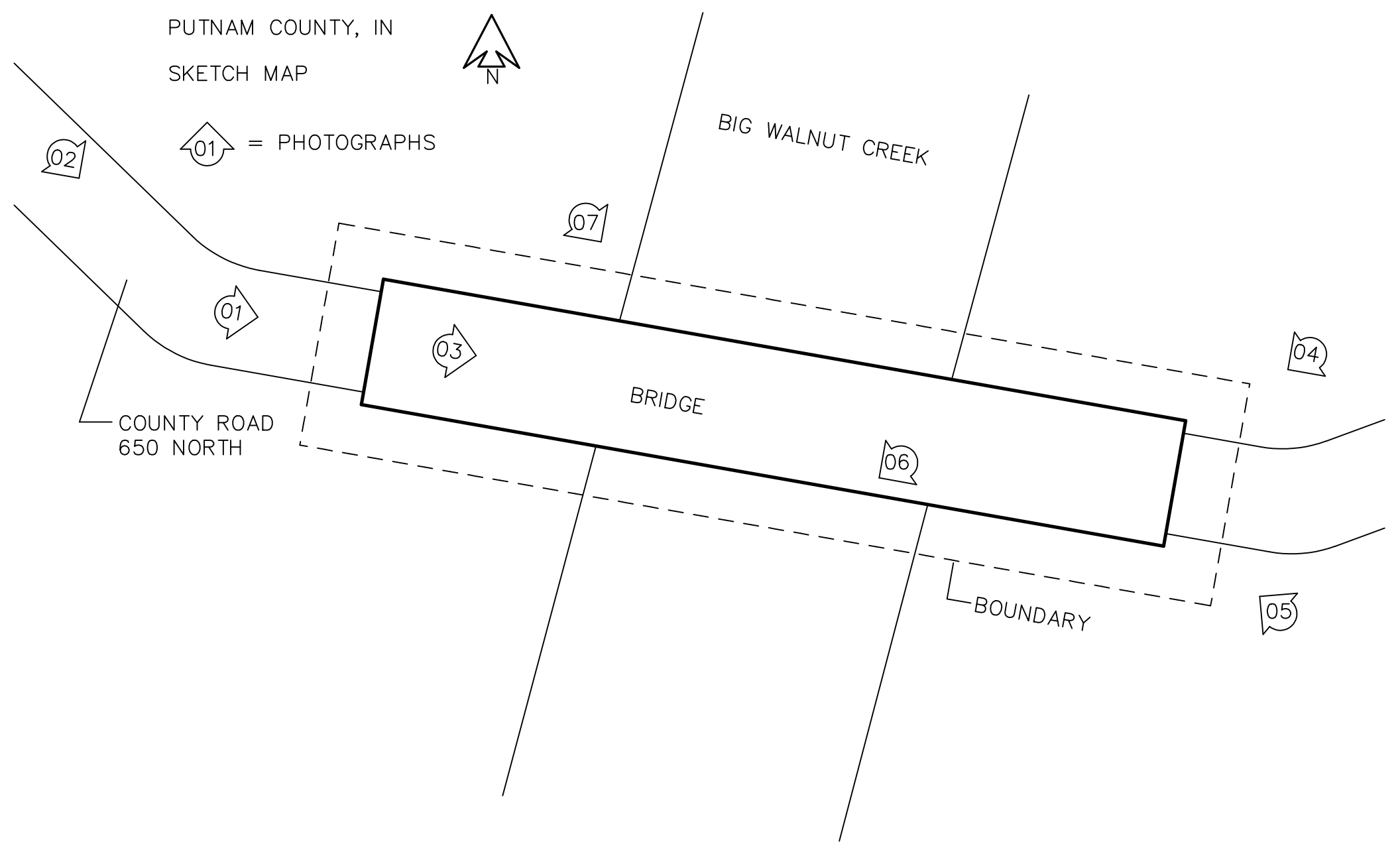
COUNTY ROAD
650 NORTH

BRIDGE

06

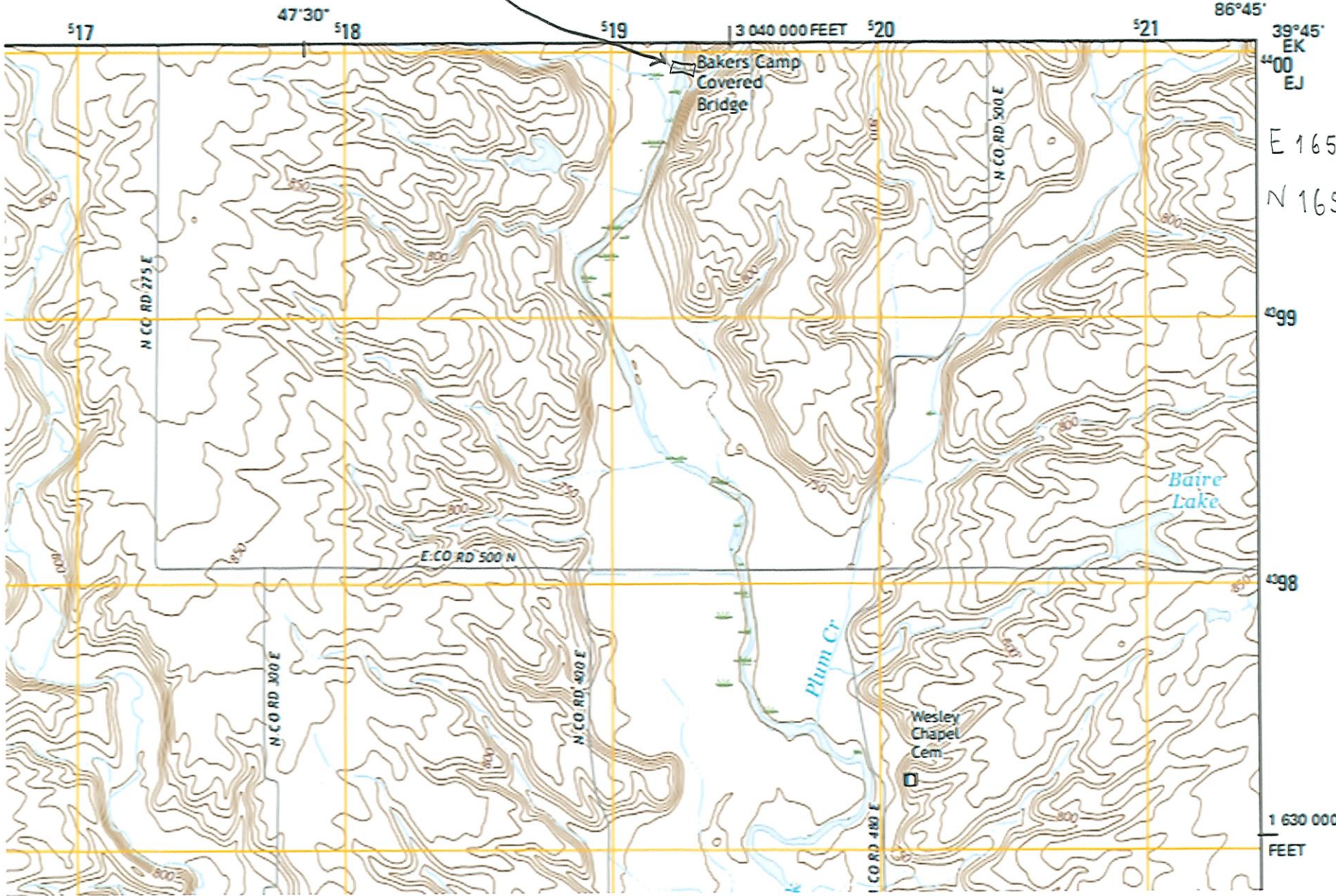
BOUNDARY

05



→ Baker's Camp Covered Bridge
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PUTNAM CO, IN

GREENCASTLE QUADRANGLE
INDIANA-PUTNAM CO.
7.5-MINUTE SERIES



E 165 519263
N 165 4399933

1 630 000
FEET



IN_PutnamCounty_BakersCampCoveredBridge_0003



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