



Indiana Historical Bureau.

Eugene Covered Bridge, Vermillion County, built with a Burr arch truss. (14-83-05) Indiana Historical Marker number 83.1995.2.



Burr arch truss

FOCUS

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Covered Bridges in Indiana

Indiana's covered bridge era began in the early 1830s when the National Road first crossed the state. The first Hoosier covered bridge was completed in 1835 in Henry County. It is estimated that between 400 and 500 covered bridges may have existed in Indiana. The American Society of Civil Engineers suggests that perhaps 10,000 covered bridges were built in the United States between 1805 and 1885.

Because the bridges were constructed with timber, they were covered to protect them from the elements. They were often the largest covered area in a community and were sometimes used for revival meetings, weddings, and political rallies.

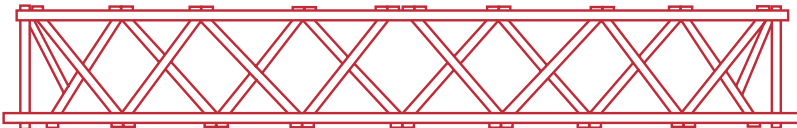
Two major Indiana covered bridge builders, J. J. Daniels and Joseph A. Britton, lived in the Rockville area, and a third, A. M. Kennedy working with his sons and grandsons, lived in Rushville. This explains the concentration of covered bridges in Parke and Rush counties. Between them, they built 158 bridges in Indiana.

In 1930, the Indiana Historical Society formed the Covered Bridge Committee. The committee's objectives were the collection and dissemination of information about covered bridges and their builders. They compiled a directory showing the location of each of the then existing 202 covered bridges in Indiana.

R. B. Yule, engineer of Bridge Investigation and Location, Indiana Highway Commission and chairman of the Covered Bridge Committee, stated in *Highway* magazine, October 1938, "The committee hopes to have several good examples of covered bridge construction in parks or on secondary roads preserved for the use and interest of several generations to come. Like most engineering works where motion is not involved, careful maintenance will keep for us indefinitely these useful relics of a past generation."

In 1998, however only ninety-three covered timber bridges remain in the Hoosier state. Many bridges have fallen victim to local apathy, the forces of nature, arson, and/or careless driving. Greene County's only covered bridge had recently been restored at a cost of \$300,000 and was scheduled to reopen this spring. Vandals knocked a hole in the 115-year-old wooden structure forcing the Greene County Landmarks Foundation to delay the reopening and look for funds to repair the damage.

The Indiana Covered Bridge Society is trying to raise awareness and appreciation of these vanishing structures and their impact on local history. For more information about the society, contact: Indiana Covered Bridge Society Inc., 725 Sanders Street, Indianapolis, IN 46203-1856.



Smith type 4 truss

Arthur Gatewood, Jr. drawing.



Arthur Gatewood, Jr.

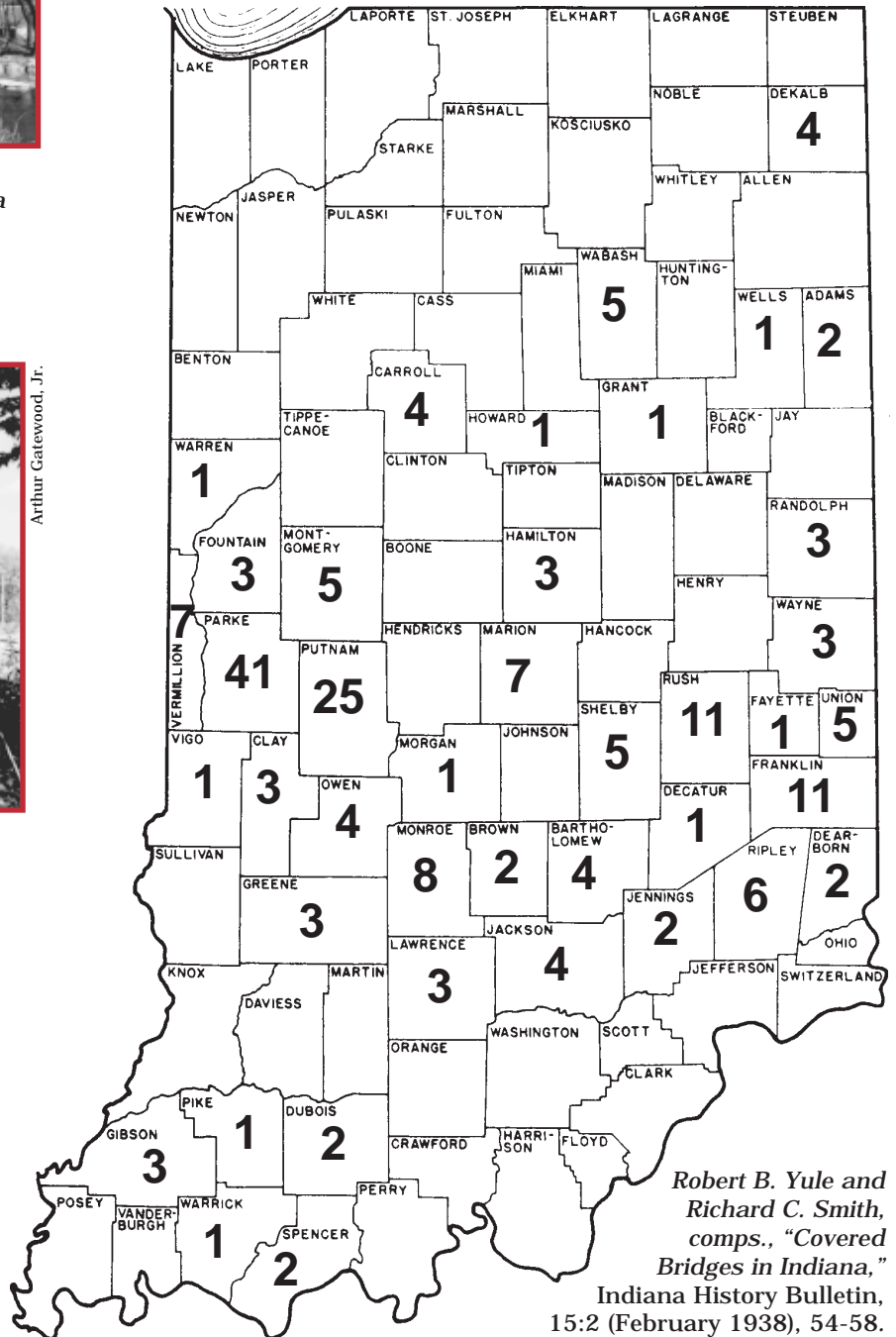
Cataract Falls Covered Bridge, Owen County, built in 1876 by Smith Bridge Company with a Smith type 4 truss. Restored in 1995 and closed to traffic. Located in Cataract Falls State Recreation Area. (14-60-01)



Arthur Gatewood, Jr.

Spencerville Covered Bridge, De Kalb County, built in 1873 by John McKay with a Smith type 4 truss. Restored in 1990. (14-17-01)

Indiana Covered Bridges as of 1937



Robert B. Yule and Richard C. Smith, comps., "Covered Bridges in Indiana," Indiana History Bulletin, 15:2 (February 1938), 54-58.



Howe truss



Arthur Gatewood, Jr.

Roann Covered Bridge, Wabash County, was built in 1877 by the Smith Bridge Company with a Howe truss and restored in 1992. It is bypassed but open to traffic. (14-85-01)



Burr arch truss



Arthur Gatewood, Jr.

Portland Mills Covered Bridge, Parke County, built in 1856 by Henry Wolf with a Burr arch truss. It was restored in August 1996 and reopened to traffic with a thirteen ton limit. (14-61-21)

Truss drawings on pages i and iii:
Historic American Engineering Record,
National Park Service, 1976.

Indiana Covered Bridges as of 1998



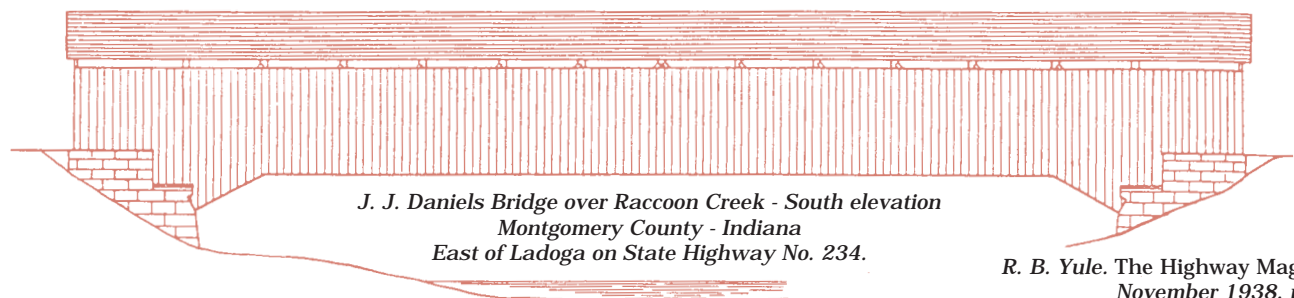
Compiled from Indiana
Covered Bridge Society lists.

County World Guide #	Bridge name	Waterway crossed	Year built	Length in feet	Truss type	Location	Year NRHP*/ Historical Marker #
Adams							
14-01-02	Ceylon	Wabash River	1862	126	Howe	CR 950 South, northwest of Geneva	- -
Bartholomew							
14-03-04	New Brownsville	pond in Mill Race Park	1840	102	Long	Mill Race Park, Columbus	- -
Brown							
14-07-01	Bean Blossom	Bean Blossom Creek	1880	60	modified Howe	Bean Blossom	- -
14-07-02	Ramp <i>Only two-lane covered bridge in Indiana.</i>	Salt Creek	1838	60	2-lane Burr arch	north entrance, Brown County State Park, Nashville	- -
Carroll							
14-08-01	Adams Mill	north fork Wildcat Creek	1872	130	Howe	Cutler	1996 -
14-08-02	Lancaster	north fork Wildcat Creek	1872	133	Howe	CR 500 West, northwest of Owasco	- -
Dearborn							
14-15-01	Guilford	east fork Tanners Creek	1879	119	Burr arch	SR 1, Guilford	- -
		<i>Modified c.1900 to handle heavy loads from coal mines; one of two covered bridges with sprinkler system (see 14-85-01).</i>					
Decatur							
14-16-01	Westport	Sand Creek	1880	131	Burr arch	Westport	1982 -
De Kalb							
14-17-01	Spencerville	St. Joseph River	1873	160	Smith #4	Front Street , east of Spencerville	1982/ 17.1996.1
Fayette							
14-21-01	Longwood	-	1884	108	Burr arch	Robert's Park, Connersville	- -
Fountain							
14-23-01	Wallace <i>Interurban bridge.</i>	Sugar Mill Creek	1871	81	Howe	southeast of Wallace	- -
14-23-02	Cade's Mill	Coal Creek	1854	150	Howe	Cadeshollow Road, southwest of Veedersburg	- -
14-23-03	Rob Roy	Big Shawnee Creek	1860	105	Howe	north edge of Rob Roy on Covered Bridge Road	- -
Franklin							
14-24-05	Stockheugter	Salt Creek	1887	92	Howe	northeast of Enochsburg on CR 640 South	- -
14-24-09	Snow Hill	Johnson's Creek	1894	84	Howe	CR 950 East at Snow Hill Road, north of Rockdale	1995 -
14-24-10	Seal Barn	Big Cedar Creek	1905	56	queen post	private property, Brookville	- -
14-24-11	Aqueduct	carries Whitewater Canal across Duck Creek	1846	60	Burr arch	Metamora	1973, 1992/ 24.19??
		<i>Only aqueduct covered bridge in U.S.</i>					
Gibson							
14-26-01	Old Red	Big Bayou Creek	1875	170	Smith #4	CR 1675 West, west of Owensville	- -
14-26-03	Wheeling	-	1877	163	Smith #4	Wheeling	- -

* Year listed in the National Register of Historic Places followed by the state of Indiana historical marker number, if applicable. A complete list of state of Indiana historical markers appeared in the *Indiana History Bulletin*, 68:3 (September 1997) and is on the Historical Bureau Web site as a searchable database (<http://www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/ihb/ihb.html>).

Note: The information in this chart is drawn from Indiana Covered Bridge Society lists and National Register nominations. It will be added to the Indiana Historical Bureau Web site.

County World Guide #	Bridge name	Waterway crossed	Year built	Length in feet	Truss type	Location	Year NRHP*/ Historical Marker #
Grant							
14-27-01	Cumberland	Mississinewa River	1877	175	Howe	Third Street, Matthews	1978 -
Greene							
14-28-01	Richland-Plummer Creek	Plummer Creek	1883	119	Burr arch	south of Bloomfield	1993/ pending
Hamilton							
14-29-01	Potter's	west fork White River	1871	259	Howe	Tenth St., north of Noblesville	1991 -
14-29-02	Cedar Chapel <i>Built in De Kalb County.</i>	ravine	1884	110	Howe	private property, Conner Prairie south of Noblesville	- -
Howard							
14-34-01	Vermont	Kokomo Creek	1875	98	Smith #3	Highland Park, Kokomo	- -
Jackson							
14-36-02	Shieldstown	east fork White River	1876	231	Burr arch	CR 250 East, northeast of Brownstown	- -
14-36-03	Bell's Ford <i>Only post truss covered bridge in the world.</i>	east fork White River	1875	325	post	beside SR 258, west of Seymour	- -
14-36-04	Medora <i>Longest covered bridge in U.S.</i>	east fork White River	1875	458	Burr arch	beside SR 235, east of Medora	- -
Jennings							
14-40-01	Scipio	Sand Creek	1886	124	Howe	north edge of Scipio	- -
14-40-02	James	Graham Creek	1887	124	Howe	CR 650 South, south of Vernon	- -
Lake							
14-45-01	Fairgrounds <i>Built in Rush County.</i>	-	1878	101	Burr arch	fairgrounds, Crown Point	- -
Lawrence							
14-47-01	Williams	east fork White River	1884	376	Howe	southwest of Williams	1981 -
<i>Longest 2-span covered bridge in Indiana still open to traffic.</i>							
Marion							
14-49-01	Traders Point	pond on Brown Estates	1876	88	Howe	private property, Indianapolis	- -
Montgomery							
14-54-01	Darlington	Sugar Creek	1868	166	Howe	west of Darlington	1990/ 54.1993.1
14-54-02	Deer's Mill	Sugar Creek	1878	275	Burr arch	next to Shades State Park, north of Waveland	- -
Owen							
14-60-01	Cataract Falls	Mill Creek	1876	140	Smith #4	Cataract Falls State Recreation Area	- -
Parke							
14-61-01	Big Rocky Fork	Big Rocky Creek	1900	72	Burr arch	CR 720 South, 2 miles east of SR 59, southeast of Mansfield	1978 -
14-61-02	Conleys Ford	Big Raccoon Creek	1907	192	Burr arch	CR 550 East, near CR 720 South, Mansfield	1978 -



*J. J. Daniels Bridge over Raccoon Creek - South elevation
Montgomery County - Indiana
East of Ladoga on State Highway No. 234.*

*R. B. Yule. The Highway Magazine,
November 1938, p. 260.*

County World Guide #	Bridge name	Waterway crossed	Year built	Length in feet	Truss type	Location	Year NRHP*/ Historical Marker #
Parke continued							
14-61-03	Jeffries Ford	Big Raccoon Creek	1915	204	Burr arch	CR 150 East, 2 miles southwest of Bridgeton	1978 -
14-61-04	Bridgeton	Big Raccoon Creek	1868	245	Burr arch	Bridgeton	1978 -
14-61-05	Nevins	Little Raccoon Creek	1920	155	Burr arch	CR 170 East, southeast of Catlin	1978 -
14-61-07	Thorpe Ford	Big Raccoon Creek	1912	163	Burr arch	CR 900 South, northeast of Rosedale	1978 -
14-61-09	Roseville-Coxville	Big Raccoon Creek	1910	263	Burr arch	Coxville	1978/ 61.1966.3
14-61-10	Harry Evans	Rock Run Creek	1908	65	Burr arch	CR 325 West, Coxville	1978 -
14-61-11	Zacke Cox	Rock Run Creek	1908	54	Burr arch	CR 500 South and CR 325 East, north of Coxville	1978 -
14-61-12	Phillips	Big Pond Creek	1909	43	multiple king post	CR 450 West at CR 40 North, Rockville	1978 -
14-61-13	Mecca	Big Raccoon Creek	1873	150	Burr arch	east edge of Mecca	1978 -
14-61-14	Sim Smith	Leatherwood Creek	1883	84	Burr arch	CR 40 North, at CR 310 West, Montezuma	1978 -
14-61-15	Catlin	Bill Diddle Creek	1907	54	Burr arch	Parke County Golf Course, north of Rockville	1978 -
14-61-16	McCallister	Little Raccoon Creek	1914	122	Burr arch	CR 400 South, east of CR 200 East, Catlin	1978 -
14-61-17	Crooks	Little Raccoon Creek	1856	132	king post	CR 275 East, at CR 300 South, Rockville	1978 -
14-61-18	Neet	Little Raccoon Creek	1904	143	Burr arch	CR 200 East, CR 450 South, east of Catlin	1978 -
14-61-19	Billie Creek	Williams Creek	1895	62	Burr arch	at Billie Creek Village, east of Rockville	1978 -
14-61-20	Mansfield	Big Raccoon Creek	1867	247	Burr arch	by old mill, Mansfield	1978 -
14-61-21	Portland Mills	Little Raccoon Creek	1856	131	Burr arch	CR 720 East, CR 650 North, east of Marshall	1978/ pending
14-61-24	Beeson	Williams Creek	1906	55	Burr arch	at Billie Creek Village, east of Rockville	1978 -
14-61-25	Leatherwood Station	Williams Creek	1899	72	Burr arch	at Billie Creek Village, east of Rockville	1978 -
14-61-26	Melcher	Leatherwood Creek	1896	83	Burr arch	CR 160 North, east of Montezuma	1978 -
14-61-27	West Union	Sugar Creek	1876	315	Burr arch	CR 525 West, north of West Union	1978 -
14-61-28	Jackson	Sugar Creek	1861	207	double Burr arch	CR 775 North, 2.5 miles northwest of Bloomingdale	1978 -
14-61-29	Mill Creek-Tow Path	Mill Creek	1907	92	Burr arch	CR 550 West, north of CR 925 North	1978 -
14-61-31	Rush Creek	Rush Creek	1904	77	Burr arch	CR 900 North, east of CR 450 West; south of Tangier	1978 -
14-61-32	Marshall	Rush Creek	1917	56	Burr arch	CR 800 North, at CR 450 West; south of Tangier	1978 -

County World Guide #	Bridge name	Waterway crossed	Year built	Length in feet	Truss type	Location	Year NRHP*/ Historical Marker #
Parke continued							
14-61-33	Bowsher Ford	Mill Creek	1915	72	Burr arch	CR 1125 North at CR 550 West, two miles northwest of Tangier	1978 -
14-61-34	Cox Ford	Sugar Creek	1913	176	Burr arch	west edge, Turkey Run State Park	1978 -
14-61-35	Wilkins Mill	Sugar Mill Creek	1906	102	Burr arch	northwest of Turkey Run State Park, near US 41	1978 -
14-61-36	Narrows	Sugar Creek	1882	121	Burr arch	east edge Turkey Run State Park	1978 -
14-61-38	Sanatorium	Little Raccoon Creek	1913	154	Burr arch	private property, northeast of Rockville	1978 -
Perry-Spencer							
14-62-01	Huffman Mill	Anderson River	1864	140	Burr arch	county line, north edge of Huffman	- -
Putnam							
14-67-01	Cornstalk	Cornstalk Creek	1917	85	Burr arch	CR 1350 North, 1.5 miles east of Raccoon	- -
14-67-02	Hillis-Bakers Camp	Big Walnut Creek	1901	128	Burr arch	CR 550 North, southeast of Bainbridge	- -
14-67-03	Pine Bluff	Big Walnut Creek	?	211	Howe	CR 950 North, near CR 250 East, northeast of Bainbridge	- -
14-67-04	Rolling Stone	Big Walnut Creek	1915	103	Burr arch	CR 800 North, east of CR 250 East, northeast of Bainbridge	- -
14-67-06	Edna Collins	Little Walnut Creek	1922	80	Burr arch	CR 450 North, northwest of Clinton Falls	- -
14-67-07	Dunbar	Big Walnut Creek	1880	174	Burr arch	west side of US 231, northwest of Greencastle	- -
14-67-10	Oakalla	Big Walnut Creek	1898	152	Burr arch	CR 300 South, west of SR 243, southwest of Greencastle	- -
14-67-11	Houck	Big Walnut Creek	1880	210	Howe	CR 550 South, southwest of Greencastle	- -
14-67-13	Dick Huffman	Big Walnut Creek	1880	265	Howe	CR 1050 South, southwest of Manhattan, north side of I-70	- -
Ripley							
14-69-02	Holton	Otter Creek	1884	112	Howe	CR 850 West, northwest of Holton	- -
14-69-04	Bushing	Laughery Creek	1885	176	Howe	Versailles State Park, north of US 50, near south entrance	- -

County World Guide #	Bridge name	Waterway crossed	Year built	Length in feet	Truss type	Location	Year NRHP*/ Historical Marker #
Rush							
14-70-01	Smith	Flat Rock River	1877	136	Burr arch	CR 150 North, northeast of Rushville	1983 -
14-70-02	Offutt Ford	Little Blue River	1884	98	Burr arch	Offutt Bridge Road off CR 300 North, northeast of Arlington	1983 -
14-70-04	Forsythe	Big Flat Rock River	1888	197	Burr arch	CR 650 South, northeast of Moscow	1983 -
14-70-07	Moscow	Big Flat Rock River	1886	334	Burr arch	Moscow	1983 -
14-70-08	Norris Ford	Big Flat Rock River	1916	167	Burr arch	CR 300 North, CR 150 East, northeast of Rushville	1983 -
14-70-18	Homer Barn <i>Floated downstream in flood of 1892 and made into a barn.</i>	none	1881	51	multiple king post	private property, southwest part of Homer	- -
Spencer							
See Perry-Spencer.							
Vermillion							
14-83-02	S. Hill	-	1879	122	Burr arch	Geneva Hills Golf Course, northwest Clinton	- -
14-83-03	Hillsdale-Possum Bottom	none	1876	104	Burr arch	Ernie Pyle Rest Park, on SR 36, east of Dana	1994 -
14-83-04	Newport	Little Vermillion River	1885	180	Burr arch	CR 50 North, west of SR 63, northwest of Newport	1994/ 83.1995.1
14-83-05	Eugene	Big Vermillion River	1885	192	Burr arch	northwest edge of Eugene	1994/ 83.1995.2
Vigo							
14-84-01	Irishman	pond in park	1845	75	modified queen post	Fowler Park, southeast Terre Haute	- -
Wabash							
14-85-01	Roann	Eel River	1877	288	Howe	north edge of Roann	1981 -
14-85-02	North Manchester	Eel River	1872	150	Smith #4	South Mill and Sycamore Streets, North Manchester	1982 -
<p><i>One of two covered bridges with sprinkler system (see 14-15-01).</i></p> <p><i>Covered bridge with widest interior measurement (eighteen feet) in state.</i></p>							
						<p><i>J. J. Daniels Bridge over Raccoon Creek - West elevation Montgomery County - Indiana East of Ladoga on State Highway No. 234. R. B. Yule. The Highway Magazine, November 1938, p. 260.</i></p>	