United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic	East LaPorte Street Footbridge									
and/or common										
2. Loca	ation									
street & number	Span across Ye	llow F	River from	n East La	Porte Street to	Liberty S	treet for publica	tion		
city, town	Plymouth		vic	cinity of	congressional dis	trict ^{2nd}				
state	Indiana	code	018	county	Marshall		code ()9	99		
3. Clas	sification	ו						•		
Category Ownership district public building(s) private structure both site Public Acquisition object in process being considered			Status occupi unoccu work in Accessibl yes: re X yes: un no	upied n progress e stricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainme government industrial military	ent	museum park private residence religious scientific _X_ transportation other:			
4. Own	er of Pro	per	ty							
name	City of Plymo	uth								
street & number	124 North Mic	higan	Street							
rity, town Plymouth		vicinity of		state Indiana 46563			3			
5. Loca	ation of L	ega	I Des	cripti	on					
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc.	Marsh	all Count	y Record	er's Office					
street & number		601 N	lorth Cent	er Stree	t					
city, town		Plymo	outh		S	tate	Indiana	46365		
6. Rep	resentati	on i	n Exis	sting	Surveys	-				
title Non	e			has this pro	operty been determin	ed elegible?	yes	_X_ no		
date				4	federal	state	_ county	local		
depository for su	urvey records			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						
city, town		_			S	tate				

7. Description

Condition

_ good

_X__ fair

excellent

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 Check one

 _____ deteriorated
 _____ unaltered

 _____ ruins
 _____ altered

 _____ unexposed
 _____ altered

Check one __X_ original site ____ moved date _

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The East LaPorte Street Footbridge spans the Yellow River, linking a residential area with the downtown. The immediate area has an abundance of trees and undergrowth.

The bridge could best be described as a two-span Kingpost, constructed of metal. It is six feet wide and 100 feet long. The approximate height of the trusses is 20 feet. The two kingposts are supported by piers set in concrete, with diagonal bracing to the deck. An additional metal support is located in the center. Supports are set in concrete.

The structure has a wood plank floor that has been periodically replaced over the years. Approaches are of concrete.

8. Significance



Statement of Significance (#Lager planagraph)

The East LaPorte Street Footbridge is significant as a longstanding local landmark, that has traditionally linked the eastside residential area with downtown Plymouth.

An 1881 map indicates that there was then a bridge crossing the Yellow River at the location of the present structure. According to the minutes of the Plymouth Common Council, several residents petitioned the Council to construct a replacement bridge during the summer of 1898, apparently due to the deterioration of the old bridge and because a structure was needed that could bear vehicular traffic. The Council contracted W. B. Bassett, of the Rochester (Indiana) Bridge Company, to construct two bridges. The Blain Bridge was erected at Taylor (Garro) Street of steel and wrought iron to carry vehicular traffic, and the East LaPorte Street Footbridge was constructed at the same time. Both bridges were completed by December of 1898. The Blain Bridge was replaced in the 1920s, but the footbridge survives.

At the time the footbridge was constructed, it led from a residential section of the city to a largely undeveloped area which is now the hub of the commercial district in downtown Plymouth. The access provided by the two bridges no doubt contributed to the growth of this commercial area. The footbridge was been greatly utilized since its construction, and with the recent opening of a new senior citizens residential complex, the bridge is receiving even greater use, giving residents access to the downtown without the need for automobiles.

In addition to its use as a pedestrian thoroughfare, the bridge has, for many years, served as the point from which the depth of the Yellow River has been measured by local observers. The equipment for such measuring has been attached to the upper portion of the bridge.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Minutes from meetings of the Plymouth Common Council, 1898. Interview with Mr. Morris R. Cressner, of Plymouth.

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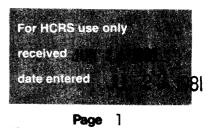
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E. LaPorte St. Footbridge Continuation sheet Verbal Boundary Description Item number 9



Description for Foot Bridge

Beginning at the Northeast corner of Lot No. 46, Cleveland's Addition to the City of Plymouth; thence Easterly across the Yellow River to the Northwest corner of Lot No. 10, Blain's Addition to the City of Plymouth, on the South right-of-way line of Laporte Street; thence North to the North right-of-way line of said LaPorte Street; thence Westerly across the Yellow River to the Southeast corner of Lot No. 1, Cleveland's Addition to the City of Plymouth, on the North right-of-way line of LaPorte Street; thence South to the point of beginning, located in the City of Plymouth, Marshall County, Indiana.