

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Kentucky

COUNTY:
Bourbon

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
DEC 30 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Colville Covered Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Spans Hinkston Creek four miles northwest of Millersburg

CITY OR TOWN:
Millersburg *via*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
06

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021** COUNTY: **Bourbon** CODE: **017**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure. <input type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

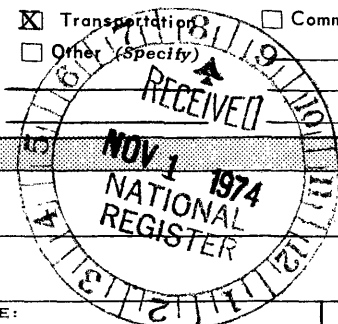
OWNER'S NAME:
Bourbon County Fiscal Court

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bourbon County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Paris

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Bourbon County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Paris

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE OF SURVEY: **1971** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Kentucky Heritage Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Frankfort

STATE:
Kentucky

CODE:
021

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DEC 30 1974

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Colville

The setting for the Covered Bridge is an attractive one. The northern banks of the creek adjacent to the bridge are lined with large, commanding trees. The southwestern bank, including an area extending approximately 200 feet to the west and 175 feet south, is a wildflower preserve developed and formerly maintained by the Bourbon County Garden Club.

Enhancing the scenic charm of the site are the approaches to the bridge. From the east it is an ascending curve, and on the west the road is straight, level, and tree-lined.

The bridge is constructed along the Colville Pike, approximately five miles long, which leads from the Millersburg-Ruddell's Mills Road to the Millersburg-Cynthiana Road. It is located in a rural area and traffic is confined mainly to local residents and farm trucks.

124 feet in length and 18 feet wide, the roadbed of the bridge is approximately 28 feet above water level. It is of Burr truss construction, which is "the multiple king-post type with panel posts generally spaced 10 feet apart. Between each panel post there is a diagonal timber brace, sloping up toward the center of the bridge. A heavy timber arch is fastened to each side of the truss.... The arches vary in height from about 4 feet to perhaps 12 feet, or to the top of the chord. The posts are normally vertical but are sometimes flared slightly with tops slanted towards the end of the bridge...."¹ This combination of arch and truss used in the construction of bridges was invented by Theodore Burr and patented by him in 1817.

The sides of the Colville Bridge entrances do slope outward from the base and the east entrance has an overhang. The roof, at the west end, however, does not extend.

Repair work done on the bridge includes replacing much of the yellow poplar sub-floor and the oak flooring. Two concrete pilings installed in the waters of the creek for earlier repair work were again used to jack the bridge up for the restoration and then built up for permanent support. Steel rods were also put in to reinforce the timbers.



¹"Timbered Tunnel Talk," May 1, 1972, pp. 3-4.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1877**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

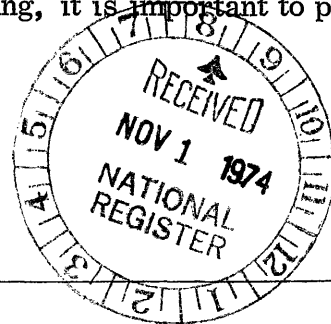
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The bridge on the Colville Pike, built in 1877, is the last surviving covered bridge in Bourbon County and one of ten still in use in the State. Having recently lost one covered bridge due to arson and replaced two others with modern spans, the county determined to save and restore this remaining structure.

The bridge was closed for a year owing to damage of a "chord," a heavy support timber at the side of the bridge, from a heavy truck. It was repaired and opened to traffic again in 1973. The problems of restoration were twofold: scarcity of expertise and of material. Louis S. Bower, Jr., of Flemingsburg, who is described as the last covered bridge builder in Kentucky and whose father repaired the bridge in 1913, was called in to supervise the work. Mr. Bower is the third generation of bridge builders, his grandfather having built the Switzer bridge in Franklin County and one in Robertson County in 1874.

In addition to the record of the builders and repairers of the bridge, the inside is well covered with the names and initials of visitors carved or painted from top to bottom from 1883 to the present time.

For years there has been conjecture as to why the bridges were covered and what advantages the cover gave. One theory has it that the boarded sides and shingled roofs prevented horses from seeing the water below and getting "spooked." Certainly the cover afforded greater protection against deterioration of the timber supports. The yellow poplar used in the construction was thought to be almost indestructible when shielded from the weather. The "kissing" bridges--so named when young men were seen halting their buggies inside the structures when in the company of young ladies--are, whatever their practical advantages, tangible reminders of a past era. For Kentucky, which once contained over four hundred covered bridges and now has only sixteen remaining, it is important to preserve these quickly vanishing historical resources.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Condit, Carl W. American Building. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1968, pp. 53-55.
 "Timbered Tunnel Talk," (A publication of Kentucky Covered Bridge Association) May 1972, pp. 3-4.
 _____, (A publication of Kentucky Covered Bridge Association) January 1974, pp. 1-2.
 Watson, Bob. "Kentucky's Covered Bridges in Danger Despite Law." The Courier-Journal & Times (Louisville). September 1, 1974, p. E-4.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

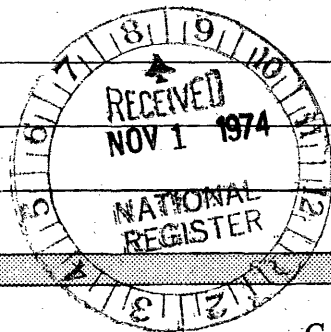
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 ° 19 ' 29 "	84 ° 12 ' 12 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO UTM
HL

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Robert Van Meter G. M.

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: August, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 271 Stoner Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Paris STATE: Kentucky CODE: 021

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Eldred W. Melton</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>10-28-74</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>A.R. Worlouse</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>12/30/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>W. Monte</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>DEC 27 1974</u></p>
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(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
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COUNTY:
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ENTRY DATE
DEC 30 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Colville Covered Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Spans Hinkston Creek four miles northwest of Millersburg

CITY OR TOWN:
Millersburg *via*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
06

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021** COUNTY: **Bourbon** CODE: **017**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
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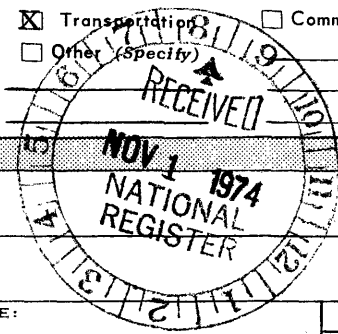
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OWNER'S NAME:
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STREET AND NUMBER:
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CITY OR TOWN:
Paris

STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021**



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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STATE: **Kentucky** CODE: **021**

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COUNTY: _____

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DATE: _____

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Colville

The setting for the Covered Bridge is an attractive one. The northern banks of the creek adjacent to the bridge are lined with large, commanding trees. The southwestern bank, including an area extending approximately 200 feet to the west and 175 feet south, is a wildflower preserve developed and formerly maintained by the Bourbon County Garden Club.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
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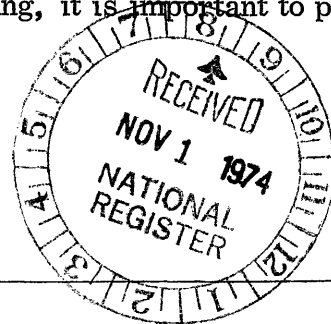
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For years there has been conjecture as to why the bridges were covered and what advantages the cover gave. One theory has it that the boarded sides and shingled roofs prevented horses from seeing the water below and getting "spooked." Certainly the cover afforded greater protection against deterioration of the timber supports. The yellow poplar used in the construction was thought to be almost indestructible when shielded from the weather. The "kissing" bridges--so named when young men were seen halting their buggies inside the structures when in the company of young ladies--are, whatever their practical advantages, tangible reminders of a past era. For Kentucky, which once contained over four hundred covered bridges and now has only sixteen remaining, it is important to preserve these quickly vanishing historical resources.



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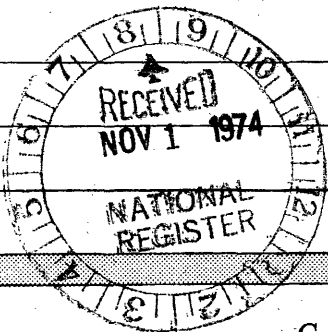
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38 ° 19 ' 29 "	84 ° 12 ' 12 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO UTM
HL

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Robert Van Meter G. M.

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: August, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 271 Stoner Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Paris STATE: Kentucky CODE: 021

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--	---