

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received **AUG 18 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Paw Paw Creek Bridge #52

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Paw Paw Pike, R. R. 1 N/A not for publication

city, town Chili vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Miami code 103

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Miami County Commissioners

street & number Miami County Courthouse

city, town Peru N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46970

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Miami County Recorder's Office

street & number Courthouse, Broadway and Main

city, town Peru state Indiana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Paw Paw Creek Bridge is located in a rural area on a tree-lined creek, within sight of the Paw Paw United Methodist Church, a one-story, frame structure built in 1846.

The bridge is a 111 foot by 21 foot, wrought iron structure of Bow-string arch construction with a vertical clearance of 12 feet, four inches. Built in 1874, the single span, through-truss structure crosses Paw Paw Creek near County Roads 800 North and 600 East.

The bridge has nine panels. The original bridge abutments were made of stone; however, the south abutment was replaced by one of concrete in 1921.

When the bridge was re-floored in 1921, a new plank subfloor was added, along with tar-soaked wood block for the final floor. In 1980 the bridge was again re-floored and new steel stringers were installed, in addition to new guard rails. The seven ton capacity structure is painted green and white.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1874 **Builder/Architect** Wrought Iron Bridge Company

Statement of Significance (~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~)

The Paw Paw Creek Bridge is significant because it is the only bridge of Bow-string arch construction in Miami County, and one of only three or four through trusses of this type in the state.

In 1874, the County Commissioners decided on the location of a new brige. It was to be immediately south of the Paw Paw United Methodist Church on Paw Paw Pike, crossing Paw Paw Creek. At this point there is a break in the high, north bank which greatly reduced the need for grading and filling for the approachments. They contracted William Hartshorn for building the abutments. He was paid \$1,534.80 for his work.

The Wrought Iron Bridge Company, of Canton, Ohio, was awarded the contract for the bridge proper on June 4, 1874. According to old records at the Miami County Court House, the company later built other bridges in this county. This bridge, which is the only Bow arch type remaining in Miami County, provided a shorter route to Peru and other points for the people of the Paw Paw area.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Roann, Indiana

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	8	7	1	0	0	4	5	2	5	5	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification Miami County Bridge #52, 0.3 miles south of Road 100 North, including its abutments and 10 feet of the right-of-way of Paw Paw Pike at each end.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert Huffman

organization N/A date August 8, 1979

street & number R. R. 3 telephone 317/985-2386

city or town Peru state Indiana 46970

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature J. M. Redman

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 8-4-83

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Linda McCalland date 9-30-83
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Paw Paw Creek Bridge #52 Item number 9

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Contract between Wrought Iron Bridge Company and Miami County Commissioners, Common Record, Book K (Miami County Courthouse).

Kingman Brothers, New Historical Atlas of Miami County. Chicago: Kingman Brothers, 1877.

Miami County Commissioners, Structure Inventory and Appraisal Sheet, Bridge #52, August 14, 1972.

Warrant for payment to William Hartshorn, Common Record Book K (Miami County Courthouse).