

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 19 1975
DATE ENTERED JUN 10 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Walcott Covered Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

White Bridge

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3 1/2 mi N of Brooksville on SR 1159 over Locust Creek

1159 Highway from Brooksville to Wellsburgh or Rock Springs NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Walcott Brooksville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Seventh

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Bracken

CODE

023

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. Garner N. Murray (Augusta, Ky.), Mr. Howard Murray (308 Bracken St.,

STREET & NUMBER

Augusta, Ky.), Mrs. Donald Wehmeyer (1612 Bloomingdale Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio).

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bracken County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Brooksville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Walcott Covered Bridge is located in a rural area in the small community of Walcott at a point where Kentucky Highway 1159 previously crossed Locust Creek in Bracken County, Kentucky. In 1954 a new concrete bridge was constructed approximately 200 feet northwest of the Walcott Bridge and the older structure was then bypassed by highway traffic.

The bridge is of a complex construction, a combination of Queen and King ^{post} type truss. The sides are completely enclosed and the exterior is presently painted white. It is 75 feet in length, has a horizontal clearance of 14 feet, and a vertical clearance of 13 feet and six inches. The bridge is built of poplar and rests atop two stone abutments. The bridge is in fair condition (the roof was replaced in 1954), but in need of repair. It is currently being maintained by local citizens. Now closed to vehicular traffic, the bridge and surrounding grounds are used as a park area. It is clearly visible from the highway and the newer bridge and has become a popular tourist attraction.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At one time Kentucky had hundreds of covered bridges spanning her rivers. Prior to World War II sixty-five were still standing. By 1952 the numbers had shrunk to thirty-nine. Now there are only sixteen, concentrated in the central and northeast sections of the state.

The only covered bridge left standing in Bracken County is that which spans the Locust Creek near Walcott. It is of late nineteenth-century construction of a design similar to other covered bridges in the area. The bridge was built on property belonging to the Murray family and, from all indications, replaced an earlier covered bridge. (According to Murray family history, there did exist a covered bridge in the vicinity of the present White Bridge as early as 1835.)

There are many explanations for the construction of covered bridges, the most logical being that the boarded sides and shingled roof protected the building from deterioration. It is also said that horses crossed the bridges more easily by not being able to view the river beneath.

The covered bridges were an important part of community life in less sophisticated days. Posters, proclaiming the merits of everything from patent medicine and chewing tobacco, to political candidates and revival meetings were posted or nailed to their portals. Some bridges came to be known as "kissing bridges" for obvious reasons.

In Washington County, according to the late Kentucky journalist Joe Creason, they tell about an old farmer who had never seen a covered span before driving up in his buggy to the 270-foot long gunbarrel-shaped bridge over the Chaplin River. He squinted into the long black tunnel to the far end and decided against crossing. "I can git through this end, all right," he figured, "but I ain't sure there's enough room to squeeze through that little hole at yan end." Unless something is done soon, concluded Mr. Creason, there won't be any covered bridges left for future generations to appreciate the uncertainty of the farmer when he looked through to the "little hole at yan end." (Courier-Journal Magazine, July 21, 1968, p.19.)

It is true Kentucky has few covered bridges left, many of which are in de sparate need of repair. But it is hoped that National Register recognition will stimulate interest in preserving these examples of a unique architecture.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allen, Richard S. Covered Bridges of the South. New York: Bonanza Books, 1970, pp.31-37.
 Interview with Louis Bowers, Flemingsburg, Kentucky, whose family has been in the business of the construction and repair of covered bridges for three generations.
Bracken County News, February 8, 1951.
 Brandenburg, Phyllis and David. Kentucky's Covered Bridges. Cincinnati: Kentucky Writers Guild, Inc., 1968, p. 53

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM OK
HL

UTM REFERENCES

A | 16 | 7521040 | 4290980 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. John S. Parker, County Representative

(GM)

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

March, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

305 Elizabeth Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Augusta

STATE

Kentucky

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Clayton W. Melton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer 5/15/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

R. B. Martens

DATE

6/10/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

JUN 9 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 19 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 10 1975

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

Walcott Covered Bridge
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Creason, Joe, "Last of Their Kind," Courier-Journal & Times Magazine, July 21, 1968,
pp. 18-19.
Interview with L. K. Patton, President, Kentucky Covered Bridge Association, Newport,
Kentucky.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 19 1975
DATE ENTERED JUN 10 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Walcott Covered Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

White Bridge

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3 1/2 mi N of Brooksville on SR 1159 over Locust Creek

1159 Highway from Brooksville to Wellsburgh or Rock Springs NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Walcott Brooksville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Seventh

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Bracken

CODE

023

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. Garner N. Murray (Augusta, Ky.), Mr. Howard Murray (308 Bracken St.,

STREET & NUMBER

Augusta, Ky.), Mrs. Donald Wehmeyer (1612 Bloomingdale Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio).

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bracken County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Brooksville

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Walcott Covered Bridge is located in a rural area in the small community of Walcott at a point where Kentucky Highway 1159 previously crossed Locust Creek in Bracken County, Kentucky. In 1954 a new concrete bridge was constructed approximately 200 feet northwest of the Walcott Bridge and the older structure was then bypassed by highway traffic.

The bridge is of a complex construction, a combination of Queen and King ^{post} type truss. The sides are completely enclosed and the exterior is presently painted white. It is 75 feet in length, has a horizontal clearance of 14 feet, and a vertical clearance of 13 feet and six inches. The bridge is built of poplar and rests atop two stone abutments. The bridge is in fair condition (the roof was replaced in 1954), but in need of repair. It is currently being maintained by local citizens. Now closed to vehicular traffic, the bridge and surrounding grounds are used as a park area. It is clearly visible from the highway and the newer bridge and has become a popular tourist attraction.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At one time Kentucky had hundreds of covered bridges spanning her rivers. Prior to World War II sixty-five were still standing. By 1952 the numbers had shrunk to thirty-nine. Now there are only sixteen, concentrated in the central and northeast sections of the state.

The only covered bridge left standing in Bracken County is that which spans the Locust Creek near Walcott. It is of late nineteenth-century construction of a design similar to other covered bridges in the area. The bridge was built on property belonging to the Murray family and, from all indications, replaced an earlier covered bridge. (According to Murray family history, there did exist a covered bridge in the vicinity of the present White Bridge as early as 1835.)

There are many explanations for the construction of covered bridges, the most logical being that the boarded sides and shingled roof protected the building from deterioration. It is also said that horses crossed the bridges more easily by not being able to view the river beneath.

The covered bridges were an important part of community life in less sophisticated days. Posters, proclaiming the merits of everything from patent medicine and chewing tobacco, to political candidates and revival meetings were posted or nailed to their portals. Some bridges came to be known as "kissing bridges" for obvious reasons.

In Washington County, according to the late Kentucky journalist Joe Creason, they tell about an old farmer who had never seen a covered span before driving up in his buggy to the 270-foot long gunbarrel-shaped bridge over the Chaplin River. He squinted into the long black tunnel to the far end and decided against crossing. "I can git through this end, all right," he figured, "but I ain't sure there's enough room to squeeze through that little hole at yan end." Unless something is done soon, concluded Mr. Creason, there won't be any covered bridges left for future generations to appreciate the uncertainty of the farmer when he looked through to the "little hole at yan end." (Courier-Journal Magazine, July 21, 1968, p.19.)

It is true Kentucky has few covered bridges left, many of which are in de sparate need of repair. But it is hoped that National Register recognition will stimulate interest in preserving these examples of a unique architecture.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allen, Richard S. Covered Bridges of the South. New York: Bonanza Books, 1970, pp.31-37.
 Interview with Louis Bowers, Flemingsburg, Kentucky, whose family has been in the business of the construction and repair of covered bridges for three generations.
Bracken County News, February 8, 1951.
 Brandenburg, Phyllis and David. Kentucky's Covered Bridges. Cincinnati: Kentucky Writers Guild, Inc., 1968, p. 53

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM OK
HL

UTM REFERENCES

A | 16 | 7521040 | 4290980 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. John S. Parker, County Representative

(GM)

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

March, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

305 Elizabeth Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Augusta

STATE

Kentucky

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Clayton W. Melton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer 5/15/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER.

R. B. Martens

DATE

6/10/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

JUN 9 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 19 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 10 1975

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

Walcott Covered Bridge
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Creason, Joe, "Last of Their Kind," Courier-Journal & Times Magazine, July 21, 1968,
pp. 18-19.
Interview with L. K. Patton, President, Kentucky Covered Bridge Association, Newport,
Kentucky.