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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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	COMPLETE APPLICAB	ILE SECTIONS	
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Valley Pike Covered Bridge in Mason County crosses the Frasure Branch of Lee Creek, directly off Valley Pike, 1.5 miles from intersection with Kentucky Route 10. The bridge is located on the property of Mrs. R. W. Bouldin.

The truss design of the bridge is a single kingpost system, resting on stone abutments. Typical of this type of design, the span is short; approximately 30-35 feet in length. Vertically sided and roofed with corrugated tin, the bridge is still open and in use on the Bouldin Farm.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	RIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION		
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE		
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE		
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
1700-1799	ART	XENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER		
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	$\mathbf X$ transportation		
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		_INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES		BUILDER/ARCHITECT		
	unknown		unknown	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Valley Pike Covered Bridge is the only privately-owned covered bridge in Kentucky. Built for access to farmland and barns across the Bouldin farm, it resembles a small barn itself.

Ten miles from Valley Pike is Mason County's other covered bridge over Lee Creek.

The date of origin, along with the name of the builder of the bridge, is unknown.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Act

Kentucky Covered Bridge Association. <u>Timbered Tunnel Talk.</u> Newport, Kentucky. (June, 1971).

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DA				
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UTM REFERENCES				
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPT	ION		······································	
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
07475				
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II FORM PREPARED B NAME / TITLE John M. Johnson	Y			. c
ORGANIZATION			DATE	
Kentucky Heritage Con STREET & NUMBER	nmission	·····	June, 1975	
401 Wapping Street			TELEPHONE	
CITY OR TOWN			STATE	
Frankfort			Kentucky	
12 STATE HISTORIC PR	KESERVATION	OFFICER CI	ERTIFICATION	
THE EVALUAT	TED SIGNIFICANCE OF T	HIS PROPERTY WITH	IIN THE STATE IS:	
NATIONAL	STATE	~	LOCAL	
As the designated State Historic Prese hereby nominate this property for inc criteria and procedures set forth by the	lusion in the National Re			
FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATUR	Edred	W. Mil	lon	
TITLE State Historic Pro	eservation Officer	•	DATE 7-9	- 75
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PB	OPPRET SINCLUDED IN	THE NATIONAL RE	GISTER	
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	MAY	1	0	1976	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Valley Pike Covered Bridge				
CONTINUATION SHEET	ITE	M NUMBER	8	PAGE 2

At one time Kentucky had hundreds of covered bridges spanning her rivers. Just prior to World War II, sixty-five were still standing. By 1952, the numbers had shrunk to thirty-nine. Now only sixteen remain. These sixteen, which represent a variety of structural types, are concentrated in the central and northeast sections of the state in the small communities or rural areas of the state.

Many reasons have been offered to explain the construction of covered bridges in Kentucky during the 19th century. The road across the bridges were kept dry and free of snow in winter. Most important, however, was the protection the covering over the bridges provided against the deterioration of the wood. It permitted the timbered trusses and braces to season properly and kept water out of the joints. The life of the bridge was, therefore, significantly prolonged, averaging, generally seven to eight times that of one left uncovered.

Many of the covered bridges owe their present survival to modern spans constructed nearby that relieve the covered bridges of heavy traffic. Six are now closed to vehicular traffic although, like the others, they are visited by large numbers of tourists. All but one are publicly owned. Few are well maintained and most are in need of immediate repair or restoration if their preservation is to be secured.



1. THE KINGPOST TRUSS. The kingpost is the oldest and simplest truss, used in roof building for hundreds of years. It consists essentially of the basic truss triangle with two timbers slanting. down from the center to the ends of the lower chord of the bridge. The kingpost_extends down vertically from the center to the lower chord, forming two combined triangles. This post is a tension member, with the diagonals and lower chord in compression. There are 53 covered bridges of this type in use, half of them in Pennsylvania. These bridges are seldom over 30 to 35 feet long, but with the use of reinforcing timbers and rods - diagonal, horizontal or vertical - spans of over double this length have occasionally been noted.

Diagram Description of King Post Truss

