

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Parke County Covered Bridge Historic District is a thematic district consisting of 35 covered bridges located in Parke County, Indiana. The existing structures were constructed between 1856 and 1920. The bridges range in length from the J. H. Russell Bridge (#27) measuring forty-two feet to West Union Bridge (#26) which is 315 feet long.

Twenty-four structures remain in use in the county road system. Five bridges remain on their original sites but have been bypassed by modern structures. Structures moved from their original locations within Parke County include Jessup Bridge (#2), Portland Mills Bridge (#4), Catlin Bridge (#13), and J. H. Russell Bridge (#27). The Jessup and Portland Mills Bridges were relocated in 1970 and 1961 in the place of other covered bridges which had collapsed or had been destroyed by fire. The Catlin structure was moved in 1961 and now crosses a stream in a golf course. The J. H. Russell Bridge was moved in 1970 and now rests in a field on private property.

The Jessup, Portland Mills, and Catlin structures were moved when new bridges were erected on their original sites. Failure to relocate the bridges would have meant demolition of those structures. The Russell Bridge was originally located on the land of J. H. Russell. In 1970 the bridge was in a weakened condition and is now for sale. The Parke County, Inc., an organization formed to preserve the Counties bridges has hopes of acquiring the Russell Bridge and moving it to a suitable locat

Most of the bridges are of Burr Arch Construction. Jackson Bridge (#58) has a Double Burr Arch. Phillips Bridge (#22) preserves the Multiple King Post design while the J. H. Russell (#27) is of Queen Post design.

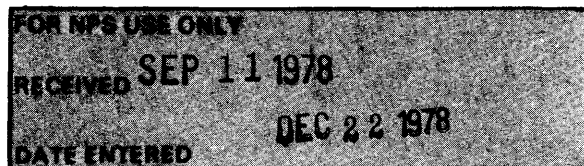
All of the bridges have been altered by routine maintenance over the years, including repair or replacement of roofs, floors, and siding. All have been painted at various times. Known major alterations are noted below.

The following is a list of surviving covered bridges within the district. The numbering system was adopted in the 1950's; bridges which have been destroyed in the last twenty years account for the gaps in the numbers:

- #1 State Sanitorium Bridge - 1 span, 154' in length, built in 1913 by J. A. Britton. Crosses Little Raccoon Creek. Burr Arch construction. On private property. A metal roof was installed in 1975.
- #2 Jessup Bridge - This is the Jessup Covered Bridge located on the Adams Covered Bridge site. The original Adams Bridge fell in, October 31, 1969. In early 1970 the Jessup Covered Bridge was moved to its present location. It is 1 span, 154' length, built in 1910 by J. P. Van Fossen Construction. Crosses Little Raccoon. Burr Arch construction. In county road system. Floor beams and flooring replaced in 1977.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

1. Parke County Commissioners (County owned); Courthouse; Rockville, Ind., 47872

The following covered bridges, as identified by number, are the property of Parke County and under the jurisdiction of the Parke County Commissioners

Numbers 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, and 39.

2. Parke County Park Board (County owned); Courthouse; Rockville, Ind. 47872

The following covered bridges are county owned property under the jurisdiction of the Parke County Park Board:

Numbers 8, 16, 21, and 26.

3. Indiana Department of Natural Resources; Turkey Run State Park; Marshall, Indiana 47859.

Bridge No. 37 is cared for by Turkey Run State Park

4. Parke County Golf Course, Inc.; U.S. 41 North; Rockville, Ind. 47872

Bridge No 13, located on the golf course, is county owned and under the jurisdiction of the Parke County Golf Course, Inc.

5. Joe Woody (privately owned); Tangier Road; Bloomingdale, Ind. 47832

Bridge No. 27 is located on land owned by the Joe Woody family.

6. Lee Alan Bryant Health Care Facility, Inc., R.R. 1; Rockville, Ind. 37872

Bridge No. 1 is located on land owned by the Lee Alan Bryant Health Care Facility, Inc., and is under their care.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 11 1978
DATE ENTERED DEC 22 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

- ✓ #1 State Sanitorium Bridge  
Quad Map, Rockville  
U.T.M. 16/486140/4401545
- ✓ #2 Jessup Bridge  
Quad Map, Rockville  
U.T.M. 16/487565/4403270
- ✓ #4 Portland Mills Bridge  
Quad Map, Bellmore  
U.T.M. 16/492405/4412095
- ✓ #5 Mansfield Bridge  
Quad Map, Mansfield, Ind.  
U.T.M. 16/491280/4391540
- ✓ #6 Big Rocky Fork Bridge  
Quad Map, Mansfield, Ind.  
U.T.M. 16/493070/4390140
- ✓ #7 Conley's Ford Bridge  
Quad Map, Catlin, Ind.  
U.T.M. 16/488600/4389750
- ✓ #8 Bridgeton Bridge  
Quad Map, Catlin, Ind.  
U.T.M. 16/484880/4388650
- ✓ #9 Jeffries Ford Bridge  
Quad Map, Catlin, Ind.  
U.T.M. 16/482120/4386520
- ✓ #10 Neet Bridge  
Quad Map, Catlin, Ind.  
U.T.M. 16/483005/4394470
- ✓ #11 McAllister Bridge  
Quad Map, Catlin, Ind.  
U.T.M. 16/483575/4395310
- ✓ #12 Crooks Bridge  
Quad Map, Catlin, Ind.  
U.T.M. 16/483745/4396960