

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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 East LaPorte Street Footbridge

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Span across Yellow River from East LaPorte Street to Liberty Street
not for publication

city, town Plymouth vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state Indiana code 018 county Marshall code 099

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Plymouth

street & number 124 North Michigan Street

city, town Plymouth vicinity of state Indiana 46563

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 601 North Center Street

city, town Plymouth state Indiana 46365

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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 East LaPorte Street Footbridge spans the Yellow River, linking a residential area with the downtown. The immediate area has an abundance of trees and undergrowth.

The bridge could best be described as a two-span Kingpost, constructed of metal. It is six feet wide and 100 feet long. The approximate height of the trusses is 20 feet. The two kingposts are supported by piers set in concrete, with diagonal bracing to the deck. An additional metal support is located in the center. Supports are set in concrete.

The structure has a wood plank floor that has been periodically replaced over the years. Approaches are of concrete.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input 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 1898 **Builder/Architect** Rochester Bridge Company

Statement of Significance (Paragraph)

The East LaPorte Street Footbridge is significant as a longstanding local landmark, that has traditionally linked the eastside residential area with downtown Plymouth.

An 1881 map indicates that there was then a bridge crossing the Yellow River at the location of the present structure. According to the minutes of the Plymouth Common Council, several residents petitioned the Council to construct a replacement bridge during the summer of 1898, apparently due to the deterioration of the old bridge and because a structure was needed that could bear vehicular traffic. The Council contracted W. B. Bassett, of the Rochester (Indiana) Bridge Company, to construct two bridges. The Blain Bridge was erected at Taylor (Garro) Street of steel and wrought iron to carry vehicular traffic, and the East LaPorte Street Footbridge was constructed at the same time. Both bridges were completed by December of 1898. The Blain Bridge was replaced in the 1920s, but the footbridge survives.

At the time the footbridge was constructed, it led from a residential section of the city to a largely undeveloped area which is now the hub of the commercial district in downtown Plymouth. The access provided by the two bridges no doubt contributed to the growth of this commercial area. The footbridge was been greatly utilized since its construction, and with the recent opening of a new senior citizens residential complex, the bridge is receiving even greater use, giving residents access to the downtown without the need for automobiles.

In addition to its use as a pedestrian thoroughfare, the bridge has, for many years, served as the point from which the depth of the Yellow River has been measured by local observers. The equipment for such measuring has been attached to the upper portion of the bridge.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Minutes from meetings of the Plymouth Common Council, 1898.
Interview with Mr. Morris R. Cressner, of Plymouth.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Plymouth, Indian

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	5	5	8	2	1	0	4	5	7	6	5	5	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

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 Ronald D. Gifford, City Attorney

organization City of Plymouth, Indiana date July 15, 1980

street & number 309 E. Jefferson Street telephone 219/936-2169

city or town Plymouth state Indiana 46563

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *James M. Ridenour*

title James M. Ridenour
State Historic Preservation Officer date 5-29-81

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the National Register date 7-23-81

Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

81

E. LaPorte St. Footbridge

Continuation sheet Verbal Boundary Description Item number 9

Page 1

Description for Foot Bridge

Beginning at the Northeast corner of Lot No. 46, Cleveland's Addition to the City of Plymouth; thence Easterly across the Yellow River to the Northwest corner of Lot No. 10, Blain's Addition to the City of Plymouth, on the South right-of-way line of Laporte Street; thence North to the North right-of-way line of said LaPorte Street; thence Westerly across the Yellow River to the Southeast corner of Lot No. 1, Cleveland's Addition to the City of Plymouth, on the North right-of-way line of LaPorte Street; thence South to the point of beginning, located in the City of Plymouth, Marshall County, Indiana.