FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United	States	Departm	ent of	the	Interio	or
Heritag	je Cons	ervation	and R	ecre	ation	Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form

For HCRS use only	
receive OCT 6	1981
date entered NOV	9_1981

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

1. Name

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historic	Williams	Bridge			
and/or common	Lawrence	County Br	idge 128, Willi	ams Bridge	
2. Loca	ation <	in al	Williams		
street & number		Ų	/ Road 1000 West	(C.R. 11) °	not for publication
city, town	Williams	nic.	<u>X</u> vicinity of	congressional district	8th
state	Indiana	code ()]8 county	Lawrence	code 093
3. Clas	sificatio	n			
Category district building(s) X structure site object	Ownership _X_ public private both Public Acquisit in process being consid		atus occupied unoccupied work in progress ccessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Pro	pertv	1		
name street & number	Lawrence_Cou County Cour	·	issioners		
city, town	Bedford		vicinity of	state	Indiana 47421
5. Loca	ation of I	egal	Descriptio	n	and a second
			County Recorder		an an air dh' bhinn in chuir an ann an ann an tarraicheann an tarraicheann an tarraicheann an tarraicheann an a
street & number	-	County Co	ourthouse		
city, town		Bedford		state	Indiana
6. Repr	resentat		Existing \$	Surveys	
title		None	has this pro	perty been determined ele	gible?yes _Xno
date				federal state	e county local
depository for su	rvey records				
city, town				state	

Description 7.

Co	nd	iti	on	
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Condition		Check one
excellent	deteriorated	_X_ unaltered
X good		altered
fair	unexposed	
	<u>\</u>	

Check one _X_ original site moved date .

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

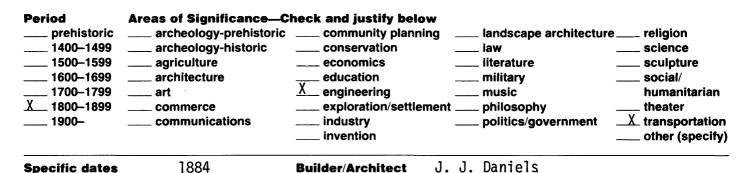
The Williams Bridge is located in Lawrence County on County Road 1000 West, one mile southwest of Williams, Indiana. Built by J. J. Daniels in 1884, the two-span bridge is of the Howe truss design and spans the East Fork of the White River.

The structure is 376' in length, with an additional 13' of overhang at each end. According to Bryan E. Ketchum, Covered Bridges on the Byways of Indiana, the bridge is 16' wide and 12' 6" high. Abutments at either end are made of cut stone. A central support pier is also of rockfaced stone, laid in a regular ashlar pattern.

Covering the important structural members of the bridge are strips of vertically placed, wooden board siding. Pieces of the siding are now missing, leaving certain structural members exposed. The siding stops short of the bridge's upper chord to allow the entry of light and ventilation. The structure is covered by a gabled roof sheathed in sheet metal with slightly projecting eaves. The portals are square in shape with rounded corners. The bridge has had no alterations since its construction.

The Williams Bridge is the only extant example of a Howe truss bridge built in Indiana by J. J. Daniels. It utilizes the wrought iron, vertical rod, which adds tensile strength to the otherwise entirely wooden structure.

8. Significance.



Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Williams Bridge is significant as the longest covered bridge in Indiana still in use, and as the only surviving example of a Howe truss bridge built in Indiana by J. J. Daniels, one of the state's foremost bridge builders.

According to George C. Gould, <u>Indiana Covered Bridges Thru The Years</u>, Daniels preferred to use the Burr Arch truss but was occasionally forced by competitors or desires of county commissioners to use the Howe truss. Of the 47 bridges which he built in Indiana, only two were of the Howe truss type.

The 376' Williams Bridge is surpassed in length only by the 434' Medora covered bridge, a Burr Arch construction in Jackson County, built also by J. J. Daniels, which was by-passed in 1972. The Massillon Bridge Company, Massillon, Ohio, executed the construction of the Williams Bridge in 1884, at a cost of \$18,700.00. The structure was named for Isaac Williams, founder of the nearby town.

The Howe truss was patented by William Howe in 1840. The discovery that metal functioned as a better tension member than wood led to the introduction of the wrought iron vertical post to the all-wooden truss. This introduction of metal as a tension member, while using the wood as compression members, was the essential feature of the Howe truss design, and was an important step toward the development of the all-metal truss.

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Gould, George	Sanders, <u>Cove</u> E., <u>Indiana Co</u> Indianapol E., Covered B	vered Bridge is, Ind.	s Thru The Ye	<u>ars</u> , 1977,	, Ind.	.A., Bonanza Bo Cov. Bridge Soc ford.Ohio
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List all states an	d counties for pro	operties overla	pping state or c	ounty bound	laries	
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11. Forn	n Prepare	ed By				
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street & number	567 West Westf			elephone	317/259	-0105
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