

**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

For HCRS use only
received OCT 6 1981
date entered NOV 9 1981

1. Name

historic Williams Bridge

and/or common Lawrence County Bridge 128, Williams Bridge

2. Location

SW of Williams

street & number On Lawrence County Road 1000 West (C.R. 11) ° not for publication

city, town Williams mic. vicinity of congressional district 8th

state Indiana code 018 county Lawrence code 093

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Lawrence County Commissioners

street & number County Courthouse

city, town Bedford vicinity of state Indiana 47421

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lawrence County Recorder

street & number County Courthouse

city, town Bedford state Indiana

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 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

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 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 1884 **Builder/Architect** J. J. Daniels

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, Indiana Covered Bridges Thru The Years, 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.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Allen, Richard Sanders, Covered Bridges of the Middle West, 1970, U.S.A., Bonanza Books
 Gould, George E., Indiana Covered Bridges Thru The Years, 1977, Ind. Cov. Bridge Soc.,
 Indianapolis, Ind.
 Ketchum, Bryan E., Covered Bridges on the Byways of Indiana, 1949, Oxford, Ohio

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT MEASURED
UTM NOT MEASURED

Acreege of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Williams

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6
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5	2	9	0	8	0
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4	2	9	4	0	7	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification A "J"-shaped tract of land two rods wide laying one rod either side of the centerline of County Road 11 and beginning 50' North of the north end of the Bridge; then southwesterly over the Bridge and then turning northwest on the roadway, continuing to a point 100' by the roadway from the southwest end of the Bridge.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Warren T. Hobson, President

organization Warren T. Hobson & Associates, Inc.

date October 8, 1980

street & number 567 West Westfield Boulevard

telephone 317/259-0105

city or town Indianapolis

state Indiana 46208

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

John T. Coletto

title

date 10-6-81

For HCERS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 11/9/81

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration