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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions for how to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for not applicable. For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Adams Mill Covered Bridge

other names/site number Carroll County Bridge #39 015-553-00955

2. Location

street & number County Road 50 E over Wildcat Creek N/A not for publication

city or town Cutler XX vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Carroll code 015 zip code 46920

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia R. Lohr 11-20-95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. Entered in the National Register 1.11.96
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Adams Mill Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Carroll County, Indiana
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation - Road Related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation - Pedestrian Related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Howe Truss with added Burr Arch

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation METAL: Iron, CONCRETE
walls WOOD
roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Engineering _____

Transportation _____

Period of Significance

1872 - c.1937 _____

Significant Dates

1872 _____

1900 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Smith, Robert W. _____

Wheelock Bridge Company _____

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Carroll Co. Historical Museum _____

Carroll Co. Auditor's Office _____

Adams Mill Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Carroll County, Indiana
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6
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5	4	1	3	8	0
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4	4	8	1	3	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

3

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Zone Easting Northing

4

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 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William R. Brown, President
organization Carroll County Historical Society date 2-1-95
street & number P.O. Box 591 telephone 317/268-2734 or 564-2060
city or town Cutler state IN zip code 46920

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

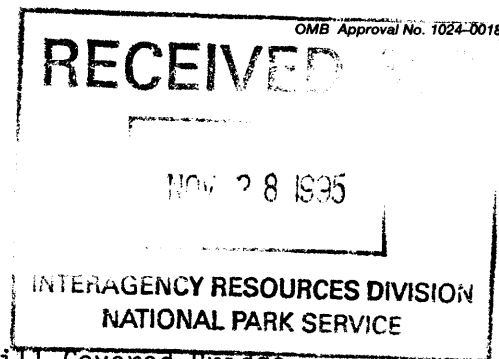
name Carroll County Commissioners
street & number Carroll County Courthouse telephone 317/564-3172
city or town Delphi state IN zip code 46923

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**



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Adams Mill Covered Bridge
Carroll County, Indiana

Architectural Description

The Adams Mill Covered Bridge (1872) spans Wildcat Creek, a tree-lined stream about 140' wide, on an east-west alignment. It was closed to vehicular traffic in 1972, but is still used as a pedestrian bridge. Nearly all of the siding is gone, exposing the structural members. The community is currently raising funds to match a federal grant to restore the bridge.

The structure of the bridge is a double Howe truss with a full-length Burr arch bolted to it. The bridge rests on two sets of iron abutments over white oak pilings. Although the abutments were only guaranteed for three years, they have lasted for over 120. At the point where the bridge meets the stream bank, it is supported on piers which were recently covered in concrete to stabilize the original materials.

The Adams Mill bridge is 160' in length with a clear height of 12'. As is typical of Howe truss bridges, the portal overhangs are cantilevered out from the end posts. The interior width is just over 15'. A gap of 3' between the top of the siding and the eaves provided light to the interior. Most of the siding is missing, but a few panels remain. Floor planks appear to be in good condition and relatively intact. Each truss panel is 8' wide and the diagonals are made from 4 1/2" x 6 1/2" timbers. The panels were prefabricated in Ohio, shipped flat, and assembled in Indiana. The timbers of the Burr arch are 5 1/2" x 11 1/2" and are bolted through the vertical posts with 2 3/4" bolts. The lower chord members are 3 1/2" x 11 1/2", four on each side. The board-and-batten siding was made of 12" x 1" lumber, of which only a few fragments remain. It was originally painted red, but the color was changed to white sometime before 1900. The gable ends are undecorated. The original wood shingle roof was recently replaced with asphalt shingles.

Statement of Significance

Adams Mill Covered Bridge is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its unique structure. It is one of only two covered bridges in Carroll County, and the only bridge in Indiana that combines a Howe truss with a Burr arch. It is also eligible under Criterion A in the area of transportation, as an example of the improvements in roads and bridges that spread through Indiana after the Civil War. The period of significance runs from the construction of the bridge in 1872 until Adams Mill ceased operation c. 1937.

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Carroll County, Indiana

Statement of Significance - cont.

In the area of architecture/engineering, the Adams Mill bridge is significant because of its introduction of a Burr arch into an existing Howe truss bridge. Most covered bridges in the state built after 1880 were of the Howe truss type, as it was easy to assemble and could be shipped prefabricated. This truss substituted iron rods for wooden posts as tension members, thus eliminating one set of heavy timbers and providing a means of easy adjustment by turnbuckles on the ends of the iron rods. At the turn of the century, county commissioners decided that the bridge was bearing heavier loads than it could safely carry. Their response was to have a timber arch bolted to the existing bridge members. The truss panels of the Howe bridge are sandwiched between two sets of arch timbers. At present, there are only 22 Howe truss covered bridges and 57 Burr arch covered bridges in the state. Adams Mill is the only bridge in Indiana that incorporates both structural systems.

The Adams Mill bridge is also significant in the area of transportation. In 1871, the Carroll County Commissioners ordered two bridges from the Wheelock Bridge Company in Fort Wayne, Indiana, agents of R. W. Smith & Co. of Toledo, Ohio. The two bridges were built at a total cost of \$12, 237 (both bridges bought with the same check), and are the only two covered bridges remaining in Carroll County. Adams Mill, south of the Adams Mill bridge, served the farmers of southern Carroll County. The mill building also housed the Wild Cat Masonic Lodge, and the Wild Cat post office was located nearby, making the area a center of activity for rural residents. Before the covered bridge was completed in 1872, farmers had to cross the 140' Wildcat Creek at a dangerous ford. The bridge made it possible to reach the mill and other local facilities more quickly and safely, which may have resulted in increased business for the mill. Covered bridges are commonly found near mills and mill sites in Indiana, reflecting the importance of grain mills in nineteenth-century society. Bridges were costly and were therefore usually located only in high-traffic areas, such as near mills and on major roads.

Adams Mill continued to play an important role in the local economy, as shown by the county commissioners' decision to reinforce the bridge in 1900 with the Burr arch so it could bear heavier loads of grain on their way to the mill. Although the bridge is now closed to vehicular traffic, it remains open to pedestrians.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Adams Mill Covered Bridge
Carroll County, Indiana

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Carroll County Commissioners Record, 1871. Volume 7, p. 244.

Gatewood, Arthur, Jr. Indiana Covered Bridge Location Guide. Fortville, IN:
Indiana Covered Bridge Society, 1988.

Gould, George E. Indiana Covered Bridges Through the Years. Indianapolis:
Indiana Covered Bridge Society, 1977.

Gould, George E. Indiana Covered Bridge Society Newsletter 10 (April/July 1973).
"Carroll County Covered Bridges."

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

An area of Democrat Township, Carroll County, Indiana, including the right of way of the Adams Mill Covered Bridge, its superstructure and abutments, including 15' of the approaches on the northwest and southeast banks of Wildcat Creek.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the nominated structure and its approaches.