

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100004361

Date Listed: 9/06/2019

Property Name: Lime Lake – Lake Gage Channel and Bridge

County: Steuben

State: IN

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Ann K. Stein*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

9/6/2019  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====  
Section 5: Ownership

PUBLIC/Local is hereby checked

This reflects the ownership of the bridge itself, which is owned and maintained by the county.

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Indiana State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

=====  
**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

4361

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 in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge

Other names/site number: Lime Lake Public Access Site; 151-018-15001

Name of related multiple property listing:

New Deal Resources on Indiana State Lands

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



### 2. Location

Street & number: North Lake Gage Drive

City or town: Angola State: IN County: Steuben

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide   x   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  x   A     B     C     D

 <hr/> <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<u>7.18.2019</u> <hr/> <b>Date</b>
<u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u> <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/> <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<hr/> <b>Date</b>
<hr/> <b>Title :</b>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

*AW Anne H. Sutton*  
Signature of the Keeper

9/6/2019  
Date of Action

**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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

LANDSCAPE: natural feature

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

LANDSCAPE: natural feature

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Park Rustic

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone

walls: Stone

roof: N/A

other: Concrete

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge, located in Mill Grove Township, Steuben County, Indiana, connect the freshwater lakes of Lime Lake and Lake Gage. Constructed at the site of a pre-1936 small stream and area of low-lying seasonal wetlands, the channel has a sand bottom and its banks are lined with deliberately placed fieldstones. Historic plantings at the site include hybrid tamarack trees that line the bank and other vegetation that has propagated in the wild to create a random, natural setting. Spanning the channel is a small bridge constructed of concrete supports set upon, and spanning between, paired fieldstone and concrete abutments flanked by similarly constructed concrete and fieldstone wingwalls. The channel and bridge retain a remarkable degree of historic integrity.

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## Narrative Description

The Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge is located in Mill Grove Township, Steuben County, Indiana. The Channel and Bridge site is located on a small isthmus between the freshwater lakes of Lime Lake and Lake Gage. Part of the nominated site is located within Lime Lake Public Access Site, owned by the State of Indiana. The north end of the Public Access Site along Lime Lake includes a picnic area, with a slightly higher elevation and is planted with grass and a mixture of mature conifer and deciduous trees. Owned by the State of Indiana, Department of Natural Resources, the Public Access Site also includes a gravel parking lot and concrete boat launch ramp accessing Lime Lake. The road and bridge are owned by Steuben County (County); DNR and the county cooperatively manage and maintain the resources in the nominated area.

From its mouth at Lake Gage, the Channel and Bridge Site boundary follows the north side of the channel west approximately 159 feet and includes the abutments, and bridge, as it continues to Lime Lake. On the south side of the channel, the approximately 150 feet boundary follows the channel's edge to the Bridge, and continues west to the channel's mouth at Lime Lake. Due to seasonal variations in the water level of the lakes, the channel shoreline can fluctuate in length.

On the west, towards Lime Lake, the channel and bridge are surrounded on both sides of the water by a low-lying wooded area with a mixture of hybrid Tamarack trees, planted c. 1936, and typical regional native plants. On the west side of the bridge the southern bank of the channel has cottages bordering Lime Lake. On the east side of the channel and bridge (both north and south) are found cottages bordering Lake Gage.

The channel was constructed at the site of a pre-1936 small stream and area of low-lying seasonal wetlands. As shown on early plat maps, the small stream flowed in a northwesterly direction from Lake Gage to Lime Lake (Attachment A). Dredged in 1936 by workers employed under a Works Progress Administration grant, the channel still flows in a northwesterly direction.<sup>1</sup> The channel has a sand bottom and its banks are lined with deliberately placed fieldstones, ranging in size from that of a baseball to that of volleyball (Photo 1). The historic plantings of hybrid tamarack trees line the bank and the orderly plantings of 1936 have propagated in the wild to create a more random, natural setting.<sup>2</sup> Aerial photographs from 1938 and 2005 document not only the completion of the dredging, channel and bridge construction projects, but also show the increase in vegetative cover from 1938, the relationship of the channel to the lakes, and the rise of water level from 1938 (Attachments B and C). Excepting the increased wild vegetation and rising water level, the channel retains most of the c. 1936 character.

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<sup>1</sup> Morley, Harvey W., *The 1955 History of Steuben County, Indiana* (Angola, IN; Harvey w. Morley, 1956)

<sup>2</sup> "Hitzfield remembers first outboard motor on Gage" *Steuben County Herald Republican*, July 14, 1995 (Lake Gage Clipping File, Angola Public Library, Angola, IN)

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Spanning the channel and carrying North Lake Gage Drive over the channel is a small fieldstone and concrete bridge. (Photo 2) It is 14.8 feet in width, 26 feet in length and 7 feet in rise.<sup>3</sup> It is constructed of concrete supports set upon, and spanning between, paired fieldstone and concrete abutments flanked by similarly constructed concrete and fieldstone wingwalls. The concrete supports are horizontal, having a flat arch aspect. Rising from the fieldstone abutments and spanning the outer edges of the bridge are paired decorative fieldstone and concrete walls with small pillars at each end of each of the walls, as well as a small pillar in the center of each wall. (Photos 1 and 3) The pillars are both slightly wider and taller than the accompanying wall, with the body of the wall slightly recessed from the pillars. "Ghosts" of a metal lamp that once graced the central pillar on each side of the bridge remain, and the metal lamps are documented in a c. 1938 photo. (Attachment D) The bridge retains a remarkable degree of historic integrity, and with the exception of the loss of the metal lamps from the central pillars of the wall and seasonally cleaned paint graffiti vandalism under the bridge, all of the bridges' character defining features remain from 1936.

WPA Plans, c. 1936, for the area that is now the Public Access Site included both fish rearing ponds and game bird rearing houses.<sup>4</sup> If built, no trace remains of such ponds and houses.

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<sup>3</sup> Dimensions from the inspection reports of the Steuben County Highway Department. Bridge terminology from Cooper, James L., *Artistry and Ingenuity in Artificial Stone: Indiana's Concrete Bridges, 1900-1942* (No city, No publisher 1997) 10

<sup>4</sup> Weaver, Joseph A., *Lake Gage and Lime Lake Reflections* (No city: Joseph A. Weaver, 2002)

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## 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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1936-1950

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1936

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person (last name, first name)**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder (last name, first name)**

Works Progress Administration (WPA)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### **Period of Significance (justification)**

The Bridge and Channel played an important role in the establishment and growth of a lake cottage culture that had its highlight in the years from 1870-1950. Therefore, its period of significance begins in 1936 with its construction and ends in 1950.

### **Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge and Channel are significant under National Register Criterion A in that they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Constructed in 1936, the bridge and channel are representative of Works Progress Administration projects in Indiana. They also embody the distinctive construction method and defining characteristics of the Park Rustic architectural style, a style that became associated with vacation and resort architecture, and meet the associated property types guidelines related to infrastructure resources discussed in the Multiple Property document "New Deal Resources on Indiana State Lands."

The Bridge and Channel played an important role in the establishment and growth of a lake cottage culture that had its highlight in the years from 1870-1950. Therefore, its period of significance begins in 1936 with its construction and continues to 1950. The Lime Lake - Lake Gage Bridge and Channel retains integrity in its location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association and feeling, which, aside from normal maintenance and vegetative growth, remains largely unchanged.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge and Channel are significant under National Register Criterion A, as being associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Representing the New Deal's response to the Great Depression of the 1930's, the bridge and channel outstandingly represent a Works Project Administration project in Indiana. The channel and bridge also embody the distinctive construction method and defining

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characteristics of the Park Rustic architectural style, a style that became associated with vacation and resort architecture. The bridge and channel also meet the associated property types guidelines related to infrastructure resources discussed in the Multiple Property document “New Deal Resources on Indiana State Lands.”

The Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge are locally significant under the categories of Social History and Entertainment as examples of New Deal era Works Progress Administration Projects that addressed not only the rampant unemployment of the Great Depression by providing work for local men, but also increased the recreational opportunities for vacationers and local residents. The Bridge and Channel played an important role in the establishment and growth of a lake cottage culture that had its highlight in the years from 1870-1950. The Lime Lake - Lake Gage Bridge and Channel retains integrity in its location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association and feeling, which, aside from normal maintenance and vegetative growth, remains largely unchanged. This meets the registration requirements established in the Multiple Property Document for “New Deal Resources on Indiana State Lands.”

Due to the unique geography of the county, Steuben County has a large number of freshwater lakes of varying sizes. Remnants of the glaciers, some of these “kettle-hole” lakes are quite large, the deepest reaching to 100 feet deep. Lake Gage is one such “kettle-hole” lake, oval shaped and approximately one mile by three quarters of a mile. It has been described as “one of the finest specimens in Indiana.”<sup>5</sup> Beginning in the 1870s, the cool clear freshwater lakes, and the expansion of railroad service through the area made the area a magnet for vacationing Midwesterners, who spent the hot, pre-air-conditioned summers at the lakes. They escaped from the heat of cities like Toledo, Fort Wayne, Cleveland and Indianapolis to enjoy the cool breezes off the lakes and the abundant fishing. Initially in tourist hotels, and then gradually into cottages of their own, the influx of summer residents brought a vitality to the local economy that continues to this day. Drawing primarily from Indiana, and the neighboring states of Michigan and Ohio, the influx of visitors, “brings many tourist dollars to Indiana, as the purchase price of lots of buildings, or building materials, as contractors’ profits, and a taxes on the property and improvements. In addition, groceries, gasoline, and other items of living expenses, add materially to the income of merchants located in this county.”<sup>6</sup>

Previous to the widespread use of air conditioning in residential construction in the 1950s, the Midwest was home to an annual summer migration of upper and upper-middle class families from the summer heat of the city to the relative cool of the lakes. Due to the large mass of cool water, temperatures at the lakeside could be as much as 5 degrees cooler than the surrounding farmland. Families would come for an extended period varying from a week to the entire four-month season, which traditionally lasted from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Local property owners subdivided their lakeside property into small narrow lots whose primary value was their lakeside frontage. Cottages were soon established. Ranging from the initial gable front two-story designs, to a more common side gable one-story design in the 1910s and 1920s,

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<sup>5</sup> Charles Redway Dryer, *Studies in Indiana Geography*, (Terre Haute, IN: Inland Publishing Co., 1908)

<sup>6</sup> Harvey Morley, “Recreational Industry” in *The 1955 History of Steuben County*, Harvey Morley, ed., (Angola, IN: Harvey W. Morley, 1956) 153.

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the cottages represent a distinct vernacular architectural type. Defined by their proximity in siting to a recreational resource such as a lake or river, the lake cottage had an extensive use of porches and was typically single pile in massing. As the number of cottages increased, cottages surrounded the lakes on all sides. The number of vacationers and summer residents grew to such an extent that by the 1920s large hotels and entertainment complexes sprang up that served not only the lakes but the surrounding county as well.<sup>7</sup> The influx of visitors made, and continues to make, the tourism, recreation and vacation industries important in the economy of the county. Spawning a unique “lake cottage” culture and architecture, the area continues to be defined by lakeside living. These summer residents first arrived at the vacation resorts at the lakes via the railroad. The nearest to Lake Gage was the short-lived St. Joseph Valley Railroad with a stop on the north side of the lake. Operating only from 1906 to 1918, the St. Joe Valley Line was popularly known as the “Arnica Salve” line after the patent medicine that brought its owner his wealth.<sup>8</sup> Originating in Elkhart, Indiana and heading east to Orland and Angola, the line ran along the north side of both Lime Lake and Lake Gage. Guests of the important Shady Nook resort, the large vacation resort located approximately one-half mile south of the Lime Lake - Lake Gage channel and bridge, would arrive at the lake and then be ferried across the lake.<sup>9</sup> This was necessary due to the poor condition of what few roads existed and the impassable nature of the low-lying area between the two lakes. Previous to the automobile, and “even as late as 1940, (Hoosier) motorists often confronted a morass in the spring and a choking dust in the summer.”<sup>10</sup> When the widespread use of the automobile began in the 1920s, the county began to address the deplorable nature of rural roads through a program for the improvement of roads. Last among these projects, due to their seasonal nature, were the routes in and around the many lakes. In 1936 when the channel and bridge were constructed, the parks and state lands of Indiana were undergoing a building boom.<sup>11</sup> Federal money and workers in the form of programs like the CCC, FERA, and WPA had unleashed thousands of men into the parks to construct trails and bridges, replant trees, regulate waterflow, and construct shelters and other buildings. Most of the construction of buildings and bridges that were to be used by the public were in the Park Rustic Style. Originating in mountain resort architecture, the style became increasingly standard in park architecture during the Depression.<sup>12</sup> Using native material to blend into the landscape as much as possible, the style extensively used fieldstone as cladding.<sup>13</sup> The Lime Lake – Lake Gage Bridge is built in, and outstandingly represents the Park Rustic Style. In Park Rustic bridge construction of the time, “while their understructure might be concrete and steel forms, such material was hidden beneath earth or stone.”<sup>14</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Complexes such as Bledsoe’s Beach, Island Park, Cold Springs and Buck Lake Resort had resident jazz bands, dance halls, ice cream parlors, boat races and water slides.

<sup>8</sup> Theron Miller, “The St. Joseph Valley Railway” in *The 1955 History of Steuben County*, Harvey Morley, ed. (Angola, IN: Harvey W. Morley, 1956) 182, 185-86

<sup>9</sup> Shady Nook promotional brochure, 1902. Orland Public Library, Lake Gage clipping file.

<sup>10</sup> James H. Madison, *Indiana through Tradition and Change: A History of the Hoosier State and its People, 1920-1945*, (Indianapolis, IN: Indiana Historical Society, 1962) 190

<sup>11</sup> Glory-June Greiff, “New Deal Resources on Indiana State Lands” National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. 1996, 17.

<sup>12</sup> Ethan Carr, *Wilderness by Design: Landscape Architecture and the National Park Service*, (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1998) 43.

<sup>13</sup> Greiff, 8.

<sup>14</sup> Greiff, 5.



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Large numbers of Park Rustic Style structures were constructed in Steuben County during the Depression. The majority were constructed on State of Indiana owned land, with a concentration at the large Pokagon State Park. The entirety of Pokagon State Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The buildings and structures at the park, like the Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge make extensive use of fieldstone and concrete construction. These structures include picnic shelters, drinking fountains, beach houses, gatehouses and the Potawatomi Inn. There is a WPA-era bridge at the Park but it is constructed using a wood deck and supports with field stone wingwalls. Other WPA-era fieldstone constructed structures are found at the National Register listed Fawn River State Fish Hatchery north of the Town of Orland. This is in Mill Grove Township, as is the Lime Lake – Lake Gage Bridge and Channel. These structures include an ornamental gate as well as a small fieldstone bridge with similar span, length, material and construction method to the Lime Lake – Lake Gage Bridge. The bridge at the Fawn River Hatchery spans a small feeder stream diverting water from the Fawn River to the fish-rearing ponds. This bridge is the only other similar bridge to the Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge in Steuben County.

The Lime Lake - Lake Gage channel, like many others in Steuben County connects two freshwater lakes. Remnants of glacial moraines and “kettle holes”, these lakes stretch throughout the county, often connected to other lakes by small streams or areas of low-lying marsh. Early settlers used these lake outlets as waterpower for mills, such as at Nevada Mills and Jamestown. Later development of the lake cottage culture in the county led to dredging of the small streams and wetlands to allow for the passage of boats. At first sail and human powered, as population around the lakes increased so did the use of motor powered boats. The Lime Lake – Lake Gage Channel represents one of the few remaining dredged channels limited by size to the passage of human powered and very small motor powered boats. As such it is a unique resource. Equally unique is the condition of the channel. Largely covered with vegetation, the majority of the channel remains relatively undeveloped. As noted in the narrative description, the sand bottom and deliberately placed fieldstones are unique in Steuben County amongst dredged channels between lakes.

When the construction of the channel between Lime Lake and Lake Gage began in 1936, the United States was still in the midst of the Great Depression, the largest economic calamity and dislocation our nation has yet experienced. Millions of men, women and children were thrown out of work, hungry and in danger of losing their homes. In Steuben County, the economic situation mirrored that of the nation as a whole. Large-scale unemployment was to some degree tempered by the rural nature of the county, with agriculture, hunting and fishing providing many with means to feed themselves. Nonetheless, thousands remained out of work.

FDR’s New Deal touched the county in programs like the large Civilian Conservation Corps Camp at Pokagon State Park, as well as in the construction of municipal and educational buildings in the county seat of Angola, and other small towns like Metz and Salem Center. The Works Progress Administration introduced by FDR in 1935 brought work to local unemployed men. The use of Federal funds allowed counties in Indiana to address needs like public buildings, roads, and parks that had been delayed by the Depression.

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On August 7, 1935, the *Steuben Republican* announced the suspension of work under the Public Works Administration and the era of the Works Progress Administration began in Steuben County.<sup>15</sup> Shortly after, in a September 4, 1935 column entitled “Federal Funds to be Sought”, a list of projects including “improvements of roadways about the principal lakes” was presented, anticipating the award of funds under the WPA.<sup>16</sup> The announcement of a large award under the WPA of \$195,000 to employ 158 men, allowed the commencement of road improvement projects throughout the county.<sup>17</sup> In the same article, announcement was also made of a \$14,538 conservation project. This was to employ 13 men to build 45 low water dams, to control soil erosion and retard the drainage of the lakes of the county.<sup>18</sup> It is likely that these grants were the WPA expenditures that paid for the construction of the Lime Lake - Lake Gage Bridge and Channel. The physical records in Steuben County relating to the expenditure of such money were destroyed in the 1970s. The first Steuben County Planning Board President, Harvey W. Morley, wrote in his 1955 *History of Steuben County* that the channel was dug in 1936.<sup>19</sup> Harvey W. Morley was President of the Planning Board in 1937. Lake Gage resident Theresa Hitzfield recalls WPA workers dredging the channel and planting hybrid Tamarack trees.<sup>20</sup> The c. 1938 aerial photo clearly shows the newly dredged channel and newly constructed road and bridge. (Attachment B) Throughout Steuben County, WPA labor was used in the construction of park facilities, both at the county and State level. WPA labor was used in the construction of county parks at Crooked and Clear Lakes, fish hatcheries at Fox Lake and Fawn River, and in the development of the Pigeon River State Forest.<sup>21</sup>

Concurrent with the efforts to dredge the channel, and construct the bridge, the Indiana Department of Conservation also acquired the adjacent shoreline to the north and west of the channel, and developed a fish hatchery plan that was not constructed. Most of the land and shoreline has remained with the state, however, and became the Lime Lake Public Access site, owned and maintained by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to the present. The Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge and Channel are historic resources located partly within this present day recreation site.

The Lime Lake – Lake Gage Channel and Bridge outstandingly represent a New Deal era civic improvement on Indiana State Lands. Although the setting has changed and matured throughout the intervening years, integrity remains. The Channel and Bridge represent the associated property types relating to conservation and infrastructure development described in the “New Deal Resources on Indiana State Lands Multiple Property Documentation Form.”

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<sup>15</sup> “Relief Work is Suspended”, *Steuben Republican*, August 7, 1935.

<sup>16</sup> “Federal Funds to be Sought”, *Steuben Republican*, September 4, 1935.

<sup>17</sup> “Steuben Gets Big Grant for Road Work”, *Steuben Republican*, November 13, 1935.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> Morley, 142.

<sup>20</sup> “Hitzfield remembers first outboard motor on Gage”, *Angola Herald-Republican*, July 14, 1995

<sup>21</sup> Floyd W. DeLancey, “The Conservation Clubs of Steuben County” in *The 1955 History of Steuben County*, Harvey Morley, ed. (Angola, IN: Harvey W. Morley, 1956) 270-72.

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**Developmental History/Additional historic context information**

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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"Record Number of Fish Hatcheries Operated," *Steuben Republican*, June 10, 1933. Page 1

"Relief Work is Suspended," *Steuben Republican*, August 7, 1935. Page 1

Shady Nook promotional brochure, 1902. Joyce Public Library, Orland, IN. Lake Gage clipping file.

Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge  
Name of Property

Steuben County, IN  
County and State

“Steuben Gets Big Grant for Road Work,” *Steuben Republican*, November 13, 1935. Page 1

Weaver, Joseph A. *Lake Gage and Lime Lake Reflections*. No city: Joseph A. Weaver, 2002.

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: ARCH, Inc.

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** 151-018-15001

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** less than one acre

Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge  
Name of Property

Steuben County, IN  
County and State

Use the UTM system

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 656853 | Northing: 4619174 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the Lime Lake - Lake Gage Channel and Bridge is shown as the thick line on the map included in this nomination application. It is also described verbally as the following: beginning at the point where Lake Gage and the Lime Lake - Lake Gage Channel meet proceed west approximately 159 feet along the visible edge of the north bank of the channel shoreline to the point where Lime Lake and the Lime Lake - Lake Gage Channel meet. From this point proceed south approximately 38 feet to the point where Lime Lake and the Lime Lake - Lake Gage Channel meet upon the south bank of the Lime Lake - Lake Gage Channel. From this point proceed east along the visible edge of the south bank of the channel shoreline to the point where the Lime Lake - Lake Gage Channel and Lake Gage meet upon the southern bank of the Lime Lake - Lake Gage Channel. From this point proceed north approximately 38 feet to return to the point of origin.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary contains all of the New Deal era channel and bridge. The Lime Lake Public Access Site has been excluded due to the lack of visible evidence that New Deal era construction remains. The rest of the Channel remains submerged due to rising lake levels and its condition is unknown. At this point in time, since it cannot serve its function, this portion of the Channel is not included in the boundary.

Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge  
Name of Property

Steuben County, IN  
County and State

---

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michael Galbraith and Angie Quinn  
organization: ARCH, Inc.  
street & number: 818 Lafayette Street  
city or town: Fort Wayne state: IN zip code: 46805  
e-mail information@archfw.org  
telephone: 260-426-5117  
date: July 1, 2009 and April 4, 2019

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Attachment A: 1912 Steuben County Plat map showing stream through Lake Gage-Lime Lake isthmus

Attachment B. 1938 Aerial photograph showing Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge

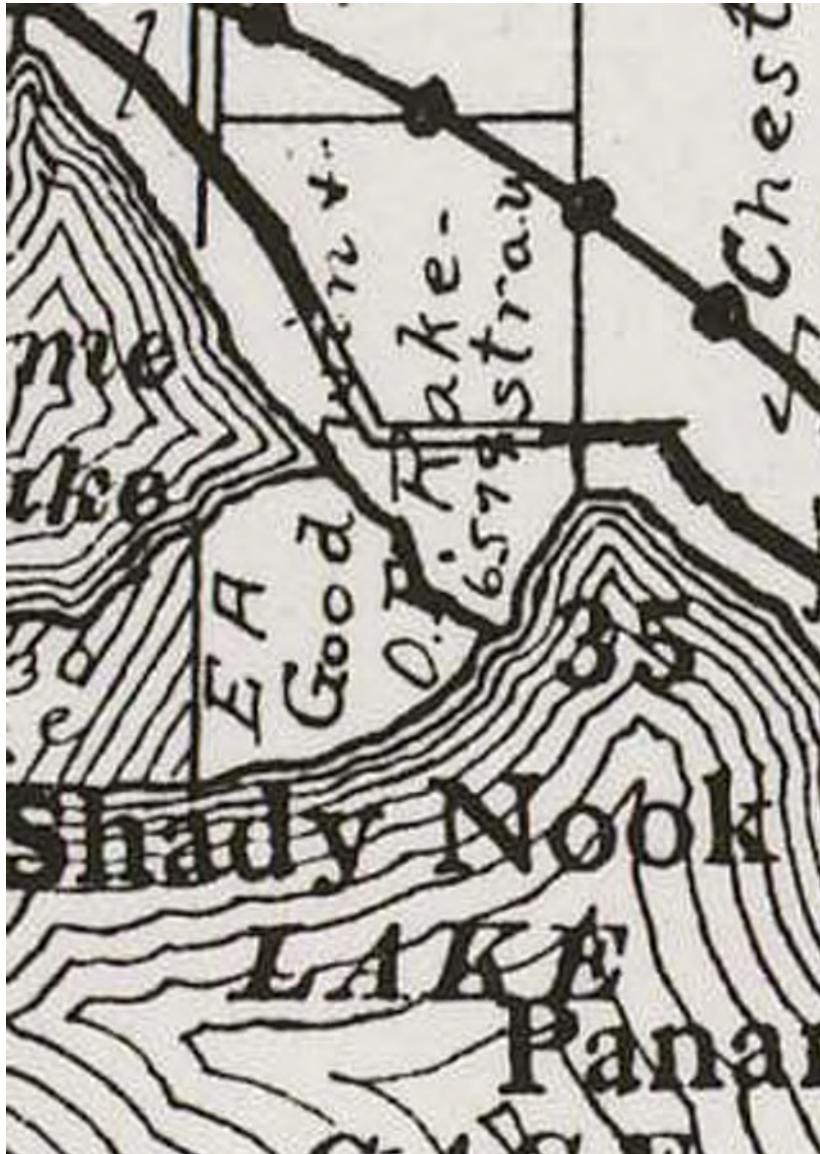
Attachment C. Lime Lake-Lake Channel, Bridge and Public Access Site.

Attachment D. Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge and Channel, c. 1938.

Attachment E. c.1936 Plan for Public Access Site including fish rearing ponds and game bird breeding houses.

Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge  
Name of Property

Steuben County, IN  
County and State



(Attachment A. 1912 Steuben County Plat map showing stream through Lake Gage-Lime Lake isthmus (Morley, H. W., 1912 *Atlas of Steuben County, Indiana* (Des Moines, IA: The Kenyon Company, 1912)))



Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge  
Name of Property

Steuben County, IN  
County and State



(Attachment B. 1938 Aerial photograph showing Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge. Note lower water level relative to 2017 photograph in Attachment C. (Courtesy Steuben County GIS office.))

Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge  
Name of Property

Steuben County, IN  
County and State



(Attachment C. Lime Lake-Lake Channel, Bridge and Public Access Site, 2017. Note higher water level from 1938 photograph in Attachment B. (Steuben County GIS web site, accessed March 5, 2019)

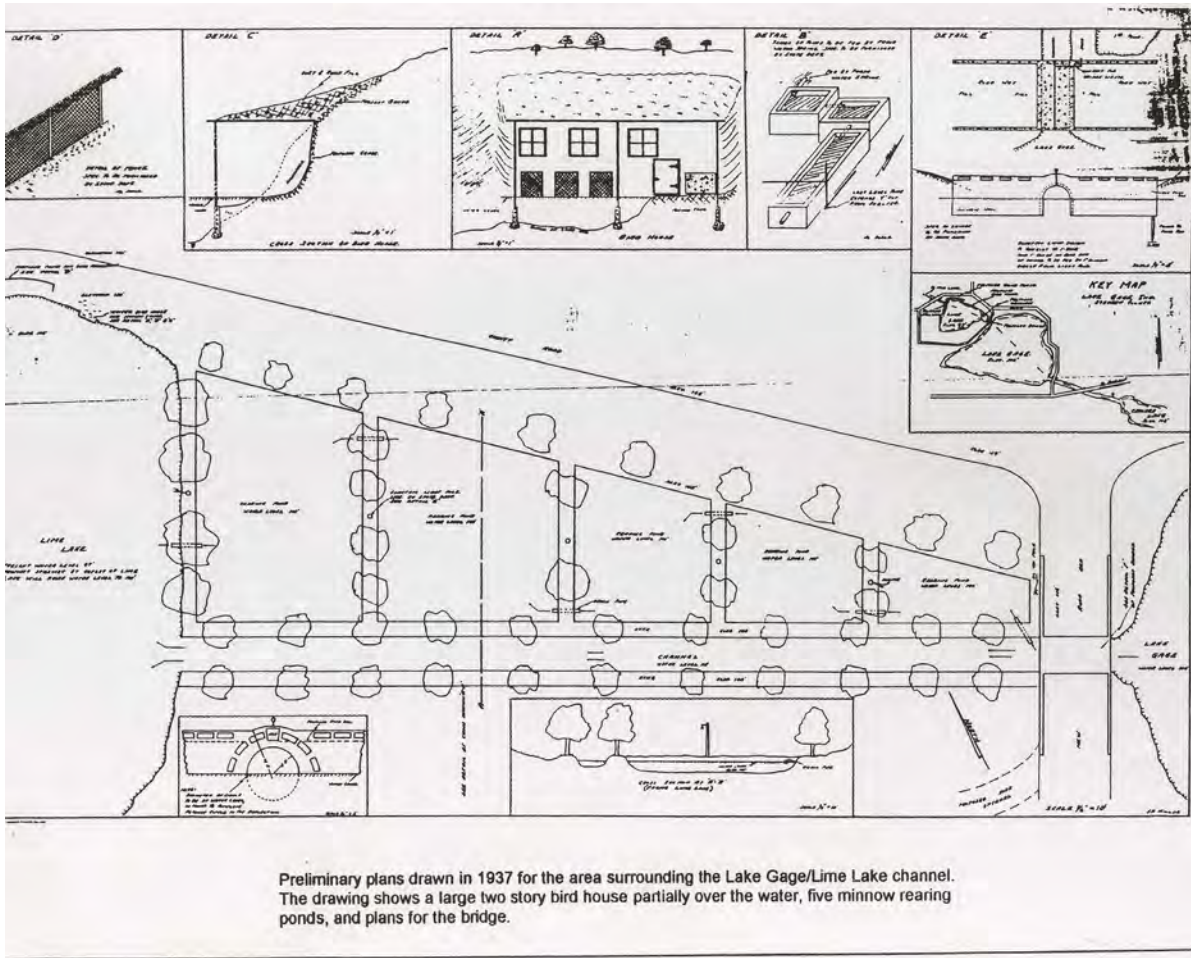


(Attachment D. Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge, c. 1938. Note metal lamps on central pillars of bridge walls (Munger, Lynn, *Memories of Steuben County* (Marceline, MO: Heritage House Publishing Co., 1997) 36



Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge  
Name of Property

Steuben County, IN  
County and State



(Attachment E. c.1937 plan for Public Access Site including fish rearing ponds and game bird breeding houses. (Weaver, Joseph A., *Lake Gage and Lime Lake Reflections* (No city: Joseph A. Weaver, 2002)

Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge  
Name of Property

Steuben County, IN  
County and State

### **Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### **Photo Log**

Name of Property: Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge

City or Vicinity: Angola

County: Steuben County

State: IN

Photographer: Jill Downs

Date Photographed: April 1, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 6. West side of Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge and Channel on the Lime Lake side, facing northeast. (IN\_Steuben County\_Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge\_0001)

2 of 6. East side of Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge on the Lake Gage side and east side of the Lime Lake Bridge on the Lime Lake side, facing southwest. (IN\_Steuben County\_Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge\_0002)

3 of 6. East side of Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge and Channel on the Lake Gage side, facing southwest. (IN\_Steuben County\_Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge\_0003)

4 of 6. West side of Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge on the Lake Gage side, facing northeast. (IN\_Steuben County\_Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge\_0004)

5 of 6. Facing east toward Lake Gage at the west side of the Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge. (IN\_Steuben County\_Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge\_0005)

6 of 6. Facing west toward Lime Lake at the east side of Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge and Channel. (IN\_Steuben County\_Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge\_0006)

Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge  
Name of Property

Steuben County, IN  
County and State

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

## Photo Log

Name of Property: Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge

City or Vicinity: Angola

County: Steuben County

State: IN

Photographer: Dave Johnson

Date Photographed: December 9, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 6. West side of Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge and Channel on the Lime Lake side, facing northeast. (IN\_Steuben County\_Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge\_0001)

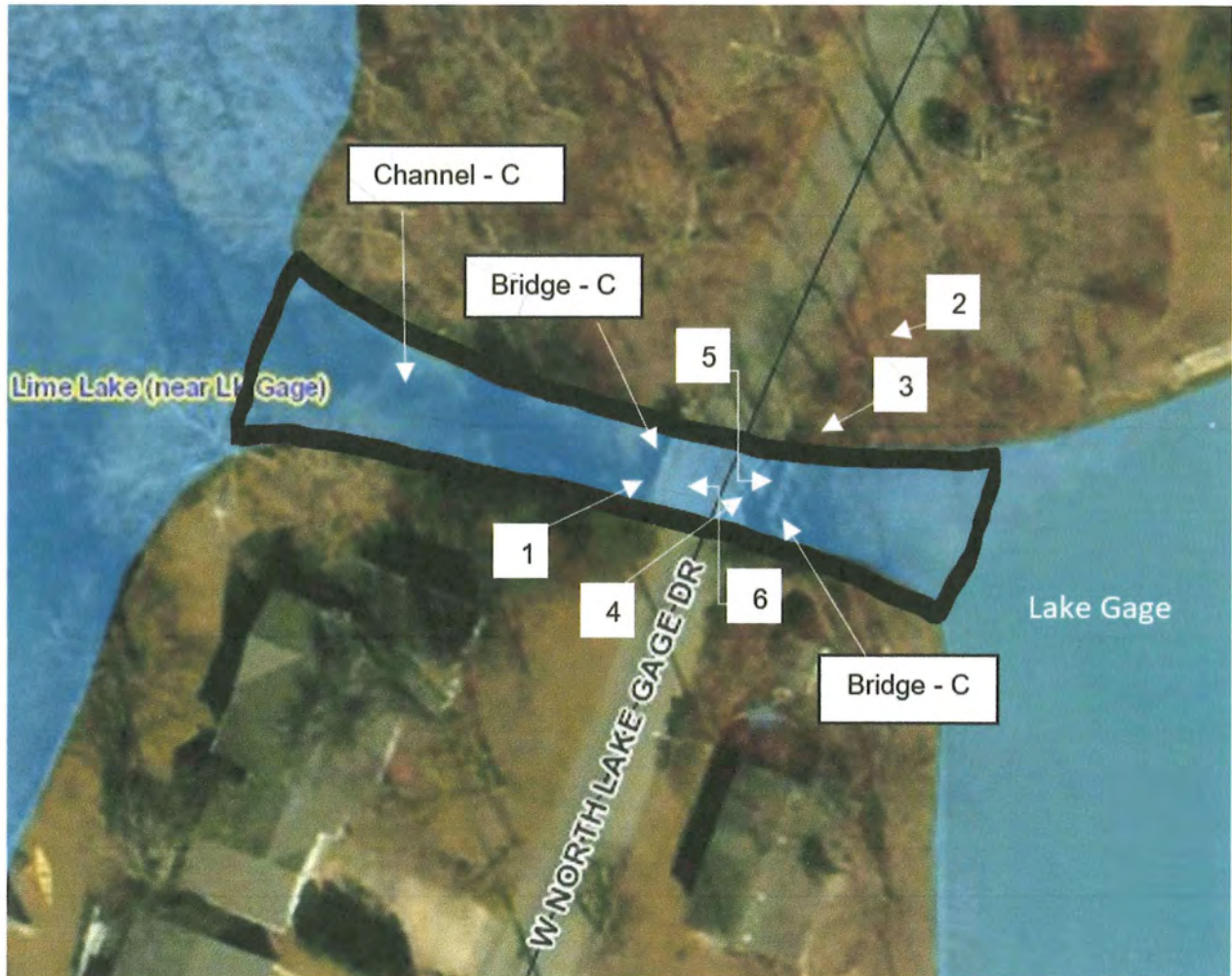
2 of 6. East side of Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge on the Lake Gage side and east side of the Lime Lake Bridge on the Lime Lake side, facing southwest. (IN\_Steuben County\_Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge\_0002)

3 of 6. East side of Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge and Channel on the Lake Gage side, facing southwest. (IN\_Steuben County\_Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge\_0003)

4 of 6. West side of Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge on the Lake Gage side, facing northeast. (IN\_Steuben County\_Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge\_0004)

5 of 6. Facing east toward Lake Gage at the west side of the Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge. (IN\_Steuben County\_Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge\_0005)

6 of 6. Facing west toward Lime Lake at the east side of Lime Lake-Lake Gage Bridge and Channel. (IN\_Steuben County\_Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge\_0006)



# = photo

C = contributing resource

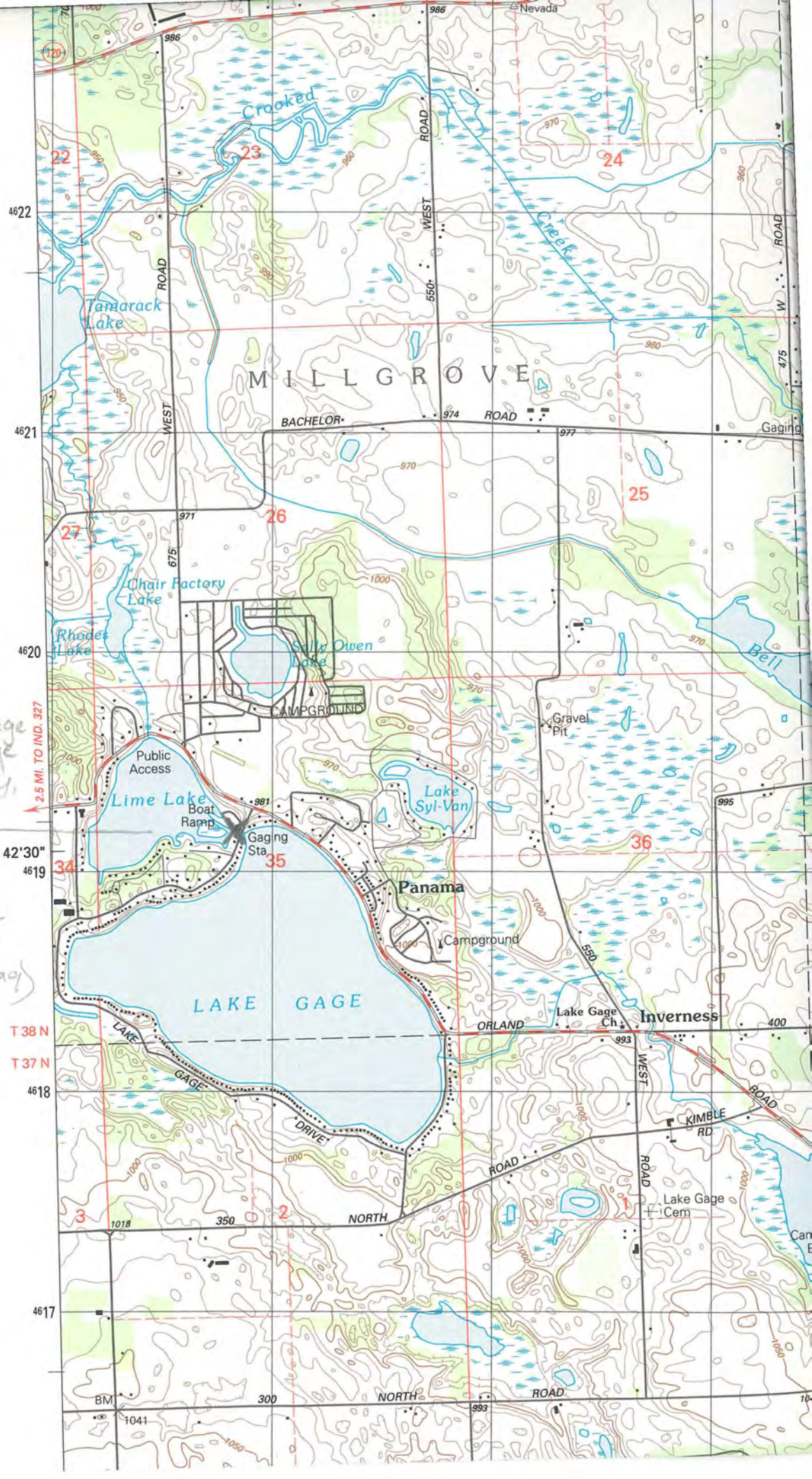
— = boundary

Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge  
North Lake Gage Drive  
Angola, Steuben County, IN



Lime Lake-Lake Gage  
Channel and Bridge  
Steuben County,  
Indiana

16 NAD 83 UTM 42°30'  
16 056853  
4619174  
(PLD 4/2009)





























National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination  
Property Name: Lime Lake - Lake Gage Channel and Bridge  
Multiple Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
State & County: INDIANA, Steuben

Date Received: 7/23/2019      Date of Pending List: 8/9/2019      Date of 16th Day: 8/26/2019      Date of 45th Day: 9/6/2019      Date of Weekly List: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference number: SG100004361  
Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

Accept       Return       Reject      9/6/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The channel and bridge meet the registration requirements of the MPS. They serve as a direct connection to the growth of the recreational uses of the two lakes by providing access between the lakes and to the lakes (via the bridge). Constructed as a concerted effort by local government to use Federal New Deal programs to enhance recreational opportunities in the lake region.

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept / A

Reviewer Dr. Juliette E. Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date 9/6/2019

DOCUMENTATION:      see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : Yes

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.





Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology • 402 W. Washington Street, W274 • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739  
Phone 317-232-1646 • Fax 317-232-0693 • dhpa@dnr.IN.gov • www.IN.gov/dnr/historic



July 18, 2019

Ms. Joy Beasley  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Lime Lake – Lake Gage Channel and Bridge, Steuben County, Indiana

Dear Ms. Beasley,

Enclosed is a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Lime Lake – Lake Gage Channel and Bridge, Steuben County, Indiana.

The property is publically owned, the channel is State of Indiana property and the bridge is owned by the Steuben County Commissioners. The Steuben County Commissioners have objected to the nomination. Additionally, several citizens have commented favorably, and unfavorably, on the nomination. The nomination was considered by the Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board, and tabled in 2009. The board reconsidered the application on July 17, 2019 and approved it. In as much as the objection to listing comes from a *public* owner, the board considered itself to be on solid ground in approving and voting to send the application forward to your office. All letters of comment from both 2009 and 2019 meetings are included for your use.

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Lime Lake – Lake Gage Channel and Bridge, Steuben County, Indiana, to the National Register of Historic Places.

Please address any questions you or your staff may have about this nomination to my National Register staff members, Paul Diebold or Holly Tate.

Sincerely,

Cameron F. Clark  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CFC:PCD:pcd

enclosure: nomination package



## STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Lynne Liechty**  
North District

**James A. Crowl**  
Middle District

**Ronald L. Smith**  
South District

June 20, 2019

Paul Diebold, DNR  
Assistant Director of Preservation Services  
Indiana DNR – Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology  
402 W. Washington St., Rm. W274  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Via Email: PDiebold@dnr.IN.gov

Re: Nomination of Lime Lake – Lake Gage Channel and Bridge to National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Diebold:

The Steuben County Commission Board is in receipt of the Nomination of the Lime Lake – Lake Gage Channel and Bridge to the National Register of Historic Places.

At the regularly scheduled Commissioners' Meeting on Monday, June 17, the Commissioners discussed the Nomination and have unanimously agreed that they are not in favor of the Nomination at this time.

We respectfully request that this correspondence be submitted for the Hearing on this matter scheduled for Wednesday, July 17, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. and that the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology deny the Nomination of the Lime Lake -Lake Gage Channel and Bridge, North Lake Gage Drive, Angola vicinity, Steuben County, Indiana to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions, or need further input, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Smith, President  
Steuben County Commissioners

RLS/els

317 South Wayne Street, Suite 2-H, Angola, Indiana 46703

Phone: (260) 668-1000 ext. 1224

Fax: (260) 665-8483

email: [countycommissioners@co.steuben.in.us](mailto:countycommissioners@co.steuben.in.us)



4361

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 in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge  
Other names/site number: Lime Lake Public Access Site; 151-018-15001  
Name of related multiple property listing:  
New Deal Resources on Indiana State Lands  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: North Lake Gage Drive  
City or town: Angola State: IN County: Steuben  
Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

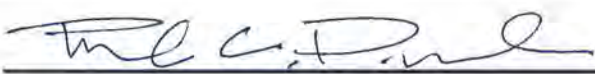

I hereby certify that this x nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide   x   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  x   A     B     C     D

 <hr/> <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b> <u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u> <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	 <hr/> <b>Date</b>
---	--

In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/> <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<hr/> <b>Date</b>
<hr/> <b>Title :</b>	<hr/> <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

Historic Preservation and Review Board  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Bob Magley  
280 LN 120 Lime Lake  
Angola, IN 46703  
bmagley@bomaggroup.com

REC 6.6.19  
PMD



Re: Lime Lake / Lake Gage Bridge Historical Registry Application  
July 17 meeting agenda item

Historical Registry Review Board,

I am the president of the Lime Lake Conservation Club, Inc. (LLCC) and am contacting your committee on behalf of the LLCC members.

The LLCC is opposed to registration of the subject bridge in the Historical Register. It is our opinion the registration is being solicited for the sole purpose of limiting access to Lake Gage from the public access on Lime Lake and has very little bearing on the historical significance of the bridge. Registration will only impede efforts, yet to be undertaken, to improve access between the two lakes.

Lake Gage is a large lake of 327 acres with no public access. Lime Lake is a smaller lake of 30 acres with a public access. Connecting the two lakes is a channel bisected with the subject bridge. The height and width of the bridge limits the type and size of boats that can access Lake Gage from the public access. The bridge height only allows small fishing boats, and boats with limited height, to pass underneath. Handicap accessible boats cannot pass underneath the bridge.

The bridge and channel is monitored by two property owners associations. The Lake Gage Lime Lake Association and the LLCC. The Lake Gage Lime Lake Association is predominately made up and governed by Lake Gage residents. Lime Lake residents have tried for years to convince the larger association to investigate dredging the channel under this bridge with no success. In 2018 concerned Lime Lake residents formed the LLCC with the main focus on improving the access to Lake Gage, specifically studying the possibility of dredging the channel connecting these lakes. In March of this year the State of Indiana awarded a grant to the LLCC to conduct an assessment for this dredging project and the assessment will take place this summer. Hopefully dredging will take place in 2020. At this time there is no intent to change or modify the existing bridge. However, it is the contention of the LLCC that registration of this bridge will someday, impede efforts to change the bridge to accommodate larger boats and boats equipped to accommodate handicap personnel.

There is no denying that the bridge is old and was made during the Roosevelt administration, by what we believe the WPA. However, the bridge does not represent any unique craftsmanship or construction techniques. It's simply a poured concrete structure with a natural fieldstone masonry facing. A construction technique used today. There have been no efforts to maintain the original beauty by restricting placement of utilities, replacing the broken off lights, or removing the graffiti as shown on the enclosed photos.

This is not the first time Historical Registration of this bridge has been attempted. This same issue was brought up and tabled in 2009 (meeting minutes attached) and was a topic of discussion in 2012 as shown in the attached newspaper article. All that has changed since those attempts is the establishment of the LLCC and the progress toward assessment of a channel dredging project.

It is our sincere desire for this review board to reject the application to list the Lake Gage Lime Lake Bridge on the National Historic Register. It's our opinion this application perverts the essence of the Historical Registry program by attempting to use the program to restrict the public from enjoying the Lake Gage natural resource.

Sincerely,

*Bob Magley*

Bob Magley  
President Lime Lake Conservation Club, Inc.



JUL 18 2019  
RECEIVED

July 11, 2019

Mr. Paul Diebold and the Indiana Historic Preservation Board  
402 W. Washington Street – W. 274  
Indianapolis, IN 46204



I am writing on behalf of the over 300 members of the Lake Gage Lime Lake Association in support of placing our historic channel and bridge on the National Register of Historic Places. This stream/channel has connected the two lakes for as long as there is any memory or writings about this area of Steuben County, and the bridge going back to 1936 or earlier. The bridge and the channel it goes over is not just an area landmark, it is the landmark for our lakes with its original concrete and fieldstone design. This is one place that if you visit today looks and feels as it has for over 75 years, when many of the original summer visitors to Lake Gage and Lime Lake arrived by early era automobiles.

Obviously the channel and bridge is a huge part of our local history, but it also served as contributor in the development of Lake Gage and Lime Lake. However, equally important the channel and bridge also represent a major part of our national history. As part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt New Deal Program, the stream between the two lakes was dredged and made into a channel and the bridge with it's unique design was constructed and today they represent that era in history.

Our fulltime and seasonal residents sincerely wish for the channel and bridge to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. We trust that in doing so it will allow future generations of families to enjoy the preservation of history and also bring more awareness to the history of our lake and great country.

Sincerely,

H. Steve Sprunger  
Lake Gage Lime Lake Association Vice President.

July 10, 2019

RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Clark,

I am writing to you in regard to the Nomination of the Lake Gage – Lime Lake Bridge and Channel to the National Register of Historic Places. As a means of background – I am seasonal resident of Lake Gage and Lime Lake. My family is part of six (6) generations of Riethmillers on Lake Gage. Our cottage is located on the North East corner of the Bridge. Our family has grown up with the Bridge in our front yard. In fact, the picture used in the nomination research material of the young girl in the row boat – is my Aunt.

We are excited that "our" bridge is rightfully being considered for Historic designation. Being a part of the Lake History, constructed by individuals in a Historic time of our country, and providing an asset for our Lake and area of IN--- gives us a great sense of pride! Utilizing the field stone prevalent in this area provides the iconic Park Rustic look of the Bridge. We are fortunate to have this, since there is only one bridge such as this in Stueben County...and possibly NE IN. Family, friends, and those visiting Lake Gage, have greatly enjoyed the channel and bridge for over 75 years. It speaks to the determination and hard work of those who constructed Bridge in a tough economic time. It also shows how nature can evolve and grow with the constructs of man. It is a special place and structure.

I have traveled the world and seen many sights, but the Field stone Lake Gage Bridge lets me know why I love to return to My Indiana Home!

We strongly recommend the approval of this nomination for Historic designation.

Respectfully, Tom Riethmiller



July 15, 2019

Cameron F. Clark, Director  
402 W. Washington Street  
Room W26  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Clark:

We are excited to express our strong support for the Nomination of the historic Lake Gage-Lime Lake Bridge and Channel to the National Register of Historic Places. We are one of the three property owners owning property immediately adjacent to the Channel and the field stone Bridge that connects Lake Gage and Lime Lake. We have owned our property for 35 years, and can speak to the importance of this historic designation to all the residents of Lake Gage and Lime Lake and, indeed, to all the proud citizens of the State of Indiana.

The historic Lake Gage-Lime Lake Bridge and Channel encompass a portion of typical northern Indiana lake topography. Both exemplify structures shaped almost entirely by the Civilian Conservation Corps. As such, they present outstanding examples of important New Deal public works and recreational development in Indiana during the 1930's. Located next to State lands with boating access, by their very existence, the historic Channel and Bridge encourage enjoyment of Indiana's outdoors and its recreational activities.

The historic field stone Bridge itself, is representative of the work and the style of architecture typical of the CCC. Original documentation shows that, at the time it was built, the Bridge met all of the standards of integrity established by the CCC. The Bridge still stands in its original location, with the vast majority of its design and materials remaining intact. There have been no significant modern intrusions other than the removal of the Bridge's original light poles (which we hope our Lake Association might one-day replace) and, as with the Channel, there has been some natural land erosion that needs to be corrected. However, the integrity of the Bridge appears very strong.

The Lake Gage-Lime Lake Bridge and Channel assure enjoyment of what residents believe are some northern Indiana's loveliest glacially formed waters. Every day during the Summer, and throughout most of the rest of the year, walkers, bikers, and runners go over the Bridge – while people in and on fishing boats, canoes, and paddleboards come down the Channel to pass under the Bridge's lovely structure. Both the Lake Gage-Lime Lake Bridge and Channel stand as lasting representations of what the CCC hoped its work would contribute to Indiana's recreational development. Therefore, we enthusiastically support the approval of this nomination for Historic designation.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas & Kathleen Reed  
6630 West North Lake Gage Drive  
Angola, IN 46703  
Phone: 419-250-1900  
[Kathleen.Reed@utoledo.edu](mailto:Kathleen.Reed@utoledo.edu)  
[Treed4241@gmail.com](mailto:Treed4241@gmail.com)



July 15, 2019

Cameron F. Clark., Director  
402 W. Washington St., Room W256  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

257 PRES & ARCH  
RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Clark

I write to express my strong support for designating the fieldstone bridge within the Lake Gage – Lime Lake Channel as a historical entity. I am one of three residents whose property is immediately adjacent to the bridge, property located on its southeast side that has been in my family since this particular area of the lake (known as “Mid-Lake Park”) was first developed. I have spent each year of my life on Lake Gage and can attest to the fact that the bridge is an integral aspect of the lake’s community.

As you know from the documentation provided by ARCH, the bridge was built in 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in collaboration with the Works Progress Administration who dug the channel, both part of President Roosevelt’s New Deal Program. The simple elegance and beauty of this fieldstone structure is a stunning legacy of these individuals, and even more so given the bridge’s uniqueness to Steuben County and, indeed, to the state of Indiana. I can think of no better way to honor this legacy and important period from our nation’s history than to designate the bridge as a protected and historical entity. More often than not, we’re all so consumed with the here-and-now and the future that we tend to forget the past and those who labored for what we have now. Physical structures, such as the Lake Gage/Lime Lake bridge help us to remember and appreciate the past, to foster respect for, and hopefully a commitment to what we’re so fortunate to have.

Beyond honoring the efforts of the CCC, the bridge is an important landmark and an integral aspect of our community. Living next to the bridge, I am a witness to the many individuals who routinely walk, run, or cycle around the lake each day, many of whom stop for a few minutes at the bridge. It’s a place in which to meet new people, catch up with friends and acquaintances, and is a vantage point in which to admire the beauty of both lakes at once. There is no other locale on the lake that serves these varied functions, and I think most people’s image of the lake when away is one that includes the fieldstone bridge. Over the years, erosion has occurred within the channel due to boat traffic and time, and although the country has done a fairly good job at maintaining the stonework, I do hope you are able to protect its structural integrity through a historical designation. Thanks for taking the time to read this letter. Respectfully,

Marilyn Boltz  
6635 W. North Lake Gage Drive  
Angola, IN 46703

Steuben County Highway Department  
1900 North 200 West  
Angola, Indiana 46703  
1-260-668-1000, Ext 3600



*October 27, 2009*

*Robert E. Carter, Jr. State Historic Preservation Officer  
Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology  
402 West Washington Street, Room W274  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2739*

*Mr. Carter,*

*Steuben County would like to voice their opposition to declaring the small structure located on North Lake Gage Road in Steuben County as historic. (See Exhibit A)*

*The structure was inspected in 1996 (See exhibit B). The inspection report states that there was an expected lifespan of 20 years. This was based on the age and deterioration of the span.*

*Making the structure historic would create problems in keeping access to the traveling public. The structure is located on a residential roadway and the county has concerns that if the structure is named historic, the future maintenance and replacement of the structure would be hindered or impossible. The structure has a detour route length of 1.58 miles to the west and 2.39 miles to the west (see exhibit C). Due to the nature of the structure's construction method, the maintenance of the structure would be very difficult and would require that the structure be disassembled to replace portions. This would not be allowed if declared historic. At some point in the future the structure would need replacement or would require closing due to weight restrictions. This would affect all of the local landowners on a daily basis.*

*The county maintains the approach roadways. Currently the structure does not have adequate safety approach rail. The blunt stone ends do not meet safety standards and present a serious hazard to oncoming traffic. Rail or collapsible treatments should be placed as soon as possible. The safety of the bridge is again in question.*

*The application states that the structure lends to recreation and culture. The original plans (see application attachments page 22) showed this structure as being possibly used as a pass through from one lake to the other. The application also states in section ten of fourteen that the lake has had rising levels over the years. The current clear height from water to bottom of the structure is approximately 3.5 feet. The water depth is approximately 2.0 feet. Many of the county structures allows for passage by boats to go from one lake to another. This structure is not one of them. Three and one half feet does not adequately give clearance for normal under passage travel. This has not stopped it from being used for this. (See Exhibit D). A death was recorded in 2004 when a person attempted to go under the structure and hit the beams. Recreation aspects are limited or impossible due to the low clearance level.*

*The structure has also had many modifications to it over the years. The light poles shown in the picture in the application attachments, page 21, are no longer in place (See Exhibits E and F). Steuben County was under the mistaken impression that the structure was under county ownership and so did repairs on it as needed over the years. Repairs have been done on the structure in an effort to maintain it (see Exhibits F, G, H and I). The wearing surface has also been upgraded and the original material type has been changed.*

*Due to the unsafe conditions on and under the roadway, the many modifications made to and around the structure, Steuben County is requesting that the listing of this small structure as historic be denied. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.*

*I thank you for your consideration of our request.*

*Sincerely*



*Mr. Keith A. Lytton P.E.*

*Steuben County Highway Engineer*

*Exhibit A - Letter from Commissioners*

*Exhibit B - Small Structure Inspection, 3/5/1996, estimated remaining life of 20 Years.*

*Exhibit C - Detour Route - 1.58 Miles West, 2.39 Miles East*

*Exhibit D - Newspaper article for Death caused by Structure*

*Exhibits E thru I - Pictures*





A

## STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**F. Mayo Sanders**  
North District

**James A. Crowl**  
Middle District

**Ronald L. Smith**  
South District

October 14, 2009

Robert E. Carter, Jr., Director  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Historic Preservation &  
Archaeology  
402 W Washington St, W 274  
Indianapolis IN 46204-2739

Re: Lime Lake/Lake Gage Channel and Bridge, North Lake Gage Road  
Angola vicinity, Steuben County, Indiana

Dear Mr. Carter:

We have received your letter notifying us of the public hearing on October 28, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. in Indianapolis on the nomination of the above bridge to the National Register of Historic Places. Even though the bridge structure is considered the DNR's responsibility, we are not in favor of the nomination. Our Highway Department has stated that once the bridge has been designated an Historical Place, it would limit our ability to widen the road and bridge/structure in the future. At this time we do not have any plans to do this, but we would like to keep this option open.

We appreciate your consideration of our position in this matter.

Sincerely,

F. Mayo Sanders  
President

Fms/cag

# STEUBEN COUNTY SMALL STRUCTURE INSPECTION

LOCATION: Road: Lake Gage Drive  
 Approximate Location: 450N-675W

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Structure Type: Concrete Beams

### DIMENSIONS:

OPENING Height: 7' Width: 14.75'  
 Str. Length: 17.75' Skew: 5 Deg. Lt.  
 Pipe Length or Out to Out: 26'  
 Approximate Cover Depth: 2"  
 Roadway Width: 24'

## APPRAISAL/CONDITION

	MATERIAL	CONDITION
Deck:	Concrete	Good
Superstr.:	Concrete	Good Minor exposed reinf. steel
Sub str.:	Concrete, Stone face	Good Some stones are missing
Channel:	Natural	Good Connects 2 Lakes
Headwalls:	N/A	
Pipe:	N/A	
Appr. Rd.:	Chip and seal	Good Straight

Overall Culvert Evaluation: Good

Estimated Remaining Life: 20 yrs

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS: Trim trees along approach, install approach guardrail.

Inspected by: RKH

Date: 3/5/96



STRUCTURE NO. 30

B-2



LOOKING NORTH



WEST ELEVATION



Date Created: 10/27/2009  
Map Scale: 1 in = 1,573 ft



Overview



Legend

-  Sections
-  Lakes
-  Centerlines
-  Other
-  State
-  US
-  Interstate
-  Political Townships
-  Corporate Limits

Last Data Upload: 10/27/2009 8:39:26 AM

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# HERALD-REPUBLICAN

## News Focus

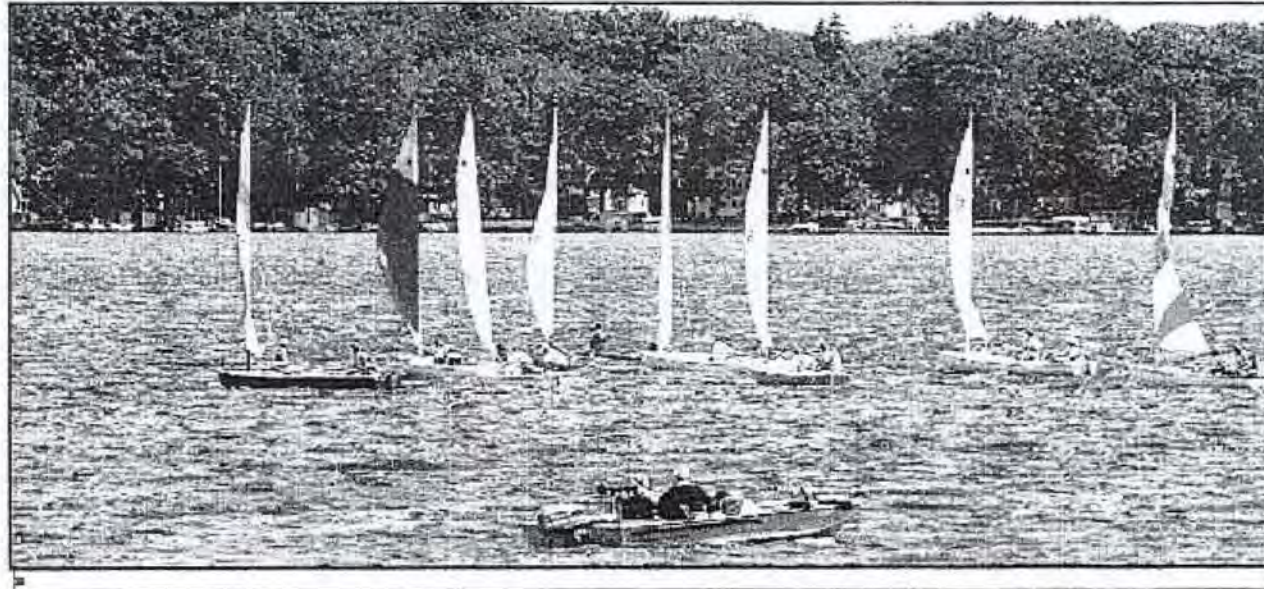
### Boater killed when he hits bridge over channel

**LAKE GAGE** — A man operating a personal watercraft in a channel between Lime Lake and Lake Gage in Steuben County was killed Saturday when his head struck the bottom of a bridge crossing the channel.

Scott R. Blossom, 35, of Metamora, Ohio, was traveling east in the channel when he struck the bottom of the North Lake Gage Drive bridge, according to Indiana conservation officers Keith Praski and John Deem, who investigated the accident.

The Steuben County Sheriff's Department, Orland Fire and Rescue and the Steuben County Coroner's Office assisted in the investigation. No further information was released early today.

AP poll: Majority



### Off to the races at Lake George

Two fishermen slow down to watch the start the second race Saturday at the Inland Cat Regatta on Lake George. Most boating trophies go to the weekend races. The annual Inland Cat Regatta that attracts sailors from across the Midwest to compete at Lake George. The regatta features three races, weather and wind.

# Dem

# Human

DEATH ON JULY 24, 2004

0











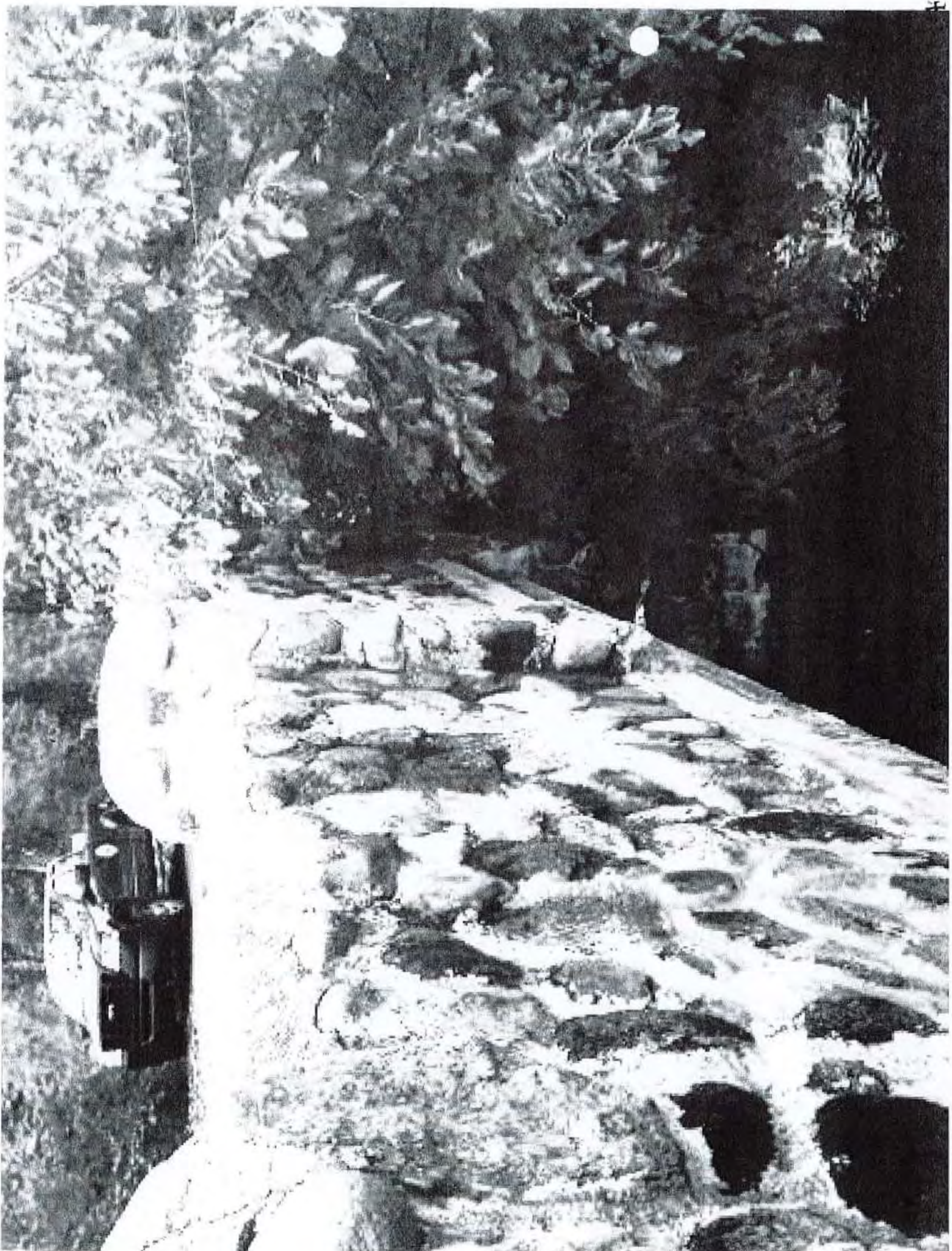




11









October 5, 2009

Mr. Robert E. Carter Jr.  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology  
402 W. Washington Street Rm. W274  
Indianapolis, In 46204-2739



HIST PRES

OCT 09 2009

DNL

Dear Mr. Carter,

I am writing to you to comment on the proposed listing of **The Lime Lake- Lake Gage Channel and Bridge, North Lake Gage Road, Angola vicinity, Steuben County, In.** to the National Register of Historic Places.

Attached please find a letter that I've sent to Mr. James Kershaw outlining my position on this matter.

I wrote my letter to Mr. Kershaw because I wasn't sure if I, as an individual, had any rights to speak on this matter, since I'm not a property owner in the area adjacent to the proposed site. But I believe that as a Hoosier, taxpayer, and user of the Public Access site, I do have a right to comment. And as such, I ask you, and your committee, to consider the points that I raised to Mr. Kershaw in making your determination in this matter. My sole reason for opposing this listing is because I believe that the current bridge clearance constitutes an unnecessary safety hazard and should be fixed. You may be unaware that a person on a jet ski was killed a few years ago while trying to go under this bridge. Admittedly he was going too fast, none the less it speaks to the clearance issue. *If listing this Bridge in the Historical Register would allow for a Federal Grant that would allow raising the roadbed, and subsequent clearance below the road for safe boat passage, while maintaining the "look of the present structure", I would not be opposed to it.*

Thank you for your time, and I'll be awaiting the outcome of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Bill LaVigne  
7821 Sunderland Drive  
Ft. Wayne, In 46835-1247

October 5, 2009

Mr. James Kershaw  
Public Access Site Supervisor  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
IGC- South W273  
402 W Washington St  
Indianapolis, In. 46204



Dear Mr. Kershaw,

I'm writing to you to urge your department to oppose the listing of **The Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge, North Lake Gage Road, Angola vicinity, Steuben County**, in The National Registry of Historic Places.

This is not because I'm opposed to saving items of Historic nature, but because I believe that some "old" items are a hindrance to today's world. The bridge in question is a prime example. When this was constructed the average boat that may have passed under it was a 12-14' wooden rowboat. The enclosed photos show what a person must go through in an average sized 16' boat of today to pass under the bridge. This recent photo shows the water at low fall levels. In the springtime there are times when passage is impossible.



Looking at the Water Depth Gage you can see that the level is about 4.55'. And you'll notice the algae stain up around the 5' level. That means that in the spring time there's approximately 6" less clearance under this bridge. I believe that this constitutes an unnecessary safety hazard which I urge your Department to coordinate with the Steuben Co. Transportation Dept. to correct. I'm not suggesting that a bridge be constructed which would allow the passage of the Queen Mary, just an average sized 16' fishing boat of today.

I can recall that just a few years ago the culvert between Clear Lake and Round Lake in Steuben County, which allowed just a small boat to pass through, was replaced with a much larger and easier to navigate culvert.

If this Lake Gage Bridge were raised just 12-18", it would be a much safer and easier access to Lake Gage. I even wonder if the present configuration constitutes a violation of the A.D.A. requirements. Obviously the Public Access boat ramp does meet these requirements. But does it in itself follow the intent of the A.D.A., if 100 yards away a handicapped person meets an obstacle like this low bridge? If the bridge were to be raised this 12-18", the corresponding inclines necessary for the road to pass would not be so high as to be a concern or burden on the nearby property owners. Again I refer back to the changes made at Clear Lake which required the road bed to be raised at least 3'.

I believe that your department, representing the interest of providing public access for Hoosiers, is in a unique position to voice opposition to this proposed listing. I believe that if this Bridge is listed, then cosmetic changes will become more difficult, if not impossible. Which makes me wonder, if the Bridge were listed, and sub sequentially required structural repairs, wouldn't attempts be made to "return" it to a condition resembling today's Bridge? If that is the case, then the Bridge could be raised and the stone work upper structure re-installed. This would be similar to a house listed as "Historic", but undergoing renovations that made it "safe" but resembled the previous state.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this matter. I will await word of your actions.

Bill LaVigne  
7821 Sunderland Drive  
Fort Wayne, In 46835-1247





September, 4, 2019

Dear Mr. Gabbert,

As residents of Lime Lake in Steuben County, Indiana, we would like to appeal the decision to list the only bridge between Lake Gage and Lime Lake as a Historical Bridge. If this old bridge needs any repair in the future it becomes very difficult if not impossible to do anything once it is titled a Historical Bridge. Being titled a Historic Bridge would make it very difficult to guarantee repair work could be performed if necessary to keep it open for safe traffic. We use that bridge every day to get where we need to go. The real historic parts of that bridge were discarded years ago.

Please in the future consult with people who use the bridge and need that bridge for daily access. Those that do not use it have a complete different feeling about the whole matter.

Thank you for your consideration to help solve this situation.

Sincerely,

Ken and Judi Senne

480 Lane 120 Lime Lake

Angola, Indiana 46703





Gabbert, James &lt;james\_gabbert@nps.gov&gt;

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**[EXTERNAL] Reed Support of Lake Gage-Lime Lake Bridge and Channel Historic Designation**

1 message

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**Reed, Kathleen M.** <KATHLEEN.REED@utoledo.edu>  
To: "james\_gabbert@nps.gov" <james\_gabbert@nps.gov>

Fri, Sep 6, 2019 at 1:01 PM

Dear Mr. Gabbert:

Please find attached our letter in support of the nomination of the Lake Gage-Lime Lake Bridge and Channel to the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you.

Thomas & Kathleen Reed  
6630 West North Lake Gage Road  
Angola, IN 46703  
419-250-1900  
Kathleen.reed@utoledo.edu  
treed4241@gmail.com

---

**2 attachments** **Reed Support of Historic Places Designation.docx**  
14K **ATT00001.htm**  
1K

Via Email  
9-6-2019

July 15, 2019

Cameron F. Clark, Director  
402 W. Washington Street  
Room W26  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Clark:

We are excited to express our strong support for the Nomination of the historic Lake Gage-Lime Lake Bridge and Channel to the National Register of Historic Places. We are one of the three property owners owning property immediately adjacent to the Channel and the field stone Bridge that connects Lake Gage and Lime Lake. We have owned our property for 35 years, and can speak to the importance of this historic designation to all the residents of Lake Gage and Lime Lake and, indeed, to all the proud citizens of the State of Indiana.

The historic Lake Gage-Lime Lake Bridge and Channel encompass a portion of typical northern Indiana lake topography. Both exemplify structures shaped almost entirely by the Civilian Conservation Corps. As such, they present outstanding examples of important New Deal public works and recreational development in Indiana during the 1930's. Located next to State lands with boating access, by their very existence, the historic Channel and Bridge encourage enjoyment of Indiana's outdoors and its recreational activities.

The historic field stone Bridge itself, is representative of the work and the style of architecture typical of the CCC. Original documentation shows that, at the time it was built, the Bridge met all of the standards of integrity established by the CCC. The Bridge still stands in its original location, with the vast majority of its design and materials remaining intact. There have been no significant modern intrusions other than the removal of the Bridge's original light poles (which we hope our Lake Association might one-day replace) and, as with the Channel, there has been some natural land erosion that needs to be corrected. However, the integrity of the Bridge appears very strong.

The Lake Gage-Lime Lake Bridge and Channel assure enjoyment of what residents believe are some northern Indiana's loveliest glacially formed waters. Every day during the Summer, and throughout most of the rest of the year, walkers, bikers, and runners go over the Bridge – while people in and on fishing boats, canoes, and paddleboards come down the Channel to pass under the Bridge's lovely structure. Both the Lake Gage-Lime Lake Bridge and Channel stand as lasting representations of what the CCC hoped its work would contribute to Indiana's recreational development. Therefore, we enthusiastically support the approval of this nomination for Historic designation.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas & Kathleen Reed  
6630 West North Lake Gage Drive  
Angola, IN 46703  
Phone: 419-250-1900  
[Kathleen.Reed@utoledo.edu](mailto:Kathleen.Reed@utoledo.edu)  
[Treed4241@gmail.com](mailto:Treed4241@gmail.com)

August 22, 2019



Mr. Jim Gabbert  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7728  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Mr. Gabbert;

I am writing in regard to the nomination of the Lake Gage-Lime Lake Bridge to the National Register of Historic Places. I want to express my support for this nomination.

I have been on Lake Gage for 71 years, the last nineteen of which as a permanent resident. I grew up spending summers on Lake Gage and have many fond memories of playing on and under the bridge with my friends. Then in my adult years, I came to realize and appreciate the historic significance of the bridge, which was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corp in 1936. It is an important landmark in our lake community.

Over the years my family and I have enjoyed showing this unique bridge to guests with pride. We enjoy relating the history of the bridge to others. I walk around the lake on a nearly daily basis, and to this day it is still fun to stop on the bridge and look over both sides to the channel below. My two sons and my grandchildren, who also grew up spending summers on Lake Gage, still follow this ritual on their walks around the lake.

My late husband, Allen, was president of the Lake Gage-Lime Lake Association for 11 years. It was his hope, too, that someday the bridge would be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. He did a lot of research into the history of the bridge and felt very strongly that it should be preserved for us and for future generations.

I do hope you will be able to protect this important landmark through a historical designation.

Respectfully,

Betty Lefevre  
6580 W. South Lake Gage Dr.  
Angola, IN 46703



**Mrs. Betty Lefevre  
6580 W. South Lake Gage Dr.  
Angola, IN 46703**

FT WAYNE IN 468

22 APR 2010 PM 3 1



**Mr. Jim Gabbert  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7728  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington DC 20240**







NOV 20 2019  
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Mr. James Gahert:

His letter is on appeal to stop the Lime Lake - Lake Stige Bridge from becoming "historic". The bridge is deteriorating and is not safe. It should be replaced with a taller bridge to allow boats and pontoons to get under. A few years ago a man was killed when he hit his head on the bridge. It is not handicap accessible either.

Sincerely, Pat Frain  
260-927-7934



FT WAYNE IN 468  
22 AUG 2019 PM 3 T



James Habbert  
National Register Staff  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St NW  
Washington DC 20240

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



RECEIVED 2280  
AUG 20 2019  
NAT. REGIST. PL. & MON. RES. DIV.  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

 Pat Frain  
494 County Road 60  
Garrett, IN 46738 





Gabbert, James &lt;james\_gabbert@nps.gov&gt;

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**[EXTERNAL] Request for Indiana bridge status**

2 messages

---

**Annette Ryan Kleinhenz** <arkleinhenz@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 13, 2019 at 2:52 PM

To: James\_Gabbert@nps.gov

Annette Ryan Kleinhenz

Dear Mr. Jim Gabbert

This is a very rural county in many places so giving directions can be entertaining, but when one says "the old stone bridge between Lime Lake and Lake Gage" people immediately nod their recognition of this public landmark. It has been there forever, it seems.

I have lived in Indiana for over forty years and one of the things that makes it so special is its unique history. Our county bridge is part of that history. It allows people to travel from one lake to the other. It leads to the vehicle, bicycle and foot routes around both lakes.

Our bridge connects the county roads so ambulances, police and fire services can reach our residents quickly.

The bridge is next to public parking. I often see children and their parents fishing from it or just leaning over it's sturdy sides watching the water flow. People park their cars and walk around the lakes starting and finishing on the bridge.

This bridge is remarkably solid. I believe it must have been constructed with great care by American craftsmen who took pride in their work. It is a permanent fixture in Northeastern Indiana. I thought it already was a historical monument or site, but apparently it had not sought that official status until now.

If we want the history of our beautiful state to exist for the coming generations, we need to preserve the places that make it pure-Indiana. We've lost so many of the old wooden covered bridges due to the nature of wood construction, but this bridge is rock, so we should be able to keep it for many years to come.

When I drive through the hilly wooded area that precedes the bridge I often think of the days when settlers farmed the nearby flat parcels of land with teams of horses, and before that, by whatever means they had. I cannot imagine this bridge in any other location than connecting these communities to the main road that leads into the nearby towns.

All of Indiana is rich with history. Native Americans lived on the shores of our lakes before us. People still find the occasional artifact in the earth. They walked these lands and must have had a log bridge of sorts across the stream between the two lakes. As civilization advanced a bridge was still needed, and one was built to last the generations.

I respectfully request you consider granting historical monument status to this beautiful old bridge.

Thank you and God bless!

Annette Kleinhenz  
6825 W North Lake Gage Dr  
Angola, IN 46703  
260-668-6630  
arkleinhenz@gmail.com

Annette Ryan Kleinhenz  
6825 W. North Lake Gage Dr.  
Angola, IN 46703  
260-668-6630  
arkleinhenz@gmail.com

---

**Gabbert, James** <james\_gabbert@nps.gov>

Mon, Aug 19, 2019 at 7:19 AM

To: Annette Ryan Kleinhenz &lt;arkleinhenz@gmail.com&gt;

Ms. Kleinhenz

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the file and considered with other comments during the review of the nomination.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Jim Gabbert  
Historian



8/19/2019

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - [EXTERNAL] Request for Indiana bridge status

National Register of Historic Places/National Historic Landmarks  
(202) 354-2275

Received From SHPO via Email 8.7.2019

August 5, 2019

Mr. Paul Diebold, DNR  
Assistant Director of Preservation Services  
Indiana DNR – Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology  
402 W. Washington St. Rm W274  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Bob Magley  
280 LN 120 Lime Lake  
Angola, IN 46703

RE: Lime Lake / Lake Gage Bridge Nomination Appeal

Mr. Paul Diebold:

We oppose the Historic Registration of the subject bridge.

The subject registration is an attempt by a few Lake Gage residents to use the Historical Registration system to essentially keep Lake Gage, a private lake. There is no historical significance with the subject bridge. It's simply a graffiti covered old bridge in a state of disrepair.

The significance, and the advantage of this bridge to the Lake Gage residents is the limited height. It restricts anything larger than a small fishing boat from passing from the public access on Lime Lake to Lake Gage. There is no public access on Lake Gage.

The bridge does not exhibit the artisanship of other structures that were erected in Steuben County Indiana by the WPA in the 1930's. It is a poured concrete structure with a fieldstone facing, a common construction technique used today.

We implore you not to allow a few Lake Gage residents to exploit the Indiana DNR and Historical Registry, National Park Service, and National Historic Register to meet their personal agenda by granting the subject bridge Historical Registration.

Sincerely,



Bob Magley  
President  
Lime Lake Conservation Club, Inc.

ANNETTE RYAN KLEINHENZ



Dear Mr. Jim Gabbert

This is a very rural county in many places so giving directions can be entertaining, but when one says "the old stone bridge between Lime Lake and Lake Gage" people immediately nod their recognition of this public landmark. It has been there forever, it seems.

I have lived in Indiana for over forty years and one of the things that makes it so special is its unique history. Our county bridge is part of that history. It allows people to travel from one lake to the other. It leads to the vehicle, bicycle and foot routes around both lakes.

Our bridge connects the county roads so ambulances, police and fire services can reach our residents quickly.

The bridge is next to public parking. I often see children and their parents fishing from it or just leaning over it's sturdy sides watching the water flow. People park their cars and walk around the lakes starting and finishing on the bridge.

This bridge is remarkably solid. I believe it must have been constructed with great care by American craftsmen who took pride in their work. It is a permanent fixture in Northeastern Indiana. I thought it already was a historical monument or site, but apparently it had not sought that official status until now.

If we want the history of our beautiful state to exist for the coming generations, we need to preserve the places that make it pure-Indiana. We've lost so many of the old wooden covered bridges due to the nature of wood construction, but this bridge is rock, so we should be able to keep it for many years to come.

When I drive through the hilly wooded area that precedes the bridge I often think of the days when settlers farmed the nearby flat parcels of land with teams of horses, and before that, by whatever means they had. I cannot imagine this bridge in any other location than connecting these communities to the main road that leads into the nearby towns.

All of Indiana is rich with history. Native Americans lived on the shores of our lakes before us. People still find the occasional artifact in the earth. They walked these lands and must have had a log bridge of sorts across the stream between the two lakes. As civilization advanced a bridge was still needed, and one was built to last the generations.

I respectfully request you consider granting historical monument status to this beautiful old bridge.

Thank you and God bless!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Annette Kleinhenz', is written over the typed name.

Annette Kleinhenz  
6825 W North Lake Gage Dr  
Angola, IN 46703  
260-668-6630  
arkleinhenz@gmail.com



August 12, 2019



Dear Mr. Jim Gabbert

I have lived on Lake Gage since I was a boy. That was a long time ago.

I cannot tell you how many thousand times I've ridden my bicycle, walked across, and during my adult year drove a vehicle over the bridge between Lake Gage and Lime Lake. It's one of the main access points from Orland Road to both lakes. I've fished off the bridge so many times as a boy one cannot estimate, and I've taken my own children and grandchildren to fish there as well.

The area surrounding the bridge is heavily wooded and remarkably serene and beautiful. People come here to walk around the lakes, using the bridge.

The bridge is someplace everyone knows or can find. This because of its location, but also its old fashioned beauty of the combination of dark wooded public land area, sparking clean stream and old stone work.

The people who lived on our lot before us found arrowheads in the dirt. This is a really old area. The bridge is perfectly suited to the place where it was built. It somehow fits very nicely.

I'm born and raised in Indiana, and I love this state. I'd like to see our history preserved. Please grant the bridge between Lake Gage and Lime Lake historical status.

I appreciate you reading my letter.  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted Kleinhenz".

Ted Kleinhenz  
6825 W North Lake Gage Drive  
Angola, IN 46703  
ted.a.kleinhenz@gmail.com



August 10, 2019



Dear Mr. Gabbert,

This letter is an endorsement of the nomination of the Lake Gage – Lime Lake Bridge and Channel for National Historic designation. Our family, the Riethmiller, have been owners of the land adjacent to the bridge (NE corner) for over 100 years – 6 generations. We have grown up with the bridge/channel in our front yard. As passionate lake and history lovers – we are stewards of this structure and the important part of our history that it represents. The work done by those in the WPA , ~1936, to provide this channel/bridge is cherished by our family and those on Lake Gage. It represents not only their labor, but the field stone bridge – assembled with rocks from the area --- illustrates the Park Rustic architecture that the WPA projects provided. It is one of only two field stone bridges in this county and possibly Northern IN. We believe it is fitting and appropriate that this Bridge/channel is designated as a Historic landmark

We had provided a letter to the IN Department of Historic places and architecture in support of the designation and wanted to underscore that support with the National Park Service.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Tom Riethmiller Family

Thomas Riethmiller  
11819 Pennet Run  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845-2124

Mr. James Gabbert  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St., NW  
Washington, DC 20240



Dear Mr. Gabbert,

I am writing to you in regard to the nomination of the Lake Gage-Lime Lake Bridge and Channel in Steuben County, Indiana to the National Register of Historic Places and wishing to express my strong support of this nomination.

The Lake Gage and Lime Lake bridge and channel were constructed by the CCC and WPA under FDR's New Deal Program circa 1934-1935. As you know, these agencies were made up of millions of unemployed Americans in the aftermath of the Great Depression. These young people were responsible for the building of very many beautiful and historic structures throughout the United States and we feel that our bridge and channel deserve to be recognized as one of them.

My parents bought our property in 1939 and I have been told that before this project there was no means of accessing the western part of Lake Gage by land due to lack of roads and the stream that the bridge now passes over. The bridge greatly solved that problem while adding a touch of beauty to the area.

The bridge and the channel it crosses have become an icon for our lakes. Thousands of residents and visitors pass over and under it each year. Many have commented on how unique it is to see such a structure still in existence today. It is a special place and structure.

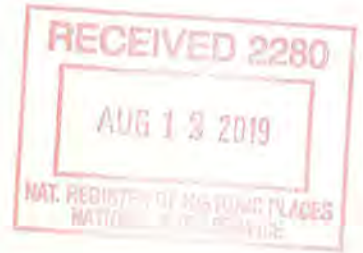
As a member of the National Parks Conservation Association, I have come to truly appreciate the importance of preserving natural and historic sites and I sincerely request that the National Park Service designate this project on the National Register as a tribute to all of the CCC and WPA workers who built it, not only for its utilitarian purposes, but also for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joseph Weaver  
6080 W. Orland Road  
Angola, IN 46703



August 5, 2019



James Gabbert, National Register staff  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Bob Magley  
280 LN 120 Lime Lake  
Angola, IN 46703

RE: Lime Lake / Lake Gage Bridge Nomination

To whom it may concern:

We oppose the Historic Registration of the subject bridge.

The subject registration is an attempt by a few Lake Gage residents to use the Historical Registration system to essentially keep Lake Gage, a private lake. There is no historical significance with the subject bridge. It's simply a graffiti covered old bridge in a state of disrepair.

The significance, and the advantage of this bridge to the Lake Gage residents is the limited height. It restricts anything larger than a small fishing boat from passing from the public access on Lime Lake to Lake Gage. There is no public access on Lake Gage.

The bridge does not exhibit the artisanship of other structures that were erected in Steuben County Indiana by the WPA in the 1930's. It is a poured concrete structure with a fieldstone facing, a common construction technique used today.

We implore you not to allow a few Lake Gage residents to exploit the National Park Service, and National Historic Register to meet their personal agenda by granting the subject bridge Historical Registration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Magley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bob Magley  
President  
Lime Lake Conservation Club, Inc.





Gabbert, James &lt;james\_gabbert@nps.gov&gt;

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**[EXTERNAL] Regarding: National Register of Historic Places, Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge**

2 messages

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**Jan Powers** <janpowers25@yahoo.com>  
To: james\_gabbert@nps.gov

Fri, Aug 23, 2019 at 1:27 PM

To:  
James Gabbert  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
Regarding: National Register of Historic Places  
Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge / Lime Lake Public Access Site; 151-018-15001

Please accept this email to voice my opinion of dissent on the proposed measure for the Lime Lake/Lake Gage bridge being added to the historical register. As a resident of Lime Lake/Lake Gage, I do not agree with this application. The claims in the document are over-stated and I do not believe support the addition of this bridge to the National Register.

This application to add the bridge to the National Register of Historic Places is nothing more than a ploy by Lake Gage homeowners to block progress and prevent Lime Lake homeowners from gaining entry into lake gage. By registering this as an historic bridge, it was only meant to be block progress with proposed dredging to open up the channel. They are using this bridge to divide members and prevent one lake from accessing the other through this channel. If indeed the bridge itself is deemed an historic landmark, please do not provide the land around the bridge as such. This area needs to be dredged in order to provide access from the smaller lake to the larger lake. If this is not completed, it will have detrimental effects on the Lime Lake members' property values and adversely affect the neighborhood. this could essentially devastate this neighborhood.

Yes, it is a nice bridge, but the reality is many other things in this county were also built in this era, if you start labeling everything a historic landmark, there will never be any progress made. This is not about history, it is about division and an attempt to mask the true purpose of blocking one lake to prevent entry to the other.

Sincerely,

Jan Powers  
Property Owner Lime Lake/Lake Gage

---

**Gabbert, James** <james\_gabbert@nps.gov>  
To: Jan Powers <janpowers25@yahoo.com>

Mon, Aug 26, 2019 at 7:28 AM

Thank you for your comments; they will be added to the file and taken into consideration.

[Quoted text hidden]

--  
Jim Gabbert  
Historian  
National Register of Historic Places/National Historic Landmarks  
(202) 354-2275





Gabbert, James &lt;james\_gabbert@nps.gov&gt;

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**[EXTERNAL] Lime Lake Channel Bridge**

2 messages

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**John Harrison Sloan** <sloan\_john\_harrison@lilly.com>  
To: "james\_gabbert@nps.gov" <james\_gabbert@nps.gov>

Fri, Aug 23, 2019 at 10:41 AM

Dear Mr. Gabbert,

Please see attached in regard to the document below.

Sincerely,

John

[https://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/files/hp-Lime\\_Lake\\_Lake\\_Gage\\_Channel\\_Bridge.pdf](https://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/files/hp-Lime_Lake_Lake_Gage_Channel_Bridge.pdf)**John H. Sloan, Ph.D.**

Principal Research Scientist, Laboratory for Experimental Medicine

**Eli Lilly and Company**

Lilly Corporate Center, Indianapolis, IN 46285

Office: +1 (317) 651-6968

Email: sloanjo@lilly.com

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 **Bridge Letter.pdf**  
19K

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**Gabbert, James** <james\_gabbert@nps.gov>  
To: John Harrison Sloan <sloan\_john\_harrison@lilly.com>

Mon, Aug 26, 2019 at 7:27 AM

Thank you for your comments; they will be added to the file and taken into consideration.

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Jim Gabbert  
Historian  
National Register of Historic Places/National Historic Landmarks  
(202) 354-2275



John H Sloan III, Ph.D.  
Principal Research Scientist, ELI Lilly and Co.  
Property Owner  
575 Lane 120 Lime Lake  
Angola, IN 46703

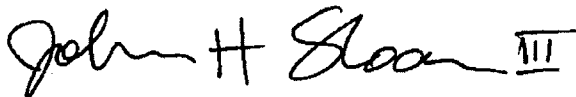
23 August 2019

James Gabbert  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Gabbert,

It has come to our attention that the bridge over the channel between Lime Lake and Lake Gage has been put up for registration as a National Registry. This is being done by a group with ulterior motives as a ploy to restrict access to Lake Gage from Lime Lake. We purchased our property earlier this year with the understanding that there was "easy" access under the bridge. The area under the bridge needs to be dredged so boat motors are not damaged. The registration process was carried out without consent of the Lime Lake residents and without any chance for public comment. There is nothing particularly attractive or noteworthy about this bridge, so it seems like just a waste of public funds to make this sort of designation. We request that the bridge not be placed in the Register.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John H Sloan III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the "III".

John H Sloan III



Gabbert, James <james\_gabbert@nps.gov>

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**[EXTERNAL] Lime Lake - Lake Gage Bridge and Channel registration, Steuben County Indiana**

2 messages

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**Bob Magley** <bobmagley@bomaggroup.com>  
Reply-To: Bob Magley <bobmagley@bomaggroup.com>  
To: "james\_gabbert@nps.gov" <james\_gabbert@nps.gov>

Fri, Aug 23, 2019 at 7:18 AM

Mr. Gabbert,

We oppose the registration of the subject bridge. Attached is a letter with my comments to support this opposition.

Bob Magley

Lime Lake Conservation Club, Inc.  
121 W. Stocker St.  
Angola, IN 46703  
Cell: 260-410-7965  
Office: 260-837-7294

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 **Scan\_letter\_to\_national\_James\_gabbert.pdf**  
317K

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**Gabbert, James** <james\_gabbert@nps.gov>  
To: Bob Magley <bobmagley@bomaggroup.com>

Mon, Aug 26, 2019 at 7:26 AM

Thank you for your comments; they will be added to the file and taken into consideration.

[Quoted text hidden]

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Jim Gabbert  
Historian  
National Register of Historic Places/National Historic Landmarks  
(202) 354-2275



August 23, 2019

James Gabbert, National Register staff  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Bob Magley  
280 LN 120 Lime Lake  
Angola, IN 46703  
bmagley@bomaggroup.com

RE: Lime Lake - Lake Gage Channel & Bridge Nomination

Mr. James Gabbert:

We oppose the Historic Registration of the subject bridge.

The subject registration is an attempt by a few Lake Gage residents to use the Historical Registration system to essentially keep Lake Gage, a private lake. There is no historical significance with the subject bridge.

The significance, and the advantage of this bridge to the Lake Gage residents is the limited height. It restricts anything larger than a small fishing boat from passing from the public access on Lime Lake to Lake Gage. There is no public access on Lake Gage.

The bridge does not exhibit the artisanship of other structures that were erected in Steuben County Indiana by the WPA in the 1930's. It is a poured concrete structure with a fieldstone facing, a common construction technique used today.

Furthermore, there is a public handicap access on Lime Lake where wheelchairs can be loaded onto pontoon boats. However, pontoon boats cannot pass under the bridge. Granting historical registration of this bridge effectively prevents handicap access to Lake Gage.

We implore you not to allow a few Lake Gage residents to exploit the National Park Service, and National Historic Register to meet their personal agenda by granting the subject bridge Historical Registration.

Sincerely,



Bob Magley  
President  
Lime Lake Conservation Club, Inc.



Gabbert, James &lt;james\_gabbert@nps.gov&gt;

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**[EXTERNAL] Lime Lake Lake Gage bridge historic landmark nomination**

2 messages

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**Tom Riethmiller** <tomr@adrianmed.com>  
To: "James\_Gabbert@nps.gov" <James\_Gabbert@nps.gov>

Sat, Aug 10, 2019 at 10:47 AM

Mr Gabbert,

Please find attached a letter in support of the recent nomination by the state of IN for historic landmark designation. This pertains to the Like Lk Lk Gage bridge/channel.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom

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 **2019 LG bridge ltr NPS.docx**  
20K

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**Gabbert, James** <james\_gabbert@nps.gov>  
To: Tom Riethmiller <tomr@adrianmed.com>

Mon, Aug 19, 2019 at 7:20 AM

Thank you for your comments. They will be added to the file and considered with others as we review the nomination.

[Quoted text hidden]

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Jim Gabbert  
Historian  
National Register of Historic Places/National Historic Landmarks  
(202) 354-2275



August 10, 2019

Dear Mr. Gabbert,

This letter is an endorsement of the nomination of the Lake Gage – Lime Lake Bridge and Channel for National Historic designation. Our family, the Riethmillers, have been owners of the land adjacent to the bridge (NE corner) for over 100 years – 6 generations. We have grown up with the bridge/channel in our front yard. As passionate lake and history lovers – we are stewards of this structure and the important part of our history that it represents. The work done by those in the WPA , ~1936, to provide this channel/bridge is cherished by our family and those on Lake Gage. It represents not only their labor, but the field stone bridge – assembled with rocks from the area --- illustrates the Park Rustic architecture that the WPA projects provided. It is one of only two field stone bridges in this county and possibly Northern IN. We believe it is fitting and appropriate that this Bridge/channel is designated as a Historic landmark

We had provided a letter to the IN Department of Historic places and architecture in support of the designation and wanted to underscore that support with the National Park Service.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Tom Riethmiller Family



Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology • 402 W. Washington Street, W274 • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739  
Phone 317-232-1646 • Fax 317-232-0693 • dhpa@dnr.IN.gov • www.IN.gov/dnr/historic



July 18, 2019

Ms. Joy Beasley  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Lime Lake – Lake Gage Channel and Bridge, Steuben County, Indiana

Dear Ms. Beasley,

Enclosed is a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Lime Lake – Lake Gage Channel and Bridge, Steuben County, Indiana.

The property is publically owned, the channel is State of Indiana property and the bridge is owned by the Steuben County Commissioners. The Steuben County Commissioners have objected to the nomination. Additionally, several citizens have commented favorably, and unfavorably, on the nomination. The nomination was considered by the Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board, and tabled in 2009. The board reconsidered the application on July 17, 2019 and approved it. In as much as the objection to listing comes from a *public* owner, the board considered itself to be on solid ground in approving and voting to send the application forward to your office. All letters of comment from both 2009 and 2019 meetings are included for your use.

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Lime Lake – Lake Gage Channel and Bridge, Steuben County, Indiana, to the National Register of Historic Places.

Please address any questions you or your staff may have about this nomination to my National Register staff members, Paul Diebold or Holly Tate.

Sincerely,

Cameron F. Clark  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CFC:PCD:pcd

enclosure: nomination package





## STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Lynne Liechty**  
North District

**James A. Crowl**  
Middle District

**Ronald L. Smith**  
South District

June 20, 2019

Paul Diebold, DNR  
Assistant Director of Preservation Services  
Indiana DNR – Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology  
402 W. Washington St., Rm. W274  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Via Email: [PDiebold@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:PDiebold@dnr.IN.gov)

Re: Nomination of Lime Lake – Lake Gage Channel and Bridge to National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Diebold:

The Steuben County Commission Board is in receipt of the Nomination of the Lime Lake – Lake Gage Channel and Bridge to the National Register of Historic Places.

At the regularly scheduled Commissioners' Meeting on Monday, June 17, the Commissioners discussed the Nomination and have unanimously agreed that they are not in favor of the Nomination at this time.

We respectfully request that this correspondence be submitted for the Hearing on this matter scheduled for Wednesday, July 17, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. and that the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology deny the Nomination of the Lime Lake -Lake Gage Channel and Bridge, North Lake Gage Drive, Angola vicinity, Steuben County, Indiana to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions, or need further input, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Smith, President  
Steuben County Commissioners

RLS/els

317 South Wayne Street, Suite 2-H, Angola, Indiana 46703

Phone: (260) 668-1000 ext. 1224

Fax: (260) 665-8483

email: [countycommissioners@co.steuben.in.us](mailto:countycommissioners@co.steuben.in.us)

Historic Preservation and Review Board  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

RCD 6.6.19  
RCD

Bob Magley  
280 LN 120 Lime Lake  
Angola, IN 46703  
bmagley@bomaggroup.com



Re: Lime Lake / Lake Gage Bridge Historical Registry Application  
July 17 meeting agenda item

Historical Registry Review Board,

I am the president of the Lime Lake Conservation Club, Inc. (LLCC) and am contacting your committee on behalf of the LLCC members.

The LLCC is opposed to registration of the subject bridge in the Historical Register. It is our opinion the registration is being solicited for the sole purpose of limiting access to Lake Gage from the public access on Lime Lake and has very little bearing on the historical significance of the bridge. Registration will only impede efforts, yet to be undertaken, to improve access between the two lakes.

Lake Gage is a large lake of 327 acres with no public access. Lime Lake is a smaller lake of 30 acres with a public access. Connecting the two lakes is a channel bisected with the subject bridge. The height and width of the bridge limits the type and size of boats that can access Lake Gage from the public access. The bridge height only allows small fishing boats, and boats with limited height, to pass underneath. Handicap accessible boats cannot pass underneath the bridge.

The bridge and channel is monitored by two property owners associations. The Lake Gage Lime Lake Association and the LLCC. The Lake Gage Lime Lake Association is predominately made up and governed by Lake Gage residents. Lime Lake residents have tried for years to convince the larger association to investigate dredging the channel under this bridge with no success. In 2018 concerned Lime Lake residents formed the LLCC with the main focus on improving the access to Lake Gage, specifically studying the possibility of dredging the channel connecting these lakes. In March of this year the State of Indiana awarded a grant to the LLCC to conduct an assessment for this dredging project and the assessment will take place this summer. Hopefully dredging will take place in 2020. At this time there is no intent to change or modify the existing bridge. However, it is the contention of the LLCC that registration of this bridge will someday, impede efforts to change the bridge to accommodate larger boats and boats equipped to accommodate handicap personnel.

There is no denying that the bridge is old and was made during the Roosevelt administration, by what we believe the WPA. However, the bridge does not represent any unique craftsmanship or construction techniques. It's simply a poured concrete structure with a natural fieldstone masonry facing. A construction technique used today. There have been no efforts to maintain the original beauty by restricting placement of utilities, replacing the broken off lights, or removing the graffiti as shown on the enclosed photos.

This is not the first time Historical Registration of this bridge has been attempted. This same issue was brought up and tabled in 2009 (meeting minutes attached) and was a topic of discussion in 2012 as shown in the attached newspaper article. All that has changed since those attempts is the establishment of the LLCC and the progress toward assessment of a channel dredging project.



It is our sincere desire for this review board to reject the application to list the Lake Gage Lime Lake Bridge on the National Historic Register. It's our opinion this application perverts the essence of the Historical Registry program by attempting to use the program to restrict the public from enjoying the Lake Gage natural resource.

Sincerely,

*Bob Magley*

Bob Magley  
President Lime Lake Conservation Club, Inc.

ST. PRES. & ARCH.

JUL 15 2019

RECEIVED

July 11, 2019

Mr. Paul Diebold and the Indiana Historic Preservation Board  
402 W. Washington Street – W. 274  
Indianapolis, IN 46204



I am writing on behalf of the over 300 members of the Lake Gage Lime Lake Association in support of placing our historic channel and bridge on the National Register of Historic Places. This stream/channel has connected the two lakes for as long as there is any memory or writings about this area of Steuben County, and the bridge going back to 1936 or earlier. The bridge and the channel it goes over is not just an area landmark, it is the landmark for our lakes with its original concrete and fieldstone design. This is one place that if you visit today looks and feels as it has for over 75 years, when many of the original summer visitors to Lake Gage and Lime Lake arrived by early era automobiles.

Obviously the channel and bridge is a huge part of our local history, but it also served as contributor in the development of Lake Gage and Lime Lake. However, equally important the channel and bridge also represent a major part of our national history. As part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt New Deal Program, the stream between the two lakes was dredged and made into a channel and the bridge with it's unique design was constructed and today they represent that era in history.

Our fulltime and seasonal residents sincerely wish for the channel and bridge to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. We trust that in doing so it will allow future generations of families to enjoy the preservation of history and also bring more awareness to the history of our lake and great country.

Sincerely,

H. Steve Sprunger

Lake Gage Lime Lake Association Vice President.



July 10, 2019

JUL 15 2019

RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Clark,

I am writing to you in regard to the Nomination of the Lake Gage – Lime Lake Bridge and Channel to the National Register of Historic Places. As a means of background – I am seasonal resident of Lake Gage and Lime Lake. My family is part of six (6) generations of Riethmillers on Lake Gage. Our cottage is located on the North East corner of the Bridge. Our family has grown up with the Bridge in our front yard. In fact, the picture used in the nomination research material of the young girl in the row boat – is my Aunt.

We are excited that “our” bridge is rightfully being considered for Historic designation. Being a part of the Lake History, constructed by individuals in a Historic time of our country, and providing an asset for our Lake and area of IN-- gives us a great sense of pride! Utilizing the field stone prevalent in this area provides the iconic Park Rustic look of the Bridge. We are fortunate to have this, since there is only one bridge such as this in Stueben County...and possibly NE IN. Family, friends, and those visiting Lake Gage, have greatly enjoyed the channel and bridge for over 75 years. It speaks to the determination and hard work of those who constructed Bridge in a tough economic time. It also shows how nature can evolve and grow with the constructs of man. It is a special place and structure.

I have traveled the world and seen many sights, but the Field stone Lake Gage Bridge lets me know why I love to return to My Indiana Home!

We strongly recommend the approval of this nomination for Historic designation.

Respectfully, Tom Riethmiller



July 15, 2019

Cameron F. Clark, Director  
402 W. Washington Street  
Room W26  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Clark:

We are excited to express our strong support for the Nomination of the historic Lake Gage-Lime Lake Bridge and Channel to the National Register of Historic Places. We are one of the three property owners owning property immediately adjacent to the Channel and the field stone Bridge that connects Lake Gage and Lime Lake. We have owned our property for 35 years, and can speak to the importance of this historic designation to all the residents of Lake Gage and Lime Lake and, indeed, to all the proud citizens of the State of Indiana.

The historic Lake Gage-Lime Lake Bridge and Channel encompass a portion of typical northern Indiana lake topography. Both exemplify structures shaped almost entirely by the Civilian Conservation Corps. As such, they present outstanding examples of important New Deal public works and recreational development in Indiana during the 1930's. Located next to State lands with boating access, by their very existence, the historic Channel and Bridge encourage enjoyment of Indiana's outdoors and its recreational activities.

The historic field stone Bridge itself, is representative of the work and the style of architecture typical of the CCC. Original documentation shows that, at the time it was built, the Bridge met all of the standards of integrity established by the CCC. The Bridge still stands in its original location, with the vast majority of its design and materials remaining intact. There have been no significant modern intrusions other than the removal of the Bridge's original light poles (which we hope our Lake Association might one-day replace) and, as with the Channel, there has been some natural land erosion that needs to be corrected. However, the integrity of the Bridge appears very strong.

The Lake Gage-Lime Lake Bridge and Channel assure enjoyment of what residents believe are some northern Indiana's loveliest glacially formed waters. Every day during the Summer, and throughout most of the rest of the year, walkers, bikers, and runners go over the Bridge – while people in and on fishing boats, canoes, and paddleboards come down the Channel to pass under the Bridge's lovely structure. Both the Lake Gage-Lime Lake Bridge and Channel stand as lasting representations of what the CCC hoped its work would contribute to Indiana's recreational development. Therefore, we enthusiastically support the approval of this nomination for Historic designation.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas & Kathleen Reed  
6630 West North Lake Gage Drive  
Angola, IN 46703  
Phone: 419-250-1900  
[Kathleen.Reed@utoledo.edu](mailto:Kathleen.Reed@utoledo.edu)  
[Treed4241@gmail.com](mailto:Treed4241@gmail.com)



July 15, 2019

Cameron F. Clark., Director  
402 W. Washington St., Room W256  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

PLANNING & ARCH.  
RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Clark

I write to express my strong support for designating the fieldstone bridge within the Lake Gage – Lime Lake Channel as a historical entity. I am one of three residents whose property is immediately adjacent to the bridge, property located on its southeast side that has been in my family since this particular area of the lake (known as “Mid-Lake Park”) was first developed. I have spent each year of my life on Lake Gage and can attest to the fact that the bridge is an integral aspect of the lake’s community.

As you know from the documentation provided by ARCH, the bridge was built in 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in collaboration with the Works Progress Administration who dug the channel, both part of President Roosevelt’s New Deal Program. The simple elegance and beauty of this fieldstone structure is a stunning legacy of these individuals, and even more so given the bridge’s uniqueness to Steuben County and, indeed, to the state of Indiana. I can think of no better way to honor this legacy and important period from our nation’s history than to designate the bridge as a protected and historical entity. More often than not, we’re all so consumed with the here-and-now and the future that we tend to forget the past and those who labored for what we have now. Physical structures, such as the Lake Gage/Lime Lake bridge help us to remember and appreciate the past, to foster respect for, and hopefully a commitment to what we’re so fortunate to have.

Beyond honoring the efforts of the CCC, the bridge is an important landmark and an integral aspect of our community. Living next to the bridge, I am a witness to the many individuals who routinely walk, run, or cycle around the lake each day, many of whom stop for a few minutes at the bridge. It’s a place in which to meet new people, catch up with friends and acquaintances, and is a vantage point in which to admire the beauty of both lakes at once. There is no other locale on the lake that serves these varied functions, and I think most people’s image of the lake when away is one that includes the fieldstone bridge. Over the years, erosion has occurred within the channel due to boat traffic and time, and although the country has done a fairly good job at maintaining the stonework, I do hope you are able to protect its structural integrity through a historical designation. Thanks for taking the time to read this letter. Respectfully,

Marilyn Boltz  
6635 W. North Lake Gage Drive  
Angola, IN 46703

Steuben County Highway Department  
1900 North 200 West  
Angola, Indiana 46703  
1-260-668-1000, Ext 3600



*October 27, 2009*

*Robert E. Carter, Jr. State Historic Preservation Officer  
Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology  
402 West Washington Street, Room W274  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2739*

*Mr. Carter,*

*Steuben County would like to voice their opposition to declaring the small structure located on North Lake Gage Road in Steuben County as historic. (See Exhibit A)*

*The structure was inspected in 1996 (See exhibit B). The inspection report states that there was an expected lifespan of 20 years. This was based on the age and deterioration of the span.*

*Making the structure historic would create problems in keeping access to the traveling public. The structure is located on a residential roadway and the county has concerns that if the structure is named historic, the future maintenance and replacement of the structure would be hindered or impossible. The structure has a detour route length of 1.58 miles to the west and 2.39 miles to the west (see exhibit C). Due to the nature of the structure's construction method, the maintenance of the structure would be very difficult and would require that the structure be disassembled to replace portions. This would not be allowed if declared historic. At some point in the future the structure would need replacement or would require closing due to weight restrictions. This would affect all of the local landowners on a daily basis.*

*The county maintains the approach roadways. Currently the structure does not have adequate safety approach rail. The blunt stone ends do not meet safety standards and present a serious hazard to oncoming traffic. Rail or collapsible treatments should be placed as soon as possible. The safety of the bridge is again in question.*



*The application states that the structure lends to recreation and culture. The original plans (see application attachments page 22) showed this structure as being possibly used as a pass through from one lake to the other. The application also states in section ten of fourteen that the lake has had rising levels over the years. The current clear height from water to bottom of the structure is approximately 3.5 feet. The water depth is approximately 2.0 feet. Many of the county structures allows for passage by boats to go from one lake to another. This structure is not one of them. Three and one half feet does not adequately give clearance for normal under passage travel. This has not stopped it from being used for this. (See Exhibit D). A death was recorded in 2004 when a person attempted to go under the structure and hit the beams. Recreation aspects are limited or impossible due to the low clearance level.*

*The structure has also had many modifications to it over the years. The light poles shown in the picture in the application attachments, page 21, are no longer in place (See Exhibits E and F). Steuben County was under the mistaken impression that the structure was under county ownership and so did repairs on it as needed over the years. Repairs have been done on the structure in an effort to maintain it (see Exhibits F, G, H and I). The wearing surface has also been upgraded and the original material type has been changed.*

*Due to the unsafe conditions on and under the roadway, the many modifications made to and around the structure, Steuben County is requesting that the listing of this small structure as historic be denied. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.*

*I thank you for your consideration of our request.*

*Sincerely*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith Lytton', written in a cursive style.

*Mr. Keith A. Lytton P.E.*

*Steuben County Highway Engineer*

*Exhibit A - Letter from Commissioners*

*Exhibit B - Small Structure Inspection, 3/5/1996, estimated remaining life of 20 Years.*

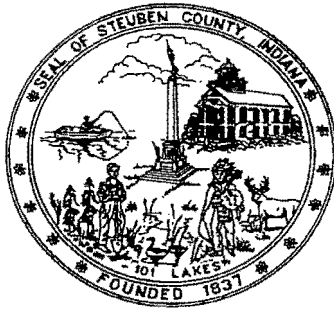
*Exhibit C - Detour Route - 1.58 Miles West, 2.39 Miles East*

*Exhibit D - Newspaper article for Death caused by Structure*

*Exhibits E thru I - Pictures*



A



## STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**F. Mayo Sanders**  
North District

**James A. Crowl**  
Middle District

**Ronald L. Smith**  
South District

October 14, 2009

Robert E. Carter, Jr., Director  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Historic Preservation &  
Archaeology  
402 W Washington St, W 274  
Indianapolis IN 46204-2739

Re: Lime Lake/Lake Gage Channel and Bridge, North Lake Gage Road  
Angola vicinity, Steuben County, Indiana

Dear Mr. Carter:

We have received your letter notifying us of the public hearing on October 28, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. in Indianapolis on the nomination of the above bridge to the National Register of Historic Places. Even though the bridge structure is considered the DNR's responsibility, we are not in favor of the nomination. Our Highway Department has stated that once the bridge has been designated an Historical Place, it would limit our ability to widen the road and bridge/structure in the future. At this time we do not have any plans to do this, but we would like to keep this option open.

We appreciate your consideration of our position in this matter.

Sincerely,

F. Mayo Sanders  
President

Fms/cag

# STEBEN COUNTY SMALL STRUCTURE INSPECTION

LOCATION Road: Lake Gage Drive  
Approximate Location: 450N-675W

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Structure Type: Concrete Beams

### DIMENSIONS:

OPENING Height: 7' Width: 14.75'  
Str. Length: 17.75' Skew: 5 Deg. Lt.  
Pipe Length or Out to Out: 26'  
Approximate Cover Depth: 2"  
Roadway Width: 24'

## APPRAISAL/CONDITION

	MATERIAL	CONDITION	
Deck:	Concrete	Good	
Superstr.:	Concrete	Good	Minor exposed reinf. steel
Sub str.:	Concrete, Stone face	Good	Some stones are missing
Channel:	Natural	Good	Connects 2 Lakes
Headwalls:	N/A		
Pipe:	N/A		
Appr. Rd.:	Chip and seal	Good	Straight

Overall Culvert Evaluation: Good

Estimated Remaining Life: 20 yrs

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS: Trim trees along approach, install approach guardrail.

Inspected by: RKH

Date: 3/5/96



STRUCTURE NO. 30

B-2



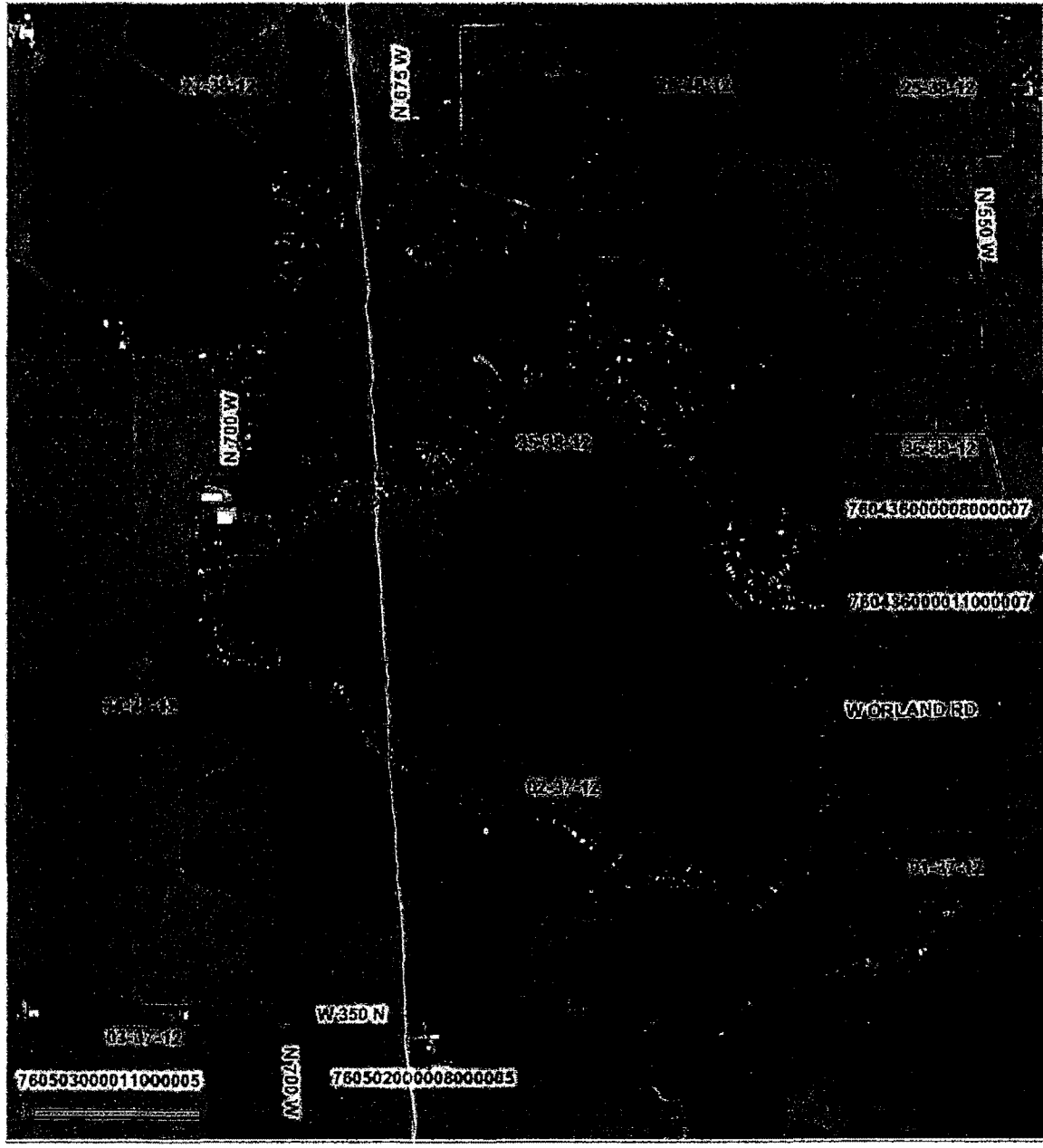
LOOKING NORTH



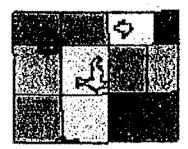
WEST ELEVATION

C

Date Created: 10/27/2009  
Map Scale: 1 in = 1,573 ft



### Overview



### Legend

- Sections
- Lakes
- Centerlines
- Other
- State
- US
- Interstate
- Political Townships
- Corporate Limits

Last Data Upload: 10/27/2009 8:39:26 AM

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# HERALD-REPUBLICAN

## News Focus

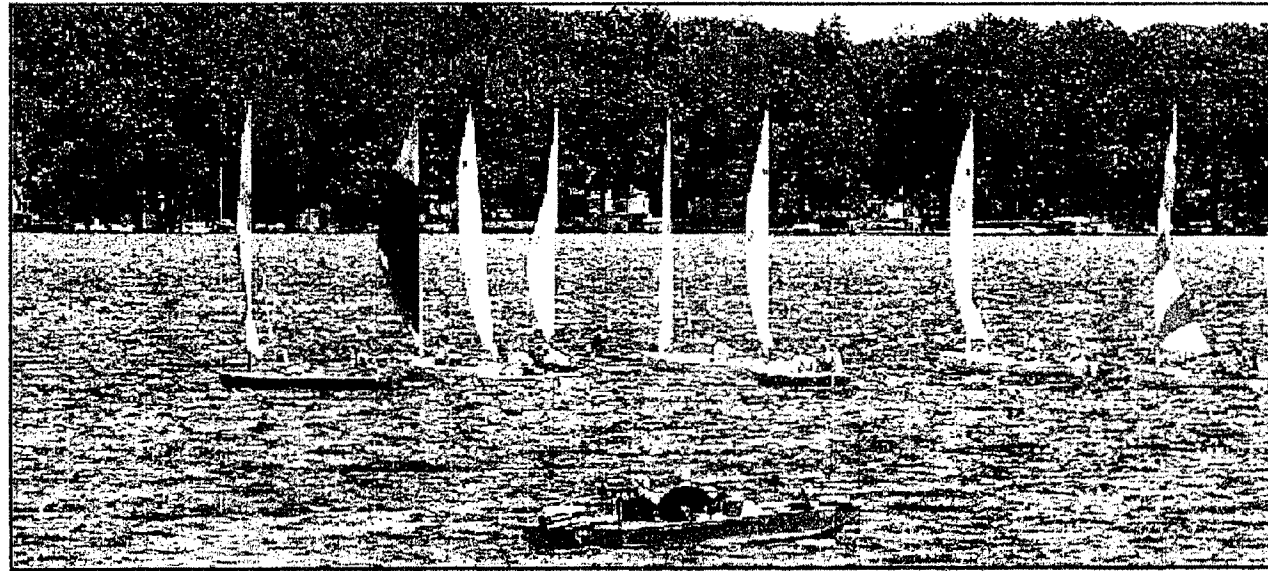
### Boater killed when he hits bridge over channel

**LAKE GAGE** — A man operating a personal watercraft in a channel between Lime Lake and Lake Gage in Steuben County was killed Saturday when his head struck the bottom of a bridge crossing the channel.

Scott R. Blossom, 35, of Metamora, Ohio, was traveling east in the channel when he struck the bottom of the North Lake Gage Drive bridge, according to Indiana conservation officers Keith Praski and John Deem, who investigated the accident.

The Steuben County Sheriff's Department, Orland Fire and Rescue and the Steuben County Coroner's Office assisted in the investigation. No further information was released early today.

AP poll: Majority



### Off to the races at Lake

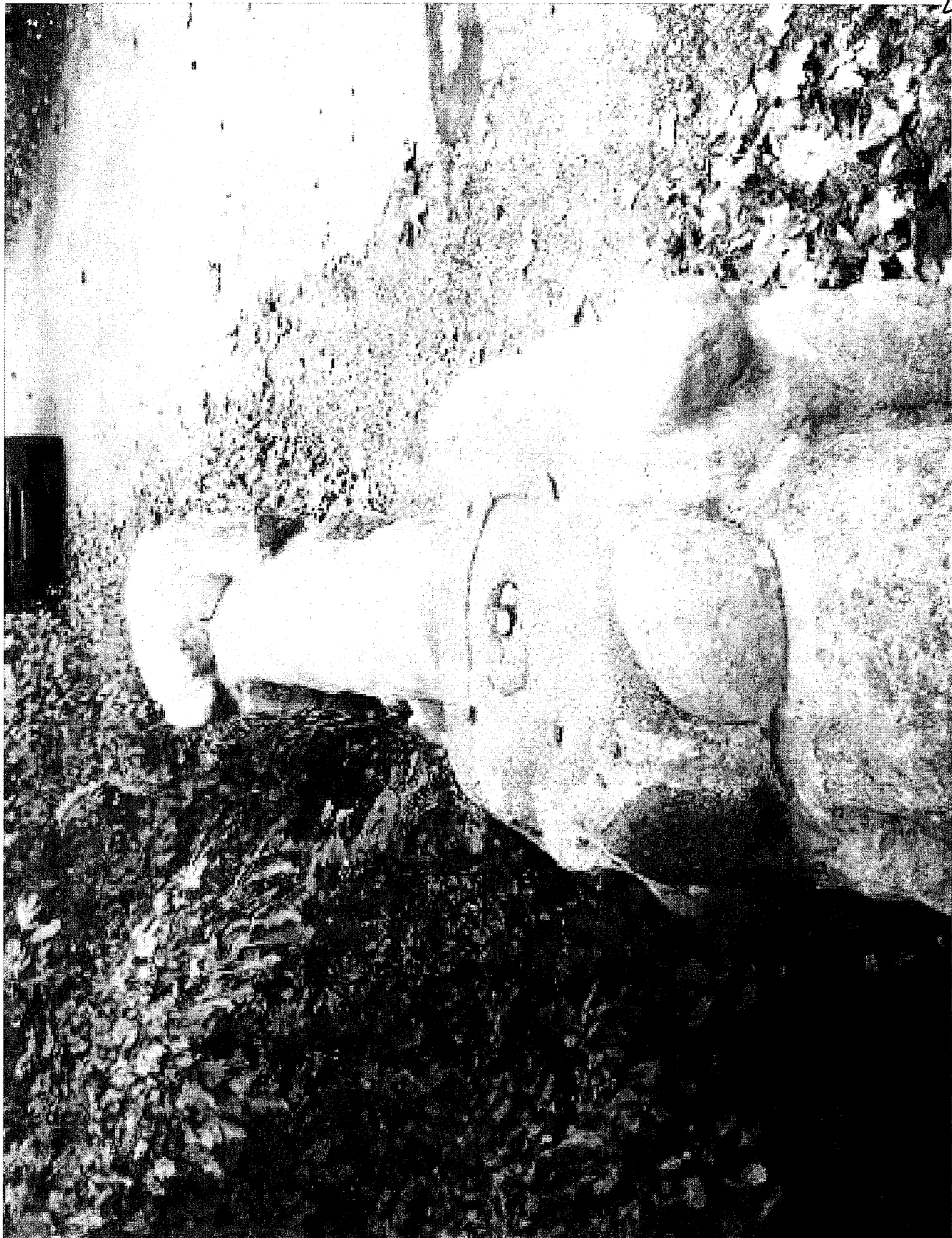
Two fishermen slow down to watch the start the second race Saturday at the Inland Cat Regatta on Lake George. Most boating trophies go to the weekend races the annual Inland Cat Regatta that attracts sailors from across the Midwest to compete at Lake George. The regatta features three races, weather and wi

# Dem

# Human

DEATH ON JULY 24, 2004

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October 5, 2009

Mr. Robert E. Carter Jr.  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology  
402 W. Washington Street Rm. W274  
Indianapolis, In 46204-2739



RECEIVED  
HIST PRES & ARCH

OCT 09 2009

ONE

Dear Mr. Carter,

I am writing to you to comment on the proposed listing of **The Lime Lake- Lake Gage Channel and Bridge, North Lake Gage Road, Angola vicinity, Steuben County, In.** to the National Register of Historic Places.

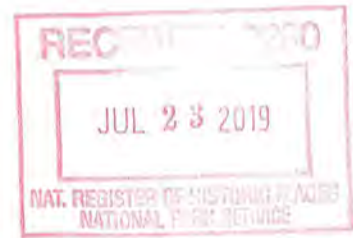
Attached please find a letter that I've sent to Mr. James Kershaw outlining my position on this matter.

I wrote my letter to Mr. Kershaw because I wasn't sure if I, as an individual, had any rights to speak on this matter, since I'm not a property owner in the area adjacent to the proposed site. But I believe that as a Hoosier, taxpayer, and user of the Public Access site, I do have a right to comment. And as such, I ask you, and your committee, to consider the points that I raised to Mr. Kershaw in making your determination in this matter. My sole reason for opposing this listing is because I believe that the current bridge clearance constitutes an unnecessary safety hazard and should be fixed. You may be unaware that a person on a jet ski was killed a few years ago while trying to go under this bridge. Admittedly he was going too fast, none the less it speaks to the clearance issue. *If listing this Bridge in the Historical Register would allow for a Federal Grant that would allow raising the roadbed, and subsequent clearance below the road for safe boat passage, while maintaining the "look of the present structure", I would not be opposed to it.*

Thank you for your time, and I'll be awaiting the outcome of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Bill LaVigne  
7821 Sunderland Drive  
Ft. Wayne, In 46835-1247



October 5, 2009

Mr. James Kershaw  
Public Access Site Supervisor  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
IGC- South W273  
402 W Washington St  
Indianapolis, In. 46204

Dear Mr. Kershaw,

I'm writing to you to urge your department to oppose the listing of **The Lime Lake-Lake Gage Channel and Bridge, North Lake Gage Road, Angola vicinity, Steuben County**, in The National Registry of Historic Places.

This is not because I'm opposed to saving items of Historic nature, but because I believe that some "old" items are a hindrance to today's world. The bridge in question is a prime example. When this was constructed the average boat that may have passed under it was a 12-14' wooden rowboat. The enclosed photos show what a person must go through in an average sized 16' boat of today to pass under the bridge. This recent photo shows the water at low fall levels. In the springtime there are times when passage is impossible.



Looking at the Water Depth Gage you can see that the level is about 4.55'. And you'll notice the algae stain up around the 5' level. That means that in the spring time there's approximately 6" less clearance under this bridge. I believe that this constitutes an unnecessary safety hazard which I urge your Department to coordinate with the Steuben Co. Transportation Dept. to correct. I'm not suggesting that a bridge be constructed which would allow the passage of the Queen Mary, just an average sized 16' fishing boat of today.



I can recall that just a few years ago the culvert between Clear Lake and Round Lake in Steuben County, which allowed just a small boat to pass through, was replaced with a much larger and easier to navigate culvert.

If this Lake Gage Bridge were raised just 12-18", it would be a much safer and easier access to Lake Gage. I even wonder if the present configuration constitutes a violation of the A.D.A. requirements. Obviously the Public Access boat ramp does meet these requirements. But does it in itself follow the intent of the A.D.A., if 100 yards away a handicapped person meets an obstacle like this low bridge? If the bridge were to be raised this 12-18", the corresponding inclines necessary for the road to pass would not be so high as to be a concern or burden on the nearby property owners. Again I refer back to the changes made at Clear Lake which required the road bed to be raised at least 3'.

I believe that your department, representing the interest of providing public access for Hoosiers, is in a unique position to voice opposition to this proposed listing. I believe that if this Bridge is listed, then cosmetic changes will become more difficult, if not impossible. Which makes me wonder, if the Bridge were listed, and subsequently required structural repairs, wouldn't attempts be made to "return" it to a condition resembling today's Bridge? If that is the case, then the Bridge could be raised and the stone work upper structure re-installed. This would be similar to a house listed as "Historic", but undergoing renovations that made it "safe" but resembled the previous state.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this matter. I will await word of your actions.

Bill LaVigne  
7821 Sunderland Drive  
Fort Wayne, In 46835-1247

October 3, 2019

James Gabbert  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Mr. Gabbert:

We are members of the Lime Lake/Lake Gage Association and the Lime Lake Conservation Club and have been full time residents on Lime Lake for over 10 years. It has come to our attention that the Lime Lake/Lake Gage Association has approached the National Park Service to request that the bridge on W. North Lake Gage Drive, located between Lake Gage and Lime Lake be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We are opposed to that request for several reasons:

This is a county road and the request did not have approval from the appropriate county officials prior to the request to the National Park Service.

Almost every buildable location on Lake Gage has a house so the traffic on this narrow bridge, especially in the summer, creates a dangerous situation for pedestrians and motorists.

As Fire and Emergency vehicles increase in size the bridge already creates an obstacle to quickly reach over one fourth of the residents on Lake Gage and Lime Lake. These residents could be reached by going around Lake Gage but the additional travel time could be critical to those residents.

We do not believe that the bridge reaches the criteria for inclusion in the National Register.

In light of this we ask that you not include this bridge on W. North Lake Gage Drive, between Lake Gage and Lime Lake on the National Register of Historic Places. As a minimum there must be further discussion with the appropriate Steuben County officials.

Thank you for consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. and Sherri D. Enneking  
115 Lane 165 Lime Lake  
Angola, IN 46703



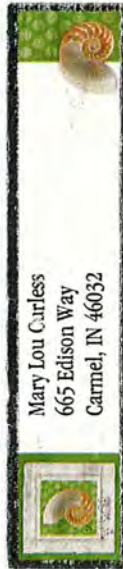
Jim Gabbert  
National Park Service

Re: Lake Gage Stone Bridge

Please designate the beautiful stone Lake Gage channel bridge as a historical landmark. For seventy six years that bridge has been a landmark in my life. As a child we would fish from the bridge, meet with are friends there and pass under the bridge many times a day in a rowboat. Now my grandchildren are doing the same except using a paddle board instead of a boat. Hopefully my great grandchildren can have the same experiences if the bridge is designated as a historical landmark instead of replacing it.

Thanking you for your consideration,  
Mary Lou Curless  
665 Edison Way  
Carmel, IN 46032

Mary Lou Carlless  
665 Edison Way  
Carmel, IN 46032



INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46201

SEP 20 2018

Jenni Gabbert  
National Park Service  
National Registry of  
Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
Washington D.C.  
20240-

