

P140010006

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	ALABAMA
COUNTY:	Cullman
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 25 1974

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
Clarkson Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Legg Bridge

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Approximately 10 miles west of the City of Cullman, off  
County Road 11. *W of Cullman*

CITY OR TOWN: *Cullman* CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 4th

Section 6, Township 10S, Range 4W

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Alabama	01	Cullman	043

#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Cullman County Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P.O. Box 115, 500 Second Avenue S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Cullman STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Cullman County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
500 Second Avenue, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Cullman STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

APR 25 1974  
NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Clarkson bridge is a two span Town truss which crosses a deep gorge across Crooked Creek and connects the communities of Bethel and Central.

Constructed entirely of local materials, the bridge measures 250 feet in length with a single massive stone pier by the north bank of the creek serving as its only support.

The width of the bridge measures 12 feet and the bridge is constructed of rough pine with the exception of the roof which is presently of sheet metal, but originally was constructed of wood shingles. Bracings measure 2" x 12" while the cross bracing and studs of the siding are 2" x 4". The flooring is 2" x 6" rough pine.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | <u>Local History</u>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape              | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

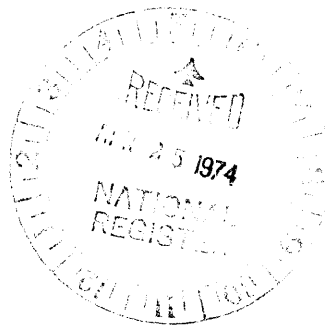
The Clarkson Covered Bridge is one of the longest two span covered bridges standing in the Deep South. This massive turn-of-the-century structure is one of only 13 remaining covered bridges in the state, and is the last of eleven such bridges in Cullman County.

The bridge was constructed in 1904 on land donated to the county by the father of W. H. Legg. In 1923 the bridge was damaged by a storm and had to be repaired. Bill Slosler, a contractor from Cullman was hired by the county to repair the bridge. A member of the repair crew, Elton O. Brock recalls that the work began in the fall of 1923 and was finished in the first part of 1924, at a cost of \$1,000 to \$1,500.

The bridge is one of nine Town type bridges standing in Alabama. The Town bridges, which were built all over the eastern United States, were instigated by a New England promoter, Ithiel Town. Town was granted a patent on this type of truss in 1820. His bridges were built in a lattice style of plans forming a webbing. A genuine American invention the Town truss was a durable bridge which could withstand an unusually large amount of weight.

The bridge is county owned but construction and maintenance of all roads and bridges are the direct responsibility of the Highway Department. The Cullman County Board of Revenue plans to use the bridge and surrounding acreage as a recreational park.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Alabama Historical Commission. Alabama's Covered Bridges (State Printing Office, 1969).

Decatur Daily, Wednesday, February 28, 1973.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		34° 12' 27"	86° 59' 28"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: Alabama Historical Commission DATE: April 12, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P.O. Box 1611, Garrett Coliseum

CITY OR TOWN: Montgomery STATE: Alabama CODE: 01

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Miss B. Howard Jr.

Title SHPO

Date April 15, 1974

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

A. P. ...  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/25/74

ATTEST:

Charles ...  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 6/21/74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS