

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Ohio
COUNTY: Fairfield
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 28 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
John Bright Covered Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Township road 263

CITY OR TOWN:
2 1/2 miles southwest of Baltimore

STATE:
Ohio

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
#10

COUNTY:
Clarence E. Miller

CODE: **039** CODE: **045**

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Fairfield County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court House

CITY OR TOWN:
Lancaster

STATE:
Ohio

CODE:
039

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Lancaster

STATE:
Ohio

CODE:
039

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



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Handwritten: 3/13

The structure under consideration is a one-span wooden and ^{WRUGHT-IRON} steel combination truss covered bridge spanning Poplar Creek in Liberty Township section 29-32, two and one-half miles southwest of Baltimore in Fairfield County, Ohio. This unusual covered bridge has typical high-boarded siding, a metal roof, stone abutments and straight portals. This is known as the John Bright Bridge and it has a very unusual truss type in that it is actually a suspension bridge. The truss consists of the usual two wooden end posts that are 3-9" x 5" and five wooden verticals of varying lengths to which is attached the ^{WRUGHT-IRON} steel eye-bar suspension arch (inverted). A wooden arch of 2-11 1/2" x 3" is butted into each abutment with concrete reinforcements. ^{WRUGHT-IRON} Steel rods extend from the top of the wooden arch on each side of the verticals and extend down and are bolted on either side of the floor beams. There is no lower chord and the double floor rests directly on these floor beams. This truss is difficult for even the most knowledgeable covered bridge truss expert to describe, therefore, a detailed sketch of this truss is included. The overall length of the bridge is 74', the overall width is 17'5" with a 13'4" roadway. The floor consists of two layers, the bottom layer is laid on the diagonal, and the upper is laid lengthwise. The portals are straight and extend out beyond the truss giving it some protection from the weather. These portals are cut back sharply about 2 1/2' from the ground. The roof beams and bracing and the floor beams and bracing in this bridge are a combination of wood and ^{IRON} steel, reminiscent of a Howe truss.

The John Bright Covered Bridge was unpainted for many years, but recently it has received a coat of a rather bright red paint on both sides and portals. The sides and portals are finished with battens. The stone abutments are the original foundations of this bridge and have concrete reinforcements where the arches rest against them. This is a very attractive bridge in good condition.

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8. 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) **1881**

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <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 John Bright Covered Bridge is an outstanding example of 19th century engineering skills. It was built in 1881 by Aug Borneman and Sons for a cost of \$993.75. Mr. Borneman, at this time, or very soon thereafter, was owner of the Hocking Valley Bridge Works. This company built the unusual steel inverted arch suspension bridge just around the corner from, and in sight of, the John Bright Covered Bridge. The steel bridge is usually referred to as John Bright #1 and the covered bridge as John Bright Bridge #2. Unfortunately, we know very little today about the Hocking Valley Bridge Works, the suspension bridges they built, or if they were ever patented.

The John Bright Bridges take their name from the Bright Family who were early settlers in this area and owned much of the land around both the covered and steel bridges. The John Bright Covered Bridge is an extremely attractive and interesting bridge in a scenic setting and one well worthy of preservation.

wrought iron

iron

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allen, Richard S., Covered Bridges of the Middle West, Stephan Greene Press, 1970, pages 48 and 49.
 Combination Atlas Map of Fairfield County, L. H. Everts, Philadelphia, 1875, pages 84 and 89.
 Record Books of the Southern Ohio Covered Bridge Association, Volume #2, Fairfield County.
 Wiseman, C. M. L., Pioneers of Fairfield County, Ohio, F. J. Heer Printing Company, 1901, pages 327 and 328.

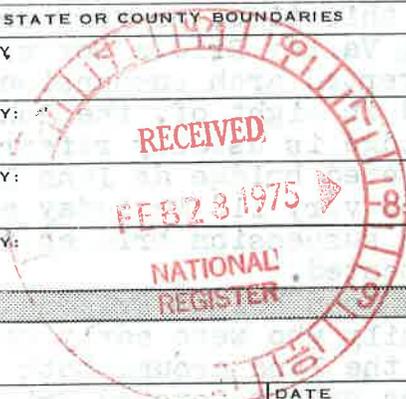
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		N39° 49' 51"	W 82° 40' 23"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Miriam Wood

ORGANIZATION: Ohio Covered Bridge Committee DATE: December, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 3155 Whitehead Road

CITY OR TOWN: Columbus STATE: Ohio CODE: 43204 039

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: Chas. C. Grad

Title: Acting State Hist. Pres. Officer

Date: 2/26/75

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. B. Montross
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/28/75

ATTEST:

John Montross
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: MAY 14 1975

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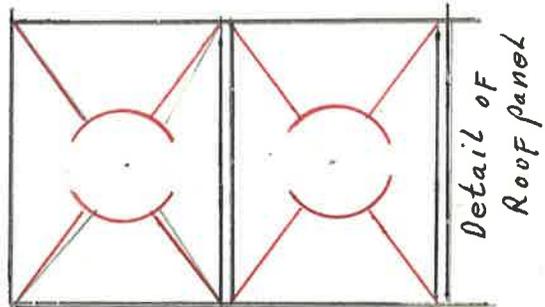
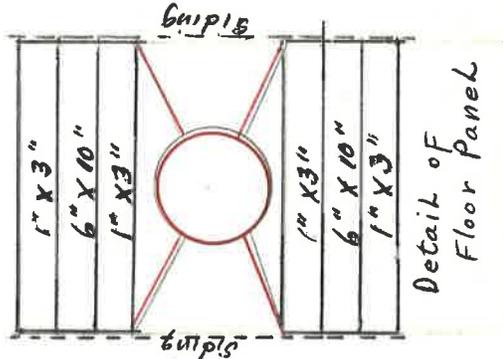
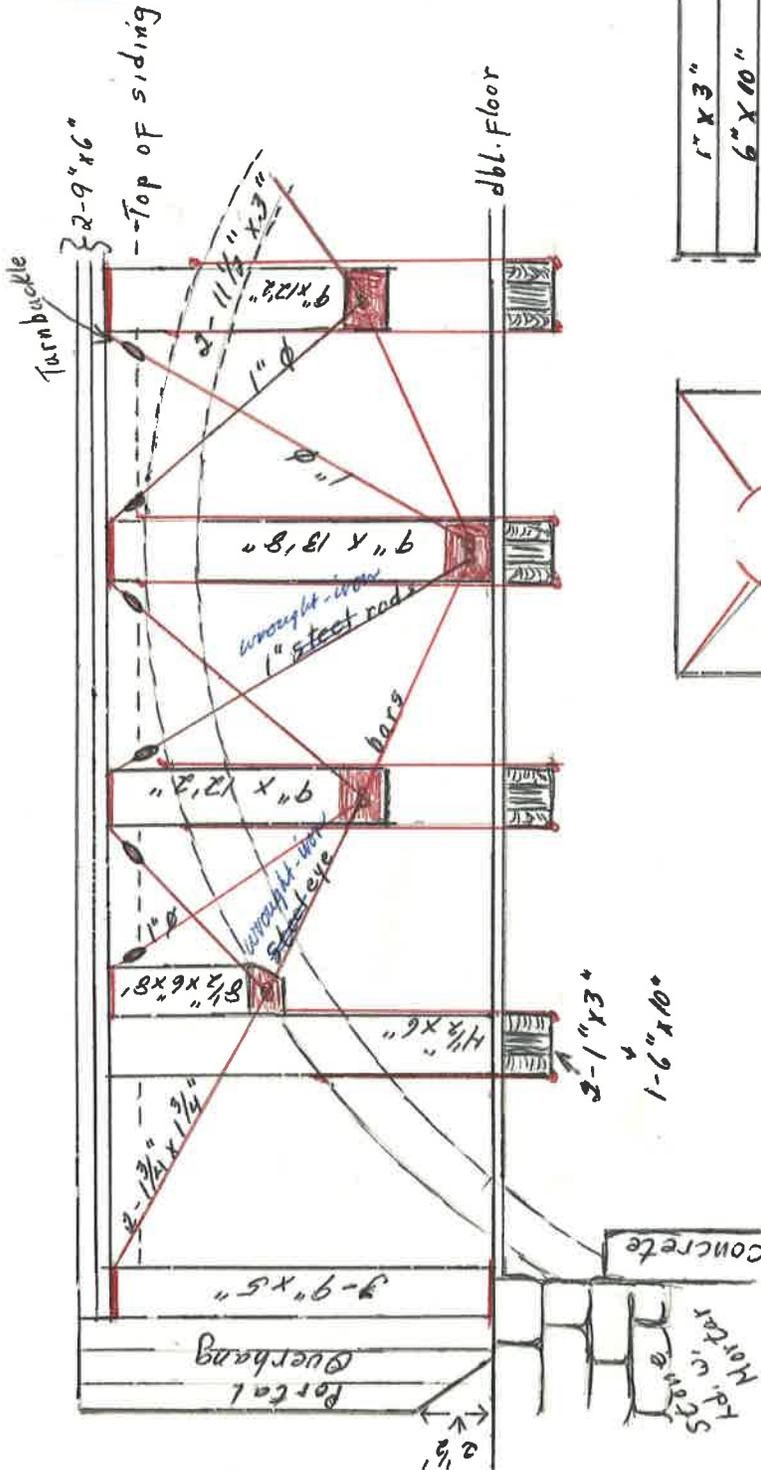
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Ohio	
COUNTY Fairfield	
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(Number all entries)

John Bright Covered Bridge



John Bright Covered Bridge

This is a rough sketch of truss, roof and floor panel details. Red indicates wrought-steel eye bars, rods, caps. This sketch is not to scale.

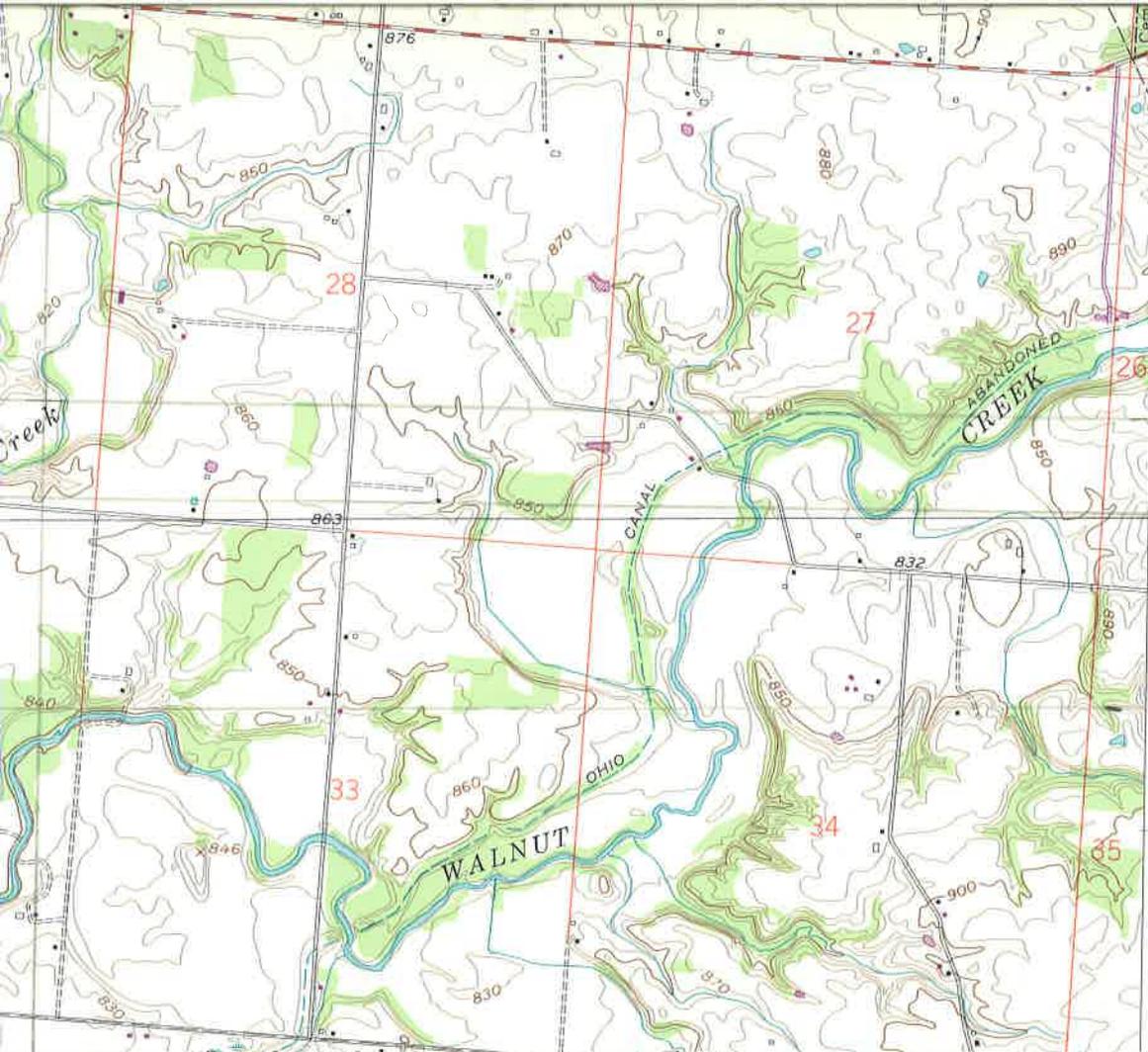


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4411

John Bright Covered Bridge

50'

Latitude:
39° 49' 51"

4410

Longitude:
82° 40' 23"

4409

17/356 820

T. 16 N. 4410 080

CS