

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

*Cyes* 4

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

COVERED BRIDGES OF INDIANA COUNTY

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

T488 OVER S. BRANCH PLUM CREEK; 1/8 MI. S. OF

LR32072

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

12

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE  
42

COUNTY

Indiana

CODE  
063

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<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:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Indiana County c/o County Commissioners

STREET & NUMBER

Indiana County Courthouse, Philadelphia Street

CITY, TOWN

Indiana

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Indiana County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Philadelphia Street

CITY, TOWN

Indiana

STATE

Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Pa. Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

February 1979

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

# DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Western Pennsylvania County of Indiana up until a few years ago had six covered bridges, today only four of them remain. All four are owned by the County and well maintained. Three of the four bridges have Town trussing systems the other has a Howe trussing system. Of the four, the three Town truss bridges are the shortest; 35 feet, 41 feet, and 52 feet. The Howe truss bridge is 62 feet. The bridges span feeder creeks in the Ohio Watershed area, Plum Creek and Crooked Creek. All four bridges are identical in styling with vertical siding, gable roof and open window area at roof line. The Kintersburg Bridge (Howe truss) has linear laid floor boards, the other three has width laid floor boards.

### Bridge Inventory

Name: Trusal Covered Bridge  
(38-32-03)  
Stream: Plum Creek  
Truss Type: Town  
Year: 1870  
End Post to End Post Length: 35'  
Location: T406, Washington Township

Name: Harmon's Covered Bridge  
(38-32-04)  
Stream: Plum Creek  
Truss Type: Town  
Year: 1910  
End Post Length: 41'  
Location: T488, Washington Township

Name: Kintersburg Covered Bridge  
(38-32-05)  
Stream: Crooked Creek  
Truss Type: Howe  
Year: 1877  
End Post Length: 62'  
Location: T612, Rayne Township

Name: Thomas Covered Bridge  
(38-32-06)  
Stream: Crooked Creek  
Truss type: Town  
Year: 1879  
End Post Length: 52'  
Location: T414, Armstrong Township

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

<b>PERIOD</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The use of covered bridges was an important developmental stage in the history of transportation in Pennsylvania. The necessity of crossing numerous streams and rivers in the transportation of goods and people created a need for a cheap and reliable type of bridge. The timber bridge filled this need as aptly shown by the estimated number of covered bridges Pennsylvania once had, over 1,500. These wooden spans played an important part in the transportation system of the state. Pennsylvania is fortunate in having many excellent examples of the covered bridge in existence.

As the demand for the covered bridge increased the many different types and styles of trussing systems were developed. The use of some such as the Burr arch, Kingpost and Queenpost systems became very popular in Pennsylvania. Other types, the Town, Howe, and Stringer were not as commonly used. The four covered bridges of Indiana County are examples of these rarer types and form a type of isolated colony in an area more noted for its Burr arch bridges.

Three of the Indiana bridges employ the Town type truss. This trussing system was designed and patented by Ithill Town in 1820. As of 1972 only 20 examples (including 3 in Indiana County) of this trussing type remain in Pennsylvania. (Covered Bridges)

The Howe truss is even rarer in Pennsylvania. This system was designed by William Howe, in 1840. As of 1972, only four Howe truss covered bridges remain in Pennsylvania.

The Covered Bridges of Indiana County are fine examples of a type of bridge which played an important part in the development of transportation systems in Pennsylvania. Their unusual trussing systems for Pennsylvania, make them a valuable Pennsylvania resource.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Wilson, Raymond E. "Twenty Different Ways to Build a Covered Bridge." Technology Review, May 1971, p. 125-131.
- Shank, William H., Historic Bridges of Pennsylvania, Buchart-Horn, 1966. p. 3-16.
- Allen, Richard Sanders. Covered Bridges of the Middle Atlantic States. Battleboro, Vermont: Stephen Greene Press, 1959, p. 73-79.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .18

QUADRANGLE NAME Clymer and Ernest

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
E	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
G	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
F	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
H	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Susan M. Zacher

ORGANIZATION

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1026

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

ED WEINTRAUB, Director  
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

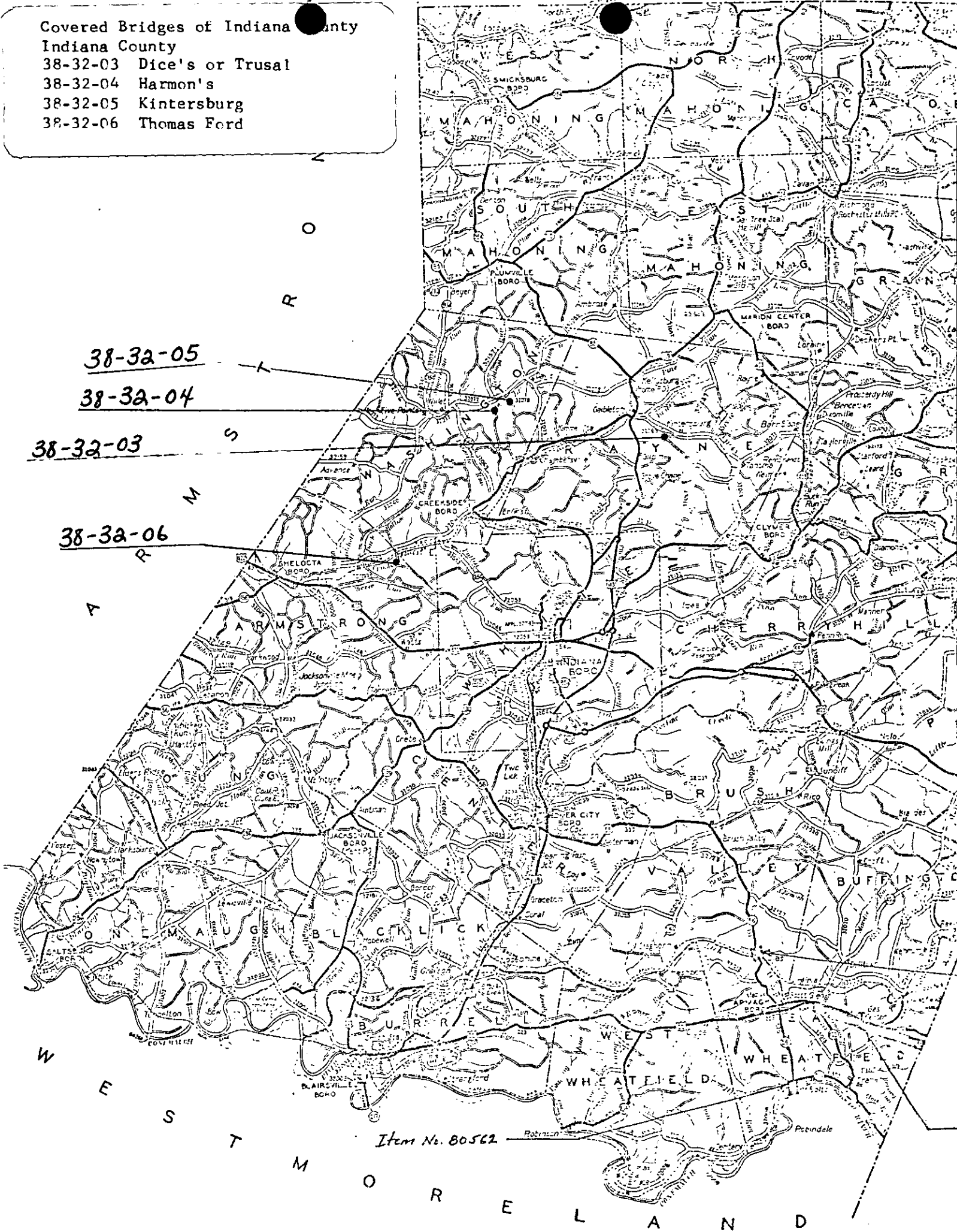
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

Covered Bridges of Indiana County  
 Indiana County  
 38-32-03 Dice's or Trusal  
 38-32-04 Harmon's  
 38-32-05 Kintersburg  
 38-32-06 Thomas Ford



Item No. 80562