

FINAL

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only  
received  
date entered

**1. Name**

historic Roann Covered Bridge, 4th

and/or common Roann Covered Bridge

**2. Location**

street & number County Road 700W over the Eel River.  not for publication

city, town Roann  vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Indiana code 018 county Wabash code 169

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Wabash County Highway Department

street & number 803 Manchester Avenue

city, town Wabash  vicinity of state Indiana

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorders Office

street & number Wabash County Courthouse

city, town Wabash state Indiana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Covered Bridges of Indiana has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1960 federal  state  county  local

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Roann Covered Bridge crosses the Eel River just north of Roann, Indiana, on County Road 700 West. This Howe truss was constructed in 1877 by the Smith Bridge Company of Toledo, Ohio.

The bridge is 288 feet in length and 15.3 feet wide, with a 14.7 foot roadway. The vertical clearance is 18.5 feet, and the design load capability is 15 tons (although a sign at the entrance says "Weight limit 4 tons").

Abutments are of stone, although in 1972 steel bracing was added at the ends. Another pier supports the center of the bridge.

The bridge has painted board and batten siding. A  $4\frac{1}{2}$  bay opening in the siding on the east side of the south end provides a view of oncoming traffic. This opening is protected by awnings. The siding stops short of the upper chord, allowing light and ventilation into the bridge.

The gabled roof projects beyond the ends of the bridge, supported by knee bracing and sheltering the entrances. The bracing is sheathed in board and batten siding, which continues a short distance inside the bridge, protecting the end panels from the elements. The siding covering the gable end has a very slight arch shaping the head of the opening. On each gable end is a sign that reads, "Roann, Eel River, Bridge Built 1877."

The floor of the bridge was replaced in 1953. The bridge was restored in 1972, and siding was replaced. The window opening was moved down a few feet at that time to better accommodate automobile traffic.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below							
<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"/> 1400-1499	<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/				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation				
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)				

Specific dates 1877 Builder/Architect Robert W. Smith

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Roann Covered Bridge is significant as one of only two remaining covered bridges in Wabash County (out of an original 29), and as the only one used today for regular highway traffic.

The bridge was constructed in 1877 by the Smith Bridge Company of Toledo, Ohio. It is a Howe truss, a common type in Indiana, although far less common than the Burr arch.

The bridge stands on the site of a ford on the trail from Rochester to Wabash Town, now County Road 700 West. The present bridge is the fourth covered bridge to be located at this site, the first built in 1841, the second in 1845, and the third in 1856.

The bridge now nominated was built in Toledo, marked, disassembled, transported and rebuilt on the site, as was a common practice at the time. It has served the county highway system continuously for over 100 years.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Records of the Wabash County Highway Engineer

Wabash County Plat Book

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

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre  
Quadrangle name Roann, Ind.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	1 6	5 9 0 6 0 0	4 5 2 9 7 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The bridge and its abutments, embracing five feet of the roadway at either end.  
Located in Section 36, Township 29, Range 5E, in Paw Paw Township, Wabash County

### 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 Ouabache Regional Development Commission

organization  date Nov. 1, 1976

street & number 23 South Broadway telephone 317- 472-3936

city or town Peru state Indiana

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*James M. Ridenour*

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7-6-81

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

date