

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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  
Germany Bridge  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Bridge across Tippecanoe River  
on County Road 375W  
CITY, TOWN R. 4, Rochester  VICINITY OF 5th  
STATE Indiana CODE 018 COUNTY Fulton CODE 049  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**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"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Fulton County Commissioners  
STREET & NUMBER Fulton County Courthouse  
CITY, TOWN Rochester  VICINITY OF STATE Indiana 46975

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Fulton County Courthouse Recorder's Office  
STREET & NUMBER Fulton County Courthouse  
CITY, TOWN Rochester STATE Indiana 46975

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE None  
DATE  
 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                               RUINS  
 FAIR                                 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

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

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Germany Bridge is an iron truss span which carries Fulton County Road 375 West over the Tippecanoe River. Constructed in 1879, the wrought iron structure is a one lane bridge resting on abutments of cut stone blocks. The single span is a Double Inter-section Pratt Through Truss (also known as a Whipple Truss). Each of the parallel diagonals extend across two side panels; there are seven regular panels and inclined end posts at each portal.

Above the north portal are two plaques which give the construction date, 1879, and the Fulton County Commissioners, William McMahan, G. W. Carter, and M. Sturgeon. The plaques above the south portal are inscribed with the date of construction and the builder, the Wrought Iron Bridge Company, Canton, Ohio.

The bridge is largely unaltered except for routine maintenance and repairs. The major additions have been two metal guard rails along the side panels and asphalt to the bridge deck which was probably wood originally.

## 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input 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 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 1879

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Wrought Iron Bridge Company

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Germany Bridge is significant as the oldest surviving iron truss bridge in Fulton County and as one of the oldest in Indiana. The iron truss evolved from the truss methods used in the covered bridges of the nineteenth century. The Germany Bridge was constructed early in the golden era of the iron and steel truss bridges which stretched from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries. The design is a Double Intersection Pratt, sometimes called a Whipple Truss from the name of its inventor, Squire Whipple, who developed it in 1847. While Pratt Trusses are still fairly common in Indiana, Double Intersection Pratts are more unusual.

The Germany Bridge was constructed in 1879 by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, a large bridge building firm. The bridge was evidently patented by the Ohio firm in 1876. The structure was named for the small village of Germany located south of the river. During World War I, the community changed its name to Pershing to demonstrate its loyalty.

In 1901 the County Commissioners condemned the structure and purchased Bedford limestone for the foundations of a new bridge. However, the Commissioners gave up their plan for a new structure when a nearby farmer, Eugene Nafe, drove his steam threshing rig over the span, thus proving its stability. Fortunately for the Commissioners, Nafe purchased the Bedford stone and used it to construct a house.

The present County Commissioners are considering replacing the bridge in the next several years. A group of local residents have started a "Save Our Bridge" or "S.O.B." campaign.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Rochester Sentinel, "Historical Society Campaigns to Save Old Germany Bridge, 9-10-77, The Nafe Family, unpublished ms. by Eldonna Nafe Graffis, Fulton County Historical Society genealogy file.  
 "Indiana's Iron Truss Bridges" James A. Barker, Outdoor Indiana, March, 1976.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Pershing

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 557560 4552000

B               

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Shirley Willard, President

ORGANIZATION

Fulton County Historical Society

DATE

August 31, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

7th & Pontiac

TELEPHONE

(219) 223-4436

CITY OR TOWN

Rochester

STATE

Indiana 46975

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL      STATE X 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 Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

8/8-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

Germany Bridge  
Fulton County, Indiana  
U.T.M. Reference  
16/55 7560/4552000

3766 III NE  
(RUTLAND)

20' 557 558 559 17'30" 330 000 FEET

