

Type

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCERS use only

received

date entered

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

## 1. Name

historic HURSH ROAD BRIDGE (BRIDGE #38)  
and/or common 1879 WESTERN BRIDGE WORKS, FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

## 2. Location

street & number Hursh Road Cedar Creek Crossing not for publication  
city, town Cedarville ☒ vicinity of Fourth  
state Indiana code 018 county Allen code 003

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<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 Allen County Highway Department  
2nd floor City-County Building  
street & number 1 E. Main Street  
city, town Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802 state Indiana 46802

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allen County Court House  
street & number Main and Calhoun Streets  
city, town Fort Wayne, state Indiana

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title HAER Survey of Indiana Bridges ☒ No  
date August 1980 ☒ state  
depos Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
city, to Indianapolis, Indiana Indiana

## 7. 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

This ornate, overhead iron bridge crossing Cedar Creek on Hursh Road, Allen County, Indiana was built in Allen County by Western Bridge Works of Fort Wayne in 1879. This structure remains totally intact.

Of overhead steel truss construction with timber deck, the bridge is single lane with an original 15 ton load limit. It is recorded as Allen County Bridge Number 38 in a consulting engineering firm report of 1970 which states "no distress is evident in the substructure" of the bridge.

The Hursh Road is a "local" county road and bears no classification for heavy road usage. (ie: Hursh Road is not classified as "Secondary" or "Primary" in county road classification.)

The natural and scenic qualities of the bridge setting are unique to Allen County and the region. The Cedar Creek, which the bridge spans, was studied in 1973 by a federal study team for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The fourteen mile length of the qualifying segment was insufficient to meet federal criteria. Subsequently, the stream was re-studied and included in Indiana's Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers system in Feb. 1976.

URGENT - At this time, January, 1980, the Allen County Highway Department is planning to remove the Hursh Road bridge and replace it with a three span continuous prestressed concrete bridge over Cedar Creek. (New design is composite box beam structure with aluminum guard rails)

Loss of this old decorative iron bridge would completely alter the scenic and natural aspect of the Hursh Road crossing of the Cedar Creek. We would lose forever the reminder of slower, rural travel modes as well as an exemplary design and construction of a bridge built locally over 100 years ago.

1

The Hursh Road Bridge is located on a county road near Cedarville. The bridge spans Cedar Creek in a natural, rural setting. It was constructed in 1879 by the Western Bridge Works of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The metal bridge is a single span, pin-connected double-intersection Pratt (Whipple) through truss. The structure is 120 feet long and 16 feet wide, with six panels. The abutments and wings are of concrete.

The portal bracing features decorative quatrefoils in the angles. Atop the portal strut at each end was an ornate sign, with the inscription, "Western Bridge Works, Fort Wayne, Ind. , 1879." The signs were apparently removed sometime between February and August, 1980.

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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** 1879 **Builder/Architect** C.L. Olds, A. Wheelock  
**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Western Bridge Works, 5-35 Water St.  
 Fort Wayne, Indiana <sup>1</sup>.

The Hursh Road bridge is unduplicated in Allen County, Indiana and the region. This decorative, iron bridge was manufactured in Allen County in 1879 by the Western Bridge Works located at 5-35 Water Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Hursh Road bridge is uniquely representative of overhead steel truss bridge design of the mid 1800's. The bridge is not only intact as originally built, but it is significantly sound, lacking mainly the width requirements of today's design criteria. The bridge is located on a "local" county road with minimum travel demand and low traffic flow.

In addition to its own historical significance and its interesting and attractive design, it spans the Cedar Creek within the segment of river designated under Indiana's Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act (IC 13-2-26, 1-11). The valley and the creek were judged by detailed criteria to be significant to the natural history of Indiana. The creek's natural features, by designation, are afforded special importance and protection under the ACT.

Cedar Creek itself is classed a "State Resource Water" for water quality considerations.

Because of local and low-level of Hursh Road travel; and because of the Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act designation of the Cedar Creek, it would be expected that the Hursh Road Bridge, maintained in place, could continue to gracefully and safely serve the valley for many years to come.

<sup>1</sup>.AD for The Western Bridge Works, 1878 Fort Wayne Directory

(Bridge #38)

The ~~Hursh~~ Hursh Road Bridge is significant as a ~~good e~~  
 an early example of the Whipple through truss, and for its contribu-  
 tion to the scenic environment of the immediate area.

The Whipple truss is fairly ~~unusual~~ <sup>rare in</sup> for Indiana. Although  
 Allen County, Indiana has three bridges of this type, this is not  
 typical, and a ~~bridge Whipple truss of~~ 1879 is a very early date  
 for the type. Bridge #37, located approximately one mile away  
 just south of Cedarville, is very similar to this one, and according  
 to its signs was constructed in the same year by the same company.  
 These are the only two <sup>existing</sup> bridges known to have been constructed by  
 the Western Bridge Works of Fort Wayne.

~~The Hursh Road Bridge spans Cedar Creek within the segment  
 that has been designated under Indiana's Natural, Scenic and Recreat  
 as part of  
 as a component of Indiana's Natural Rivers System. and Sc  
 as a component of Indiana's Natural and Scenic Rivers System.  
 The bridge contributes to the scenic environment of Cedar Crri  
 Creek~~

~~The bridge~~

The Hursh Road Bridge spans Cedar Creek within the segment  
 that has been designated as a component of Indiana's Natural and  
 Scenic Rivers System. This bridge contributes to the recognized  
 scenic qualities of Cedar Creek , and is a popular local ~~a m~~ landmark.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

428470 Fort Wayne Directory, 1878, Public Library, 900 Webster St. Ft. Wayne  
R.L. Polk & Co., Publishers  
T.B. Helm, History of Allen County, 1880, Public Library, 900 Webster St.  
Kingman Bros., Chicago, Publishers

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property fraction of an acre

Quadrangle name Cedarville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 116 663360 4564255  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                        

D                        

E                        

F                        

G                        

H                        

Verbal boundary description and justification R13E, T32N Section 20 Approx. 3.35 mi S  
of Allen DeKalb Co. Line & approx. 1.26 mi E of Tonkel Rd. (old 427).

Right-of-way of Bridge and approaches

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Kenneth Till, Mrs. T. E. Dustin, Mrs. Wm. C. Bloch

organization Ft. Wayne Chapter Izaak Walton League and  
Cedar Creek Wildlife Project, Inc. date 1/30/80

street & number Reply to: Mrs. Wm. C. Bloch, Secretary  
Ft. Wayne Izaak Walton League telephone 219-747-4450

city or town 6340 Donna  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46819 state   

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title    date   

For HCRS use only

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

date   

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date   

Chief of Registration