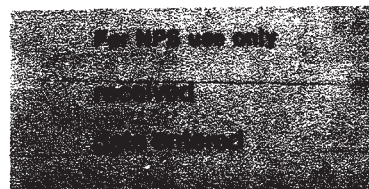


FINAL

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 A. M. Kennedy House and Covered Bridges of Rush County
and/or common " " " " " " " "

2. Location

street & number Various N/A not for publication
city, town Rushville vicinity of congressional district
state Indiana code 018 county Rush code 139

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> structure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| Thematic Group | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | <u>N/A</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input checked="" 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 Rush County Commissioners Andrew Ariens
street & number Rush County Courthouse R. R. 7
city, town Rushville vicinity of state Indiana 46173

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder's Office
street & number Rush County Courthouse
city, town Rushville state Indiana 46173

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date federal state county local
depository for survey records N/A
city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The A. M. Kennedy House and Covered Bridges of Rush County Thematic Group includes six covered bridges and a brick residence, all built by Archibald M. Kennedy and his sons and grandsons. The residence, which served as the Kennedy family homestead for many years, was built by Archibald Kennedy shortly after he settled in Rush County in 1864. The six bridges are the last survivors of some nineteen covered bridges built in Rush County by the Kennedy family between 1873 and 1916. Individual structures included in this nomination are as follows:

1. The Archibald M. Kennedy House, located on County Road 200 N, Route 7, Rushville. Built circa 1864.
2. The Ferree Covered Bridge, over the Little Flatrock River on Base Road. Built by A. M. Kennedy and his son, Emmett, in 1873.
3. The Smith Covered Bridge over the Big Flatrock River on County Road 300 N. Built by A. M. Kennedy and his son, Emmett, in 1877.
4. The Offutt Covered Bridge over the Little Blue River on County Road 550 W. Built by Emmett and Charles F. Kennedy in 1884.
5. The Moscow Covered Bridge, over the Big Flatrock River at the intersection of County Roads 875 South and 625 West. Built by Emmett L. Kennedy in 1886.
6. The Forsythe Covered Bridge over the Big Flatrock River on County Road 650 South. Built by Emmett L. Kennedy in 1888.
7. The Norris Ford Covered Bridge, over the Big Flatrock River on County Road 150 North. Built by Emmett L. Kennedy and his sons, Karl and Charles R., in 1916.

Each of the structures in this group demonstrates at least some of the various decorative elements and construction techniques recognized as hallmarks of the Kennedys' work. The A. M. Kennedy House, the oldest structure in the group, is a large, Italianate structure with a two story, pedimented porch of classical inspiration. Among the decorative elements on the house is a wide, plain frieze with elaborate cornice brackets used in pairs. Of the six bridges in this group, all but the Smith bridge feature a similar bracketed frieze below the gables. Each bridge employs the Burr arch truss system, and features pilastered corner boards. Rounded arch portals are used on all but the Ferree Bridge, and the Offutt, Moscow, Forsythe, and Norris Ford bridges also feature the decorative scrollwork found only on the Kennedys' most detailed structures. The use of these various elements by the Kennedys made their work unique and readily identifiable.

The six bridges in this group were constructed as a result of individual contracts let by the Rush County Commissioners and remain in the county road system. Their condition ranges from fair to good. All of the structures contained in the nomination lie within a seven-mile radius of Rushville, in the central and southern sections of the county.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



A. M. Kennedy House and
Continuation sheet Cov. Bridges of Rush County Item number 7

Page 1

These bridges comprise the county's entire inventory of extant covered bridges and were located as a result of a survey conducted in 1977-1978. At that time, Larry Cash, director of the Region 9 Development Commission, and planner Phil McMullan, conducted a land-use survey of Rush County and four neighboring counties. To accomplish this, they traveled all of the roads in each county, recording, among other items, the location of all covered bridges. In 1980-81, Adrian Ellis, assistant director of the Region 9 Development Commission, used the information contained in this survey to locate all of the covered bridges in Rush County in order to prepare this nomination.

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/ 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 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 ca. 1864-1916

Builder/Architect Archibald M. Kennedy & Sons

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) (GENERAL SIGNIFICANCE)

The A. M. Kennedy House and Covered Bridges are significant as examples of 19th century architectural and engineering principles, and as the most concentrated collection of works associated with one of Indiana's most prominent bridge-building firms. Most of Indiana's covered bridges were erected by large bridge-building firms, whereas in ^{some} other states most bridges were built by carpenters or engineers, who did not ordinarily construct bridges for a living. As a result, Indiana has many bridges that are similar in appearance and construction, 90 percent of them utilizing patented trusses (compared with less than half in Ohio).

One of the "Big Three" bridge building firms in Indiana, the Kennedy family's efforts span a period of almost fifty years, during which time they developed perhaps the most ornate and distinctive style in the region. Kennedy family members, including Archibald, his sons Emmett and Charles, and grandsons, Karl and Charles, eventually constructed at least 58 covered bridges in Indiana. Only 13 of these are still standing, six of them being included in this thematic group.

Archibald Kennedy, born in North Carolina in 1818, came to Indiana with his family as a child. Eventually settling near Rushville, Indiana, he purchased a farm, erected a house, and made his living as a carpenter. He inaugurated the family's bridge-building tradition in 1870, when he was hired to build a two-span bridge near Dunlapville, in Union County. He and his son, Emmett, completed this project and went on to build at least 14 more bridges before the end of the decade. In 1880 they were joined by another son, Charles, and, as A. M. Kennedy & Sons, built at least 24 more bridges in the next three years. In 1884 Archibald Kennedy turned the bridge-building business over to his two sons and devoted his full attention to state and local politics. Emmett and Charles worked as partners for two years, completing ten more bridges between 1884 and 1886. Charles left this partnership in 1886 and eventually became a lawyer. Emmett continued building bridges, both on his own and with his sons, Karl and Charles, until 1918.

The majority of the Kennedy family's bridges, including all of those in Rush County, were built using the Burr arch truss system. Theodore Burr first devised this structural system in 1804, using it to bridge the Hudson River at Waterford, New York, in a four-span structure over 400 feet long. Simply described, the Burr arch truss is created by attaching a timber arch onto a multiple kingpost truss. The arch is formed in such manner that its ends extend below the lower chord of the truss and rest on the abutments. Burr invented this system after discovering that the multiple kingpost, alone, as described by Andrea Palladio in 1570, was not stable under live loads in lengths exceeding 60 feet. He patented this truss in 1817, and for the next 20 years it was the most popular truss system in the country. In Indiana it was eventually adopted by three important bridge builders: A. M. Kennedy, J. A. Daniels, and J. A. Britton.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property See attached

Quadrangle name See attached

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References See attached

A

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

B

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

C

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

D

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

E

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

F

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

G

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

H

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A | | | |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Phil McMullan, Principal Planner

organization Region IX Development Commission date January 3, 1980

street & number 120 West 9th Street, Box 347 telephone 317/825-0524

city or town Connerville state Indiana 47331

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 Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 12-9-82

For NPS 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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**A. M. Kennedy House and
Continuation sheet Cov. Bridges of Rush County Item number 8

Page 2

In 1840, William Howe invented a simpler truss system, using vertical iron rods and posts with wood cross-X braces as struts. This truss had several advantages over the Burr truss, most notably the fact that it could be kept in perfect alignment by tightening or loosening the iron rods. The struts were square-ended; the angled intersection of these timbers with the bridge-chords was achieved with wedge-shaped blocks of iron. These wedges were mortised into the chord timbers in order to transform the horizontal shear of the braces into direct fiber compression. Howe obtained a patent on this truss, which was considered an improvement over the Burr arch because it was lighter, required less timber, and adapted more easily to prefabrication and installation by less skilled workmen. By 1880, the Howe truss had become the preferred bridging system throughout the eastern part of the country, almost completely supplanting the Burr arch.

The Kennedy family, however, looked upon the Howe truss with some disdain, reportedly considering its iron wedge system to be an unnecessary complication designed mainly to garner royalties for its patent-holder. Consequently, they continued to use Burr arch construction except in those instances where the customer specifically requested a different truss system. Of the 58 bridges they built between 1870 and 1918, only seven used the Howe truss.

During their peak years in the 1880's, the Kennedys operated a large bridge timber yard in Rushville, adjacent to the railroad tracks. Emmett Kennedy would often travel to Michigan to select the pine timber preferred for the structural members of covered bridges. This timber was then shipped to the Rushville yard where it was cut and shaped into struts, posts, and other bridge members. The arches were also constructed in this yard, usually by splicing together pine timbers 20 to 25 feet in length. The ends of each arch were made out of oak, which was considered more resistant to decay. Yard preparation of all of these timbers substantially decreased the time needed to construct a bridge, and reduced the size of the erection crew to three or four key men and 15-25 locally-recruited workmen.

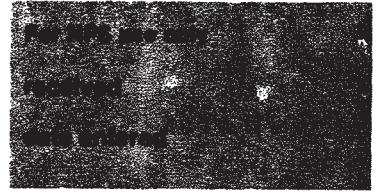
The Kennedys were particularly known for the decorative elements they used to embellish their work. Portals on their bridges normally had a distinctive configuration, and were often rounded arches. The corner boards adjacent to the portals were regularly treated with moldings so as to resemble pilasters; the capitals of these pilasters then served as the imposts for the portal arches. Decorative scrollwork was often employed above the pilastered corner boards. A wide, plain frieze was commonly used below the gables, and elaborate cornice brackets were used in pairs on this frieze.

While an examination of the existing Rush County bridges might seem to indicate that the Kennedys' use of decorative elements increased as the years went by, historic photographs of other Kennedy bridges do not support such a theory showing, instead, that the amount of ornamentation varied arbitrarily from bridge to bridge. The 1878 Milroy Bridge (moved from Rush to Lake County, 1933), for example, was built with the full complement of decorative elements, while the later Swain's Mill (Rush County, 1881-1959) and Circleville (Rush County, 1883-1949) bridges were less ornate, lacking the decorative scrollwork and the rounded arch portals. The Offutt Bridge, built in 1884, and the Moscow Bridge of 1886 once again employed all of the Kennedy detailing. As these examples show, it seems incorrect to suggest the varying amounts of ornamentation on Kennedy bridges resulted from an evolutionary process, and the reason certain design elements were inconsistently used remains unclear. The Kennedys were, however, the only bridgebuilders

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

A. M. Kennedy House and
Continuation sheet Cov. Bridges of Rush County Item number 8



Page 3

in the state to decorate their structures with an identifiable combination of ornamental detailing, and while individual bridges often lacked certain elements, enough of this detailing was employed to make each structure easily recognizable as a Kennedy bridge.

CONTINUATION SHEET

A. M. Kennedy Home and
Covered Bridges of Rush County

Page 4

NAME: Kennedy, Archibald M., House
LOCATION: County Road 200 North
OWNER: Andrew Ariens
ADDRESS: R. 7, Rushville, Indiana 46173

DESCRIPTION

The A. M. Kennedy Home is a rectangular, Italianate structure of painted brick. The house is characterized by the use of arches on the front and rear porches, as well as the windows of the front elevation. The house is of the Italianate mode, with a gabled roof, central pediment, and columned, two-story front porch. The arch form appears again in the raking trim of the gable ends, an unusual treatment.

The low basement level is penetrated by square window openings.

The five bay main facade includes two-over-two, doublehung sash windows. The rounded arched windows are surmounted by corbelled rowlock arched window hoods with small corbelled stops. The sills are supported by small brackets at each end. The doors of the first and second stories are accented by paired arched windows, as well as an arched tympanum.

The central, two-story porch is graced by a series of square columns and pilasters. These columns are connected by a series of round arches accented at the spandrels and centers by brackets. The non-original second story columns are of wrought iron, connected by the arches, as on the first story.

A wide cornice trims the roof eaves and serves as a raking trim for the pediment. The cornice turns the corner to grace the gable end of the elevation with an arch instead of the usual straight raking trim. The cornice is heavily accented by double brackets. The gabled roof includes a brick chimney at each end.

The rear elevation includes a 1½ story wing with an arcade on the first floor and arched windows on the enclosed upper level. The arched window hoods with corbel stops of the front elevation are repeated on the rear elevation.

SIGNIFICANCE

The A. M. Kennedy house is significant as the residence of one of Indiana's most prolific builders of covered bridges. The two story, Italianate structure was built of brick made from Kennedy's own land, probably soon after his arrival in Rush County in 1864. The two story pedimented front porch adds a classical character to the building. According to Wilbur Peat, Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century, this stylistic combination of Greek or Federal elements with Italianate was a phenomenon of Indiana house building in the 1850's and 60's, thus contributing to the architectural significance of this house. The liberal use of arches on the exterior anticipates the arches used on the Kennedy bridges.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

QUADRANGLE NAME: Mays, Indiana

ACREAGE: Less than one acre

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES:

16 / 637240 / 4388585
Zone Easting Northing

CONTINUATION SHEET

A. M. Kennedy Home and
Covered Bridges of Rush County

Page 5

Geographical Data (Continued)
Archibald M. Kennedy House

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

A part of the Northwest Quarter of Section 27, Township 14 North, Range 10 East, Commencing at a point where County Road 200 North intersects with a driveway just east of the house; thence 136 feet along the west edge of the driveway; thence 102 feet west; thence north to the southern right-of-way of County Road 200 North; thence east to the place of beginning.

NAME: Ferree Covered Bridge, Rushville Vicinity
LOCATION: Base Road at Little Flatrock River
OWNER: Rush County Commissioners
ADDRESS: Rush County Courthouse, Rushville, Indiana 46173

DESCRIPTION:

The Ferree Covered Bridge (see photo #2), which crosses the Little Flatrock River 1.3 miles east of Milroy, Indiana, is a single-span structure of wood timber construction protected by a gable-roofed enclosure. Erected in 1873 by Archibald M. Kennedy and his son, Emmett, the bridge uses a Burr arch truss system and rests on cut stone abutments. The bridge truss is 87 feet in length; the enclosure is 14 feet longer so as to provide an additional seven feet of protective overhang at either end. The bridge deck is 14.7 feet wide, and the vertical clearance above the deck is 13.5 feet. The bridge portals are square with articulated corners. Vertical siding is used in the areas between the portals and the gables; horizontal shiplap siding is employed throughout the rest of the structure. Originally, the bridge featured pilastered corner boards on either side of the portals, but these elements have since been lost. Still in place are the wide, plain frieze boards just below the gables and the ornate cornice brackets used in pairs. The bridge deck and structural system remain in good condition save for one cracked truss member. Some repair is needed for the abutments and the exterior siding; plans are currently being made by the County Commissioners to attend to these problems.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Ferree Bridge is significant as an example of 19th century engineering techniques, being a wood timber Burr arch truss bridge with a protective frame enclosure. It has local historic significance in that it was the first covered bridge ever constructed in Rush County, and it remains the oldest existing Kennedy bridge in the state. This bridge was the fourth constructed by the Kennedy family and exhibits many of the features considered to be their trademarks, including the use of the Burr arch truss, and a plain frieze with paired cornice brackets beneath each gable. The square portals on this bridge are atypical but not unknown; historic photographs show identical portals on other Kennedy-built Rush County bridges, including those at Swain's Mill (constructed 1883--destroyed by truck accident in 1959), and Circleville (constructed 1883--razed 1949). The Ferree Bridge, however, is the only bridge with square portals still existing in the county. The current maintenance and structural problems of this bridge are relatively minor and are soon to be corrected by the County Commissioners.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

Quadrangle Name: Rushville, Indiana

UTM REFERENCES

16 / 633850 / 4375000
Zone Easting Northing

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Boundary includes the bridge, its abutments, and 10 feet of the roadway at either end.

NAME: Smith Covered Bridge
LOCATION: County Road 300 N. at Big Flatrock River, Rushville Vicinity
OWNER: Rush County Commissioners
ADDRESS: Rush County Courthouse, Rushville, Indiana 46173

DESCRIPTION:

The Smith Covered Bridge (see photo #3), which crosses the Big Flatrock Creek on the west edge of Rushville, Indiana, is a single span bridge of wood timber construction protected by a gable-roofed enclosure. This bridge was erected in 1877 by A. M. Kennedy and his son, Emmett, and uses a Burr arch truss system supported at either end by cut stone abutments. The bridge truss is 124 feet in length; the enclosure is 16 feet longer in order to provide an additional eight feet of protective overhang at either end. The bridge deck is 15.3 feet wide; vertical clearance from the deck is 12.5 feet. The portals have a rounded-arch configuration. Flanking the portals are pilaster corner boards which serve as the impost points for the portal arches. Vertical wood siding is used in the gable areas above the portals; horizontal shiplap siding covers the sides. No other decorative elements are employed on this structure. This bridge remains in good condition, with only minor deterioration of the arch timbers at their bearing points.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Smith Bridge is significant as an example of 19th century engineering techniques, as it is a wood timber Burr arch truss bridge with a protective frame enclosure. The second oldest of the six covered bridges remaining in the county, this structure was erected by Archibald and Emmett Kennedy in 1877. Construction of this bridge marked the end of a two year business slump for the Kennedys, for after building at least one bridge each year from 1870 to 1874, they had failed to win any contracts in 1875 and 1876. The building of the Smith Bridge reversed this trend, and marked the beginning of the Kennedys' busiest decade. From 1877 to 1888 they won one or more contracts each year, and during this time span ultimately constructed 40 bridges.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

Quadrangle Name: Mays, Indiana

UTM References:

16 / 636460 / 4390500
Zone Easting Northing

Boundary Description:

The boundary description includes the bridge, its abutments and 10 feet of the roadway at either end.

NAME: Offutt Covered Bridge
LOCATION: County Road 550 West at Little Blue River, Rushville Vicinity
OWNER: Rush County Commissioners
ADDRESS: Rush County Courthouse, Rushville, Indiana 46173

DESCRIPTION:

The Offutt Bridge (see photo #4), which crosses the Little Blue River northwest of Rushville, Indiana, is a single span structure of wood timber construction protected by a gable roofed enclosure. Erected in 1884 by brothers Emmett and Charles Kennedy, the bridge uses a Burr arch truss system and is supported at either end by cut stone abutments. The bridge truss is 85 feet in length; the enclosure is 16 feet longer so as to provide an additional eight feet of protective overhang at either end. The bridge deck is 16.1 feet wide, and the vertical clearance above the deck is 12.5 feet. The portals have a rounded arch configuration. Flanking the portals are pilaster corner boards which serve as the impost points for the portal arches. Intricate scrollwork is applied to the siding in the spandrel areas immediately above the corner boards. Vertical siding is used in the gable areas above the portals; horizontal shiplap siding is employed on the north and south sides. Wide plain frieze boards appear below the gables, with ornate cornice brackets used in pairs. This is probably the best-preserved bridge in the county, needing only very minor repairs to the enclosure.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Offutt Bridge was erected in 1886 by Emmett and Charles Kennedy; Archibald Kennedy had, by this time, begun his political career and had turned the business over to his sons. The bridge is significant as a premier example of the Kennedys' style, employing the Burr arch truss and featuring rounded arch portals, pilastered cornerboards, scrollwork, a plain frieze, and ornate cornice brackets used in pairs. The period from 1881 to 1884 marked the peak of the Kennedys' bridge-building efforts, with a total of 23 bridges constructed during this time span. Ten of these 23 were in Rush County; this is the sole survivor of this peak period in the county.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

UTM References:

Quadrangle Name: Carthage, Indiana

16 / 625300 / 4390840
Zone Easting Northing

Boundary Description:

Boundary includes the bridge, its abutments, and 10 feet of the roadway at either end.

NAME: Moscow Covered Bridge
LOCATION: Intersection of County Road 875 South and County Road 625 West
over Big Flatrock River, Rushville vicinity
OWNER: Rush County Commissioners
ADDRESS: Rush County Courthouse, Rushville, Indiana 46173

DESCRIPTION:

The Moscow Bridge (see photo #5), erected in 1886 by Emmett Kennedy, crosses the Big Flatrock Creek at Moscow, Indiana, southwest of Rushville. It is a two span structure of wood timber construction protected by a gable roofed enclosure. The structural system of the bridge consists of two Burr arch trusses, each specially adapted to span a distance longer than normal, by the insertion of a ten foot long Queenpost truss section in the center of each arch. The total length of the truss system is 330 feet; the enclosure is 16 feet longer so as to provide an additional eight feet of protection at either end. The bridge deck is 15.8 feet wide; vertical clearance above the deck is 12.8 feet. The portals have a rounded arch configuration. The portals are flanked by pilaster corner boards which serve as the impost points of the portal arches. Elaborate scrollwork is applied to the siding in the spandrel areas immediately above the corner boards. Vertical siding is used in the gable areas above the portals; horizontal shiplap is employed in the north and south sides. Wide, plain frieze boards are used below the gables with ornate cornice brackets used in pairs. This bridge is in fair condition, suffering from some deterioration of the arch bearing points and the cut stone abutments. Repairs are currently under way.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Moscoe Bridge is significant as the longest covered bridge ever constructed in Rush County, and is the longest Kennedy bridge extant in the state. It is also the state's only surviving multi-span Kennedy bridge; nine others were built but they have all been demolished. This bridge is particularly interesting in the way that it demonstrates Emmett Kennedy's engineering expertise, as he devised a variation of the Burr arch truss to cross a 330 foot gap in only two spans. Various technical problems, most notably the weight factor, prevented him from building a traditional Burr arch truss in a length exceeding 155 feet; therefore, he divided each truss in the center and inserted a ten foot long Queenpost truss section. This novel solution proved to be entirely satisfactory, and has remained sound for more than ninety years.

The decorative detailing on the portal facades included all the hallmarks of the Kennedy bridges: rounded arch portals, scroll-sawn decorative trim; the plain frieze boards with ornate paired cornice brackets, and pilaster corner boards (since removed).

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

Quadrangle Name: Adams, Indiana

UTM References:

16 / 624300 / 4371380
Zone Easting Northing

Boundary Description:

Boundary includes the bridge, its abutments and 10 feet of the roadway at either end.

NAME: Forsythe Covered Bridge
LOCATION: County Road 650 South at Big Flatrock River, Rushville Vicinity
OWNER: Rush County Commissioners
ADDRESS: Rush County Courthouse, Rushville, Indiana 46173

DESCRIPTION:

The Forsythe Covered Bridge (see photo #7), which crosses the Big Flatrock River southwest of Rushville, is a single span bridge of wood timber construction protected by a gable roofed enclosure. This bridge was erected in 1888 by Emmett Kennedy, and uses a Burr arch truss system supported at either end by cut stone abutments. The bridge truss is 186 feet in length, making it the longest single span structure the Kennedy firm ever erected. The protective enclosure is 12 feet longer in order to provide an additional six feet of protective overhang at either end. The bridge deck is 16.1 feet wide; vertical clearance above the deck is 13.8 feet. The portals have a rounded arch configuration. Flanking the portals are pilaster corner boards which serve as the impost points for the portal arches. Vertical wood siding is used in the gable areas above the portals; horizontal shiplap siding covers the north and south sides. Intricate scrollwork is applied to the siding in the spandrel areas immediately above the corner boards. Wide, plain frieze boards appear below the gables and feature ornate cornice brackets used in pairs. This bridge is in fair condition with deterioration of the west end of the south arch causing some settling to occur. Repairs are being planned by the County Commissioners.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Forsythe Bridge derives its name from Asa Forsythe, who operated a gristmill in the area from 1870 to 1884. The Forsythe Bridge is thought to be the longest single span bridge ever attempted by the Kennedy firm, and at 186 feet is more than twice as long as the Offutt Bridge. The portal facades feature typical Kennedy detailing, including scroll sawn trim and paired cornice brackets. This was the only bridge erected by the Kennedy firm in 1888, as iron bridges were proving to be strong competition for the Kennedys and others in their trade. Only four more bridges would be constructed by the Kennedy family before this tradition came to an end.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

Quadrangle Name: Manilla, Indiana

UTM References:

16 / 626320 / 4375000
Zone Easting Northing

Boundary Description:

The boundary includes the bridge, its abutments and 10 feet of the roadway at either end.

NAME: Norris Ford Covered Bridge
LOCATION: County Road 150 North at Big Flatrock River, Rushville Vicinity
OWNER: Rush County Commissioners
ADDRESS: Rush County Courthouse, Rushville, Indiana 46173

DESCRIPTION:

The Norris Ford Bridge (see photo #8), which crosses the Big Flatrock Creek northeast of Rushville, Indiana, is a single span structure of wood timber construction with a gable roofed protective enclosure. Erected in 1916 by Emmett Kennedy and his sons, Karl and Charles, this bridge uses a Burr arch truss system and rests on cut stone abutments. The bridge truss is 154 feet in length; the enclosure is 16 feet longer so as to provide an additional eight feet of protective overhang at either end. The deck width is 15 feet, and the vertical clearance above the deck is 13.5 feet. The portals have a rounded arch configuration. Flanking the portals are pilastered corner boards which serve as imposts for the portal arches. Intricate scrollwork is applied to the siding in the spandrel areas immediately above the corner boards. Vertical siding is used in the gable areas above the portals; horizontal shiplap siding is employed on the north and south sides. Wide, plain frieze boards appear below the gables and carry the ornate cornice brackets used in pairs. This bridge is in good condition, structurally, but requires some siding repairs.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Norris Ford Bridge was the second to last bridge constructed by the Kennedy family. This structure was actually built in 1916, but the techniques employed were exactly the same as those that they had built 40 years earlier. The Burr arch truss system which was employed was, at that time, already over 100 years old, and the Italianate-style detailing on the portal facades was identical to that found on Kennedy bridges of the 1870's. Steel truss bridges were already common by the time this bridge was erected, and it must have seemed anachronistic even as it was under construction. This bridge is now the only 20th century Kennedy bridge extant, and demonstrates the consistency of the firm throughout its productive life. It is the only bridge in the county that was built when Karl and Charles Kennedy were with the firm.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage: Less than one acre

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24,000

Quadrangle Name: Mays, Indiana

UTM References:

16 / 635900 / 4388060
Zone Easting Northing

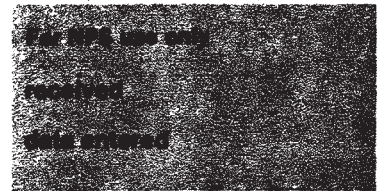
Boundary Description;

The boundary includes the bridge, its abutments and 10 feet of the roadway at either end.

ENC. 100-704

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



A.M. Kennedy House and
Continuation sheet Cov. Bridges of Rush County Item number 9

Page 12

Allen, Richard Sanders. Covered Bridges of the Middle West
Brattleboro, Vermont: The Stephen Greene Press, 1970.

American Society of Civil Engineers. American Wooden Bridges.
New York: American Society of Civil Engineers, 1976.

Benson, Mildred McMillin. "The Bridge Building Kennedys," Rush County Sesquicentennial History, Rushville, Indiana: Rush County Historical Society, 1972.

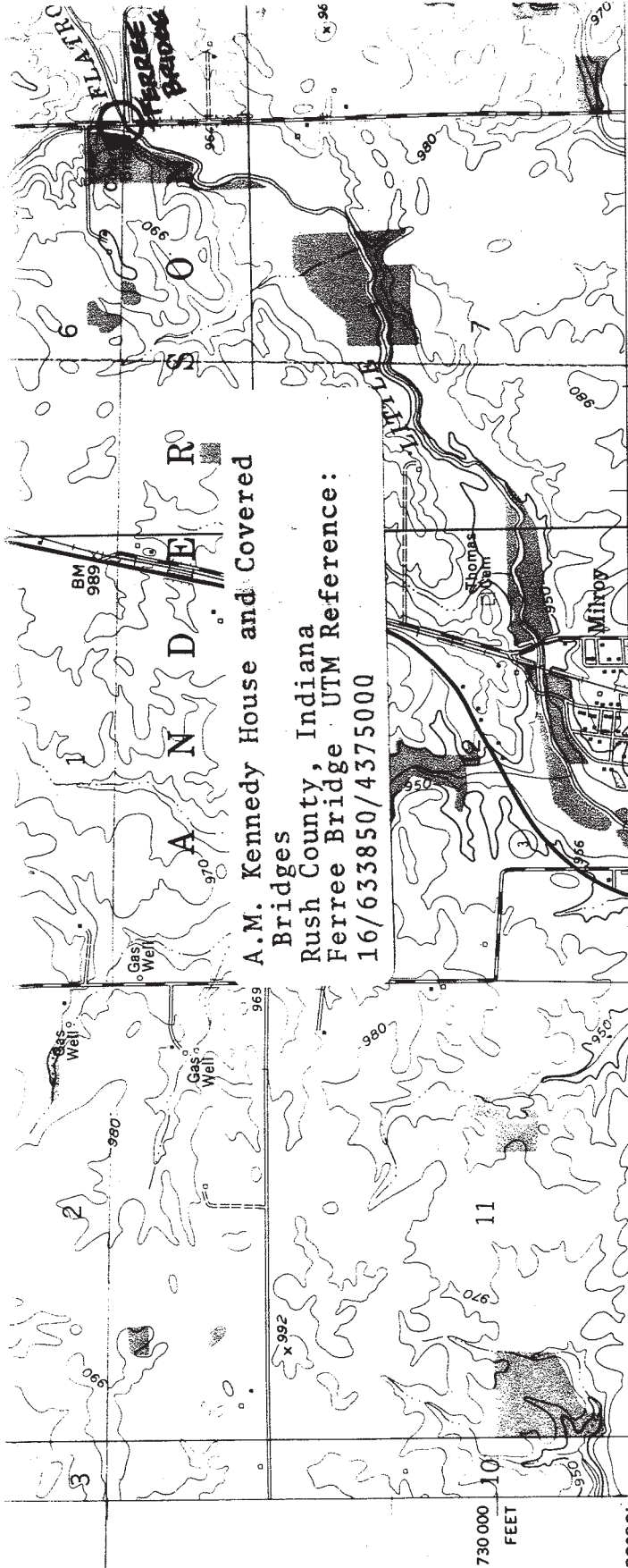
Delgatto, Joseph E. "Forum -- The Leader's Corner," The Indianapolis Star, May, 1977

Gary, A. L. and E. B. Thomas. The History of Rush County. Chicago: Brant and Fuller, 1888.

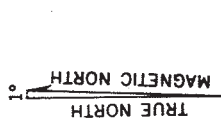
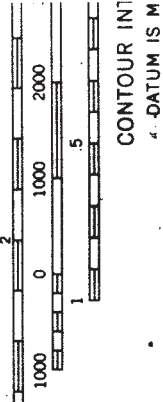
Gould, George E. Indiana Covered Bridges Through the Years. Indianapolis: Indiana Covered Bridge Society, Inc., 1977.

"Indiana Covered Bridge Society Newsletter," Volume 17, #1. Plainfield, Indiana:
Indiana Covered Bridge Society, Inc., January, 1980.

Ketcham, Byran E. Covered Bridges on the Byways of Indiana. Oxford, Ohio:
Oxford Printing Company, 1949.



**A.M. Kennedy House and Covered
Bridges**
 Rush County, Indiana
 Ferree Bridge UTM Reference:
 16/633850/4375000



APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1959

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NAT.
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL
AND INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CO
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MA

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

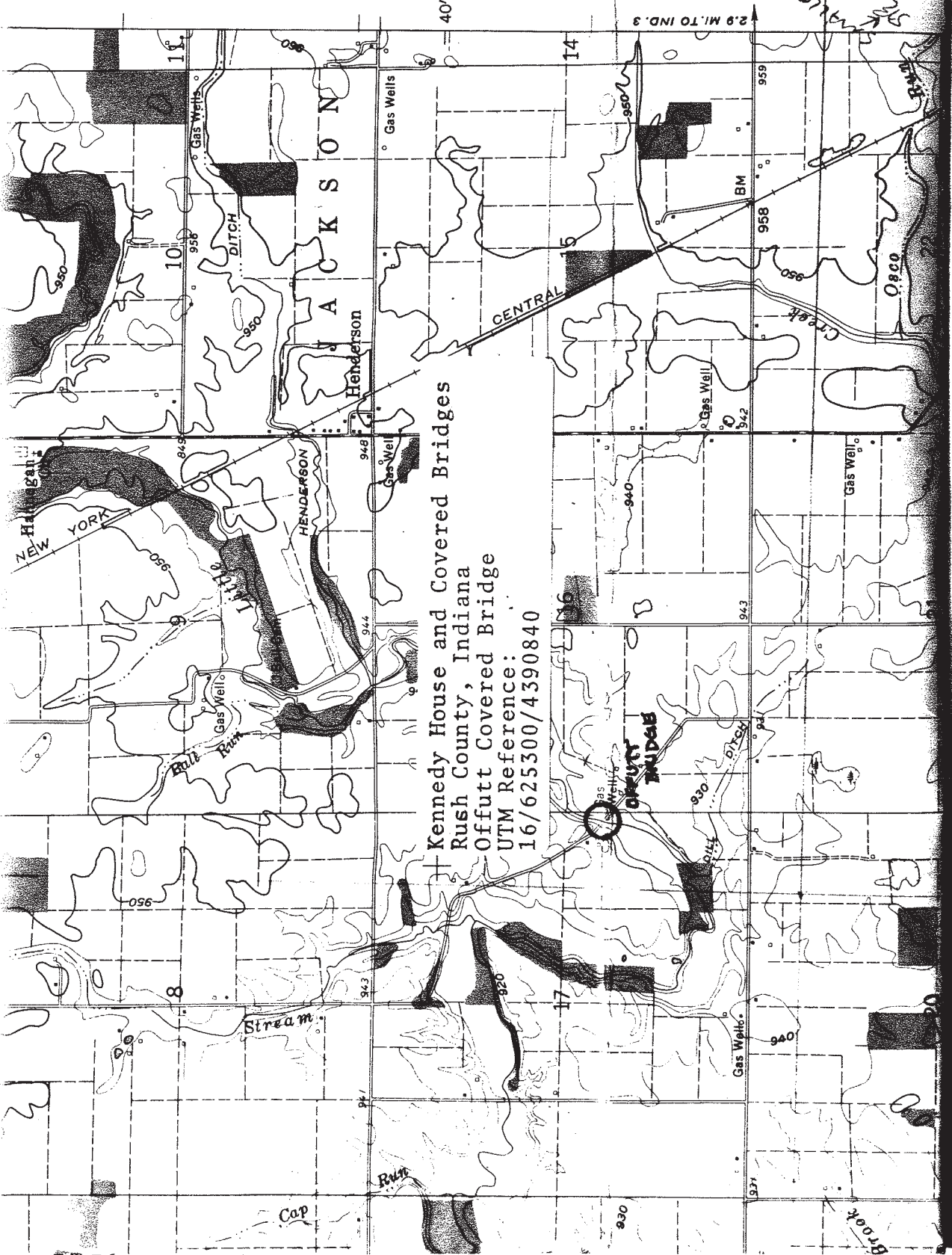
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Indiana Flood Control and
Water Resources Commission

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1959

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Indiana coordinate system, east zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue

Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

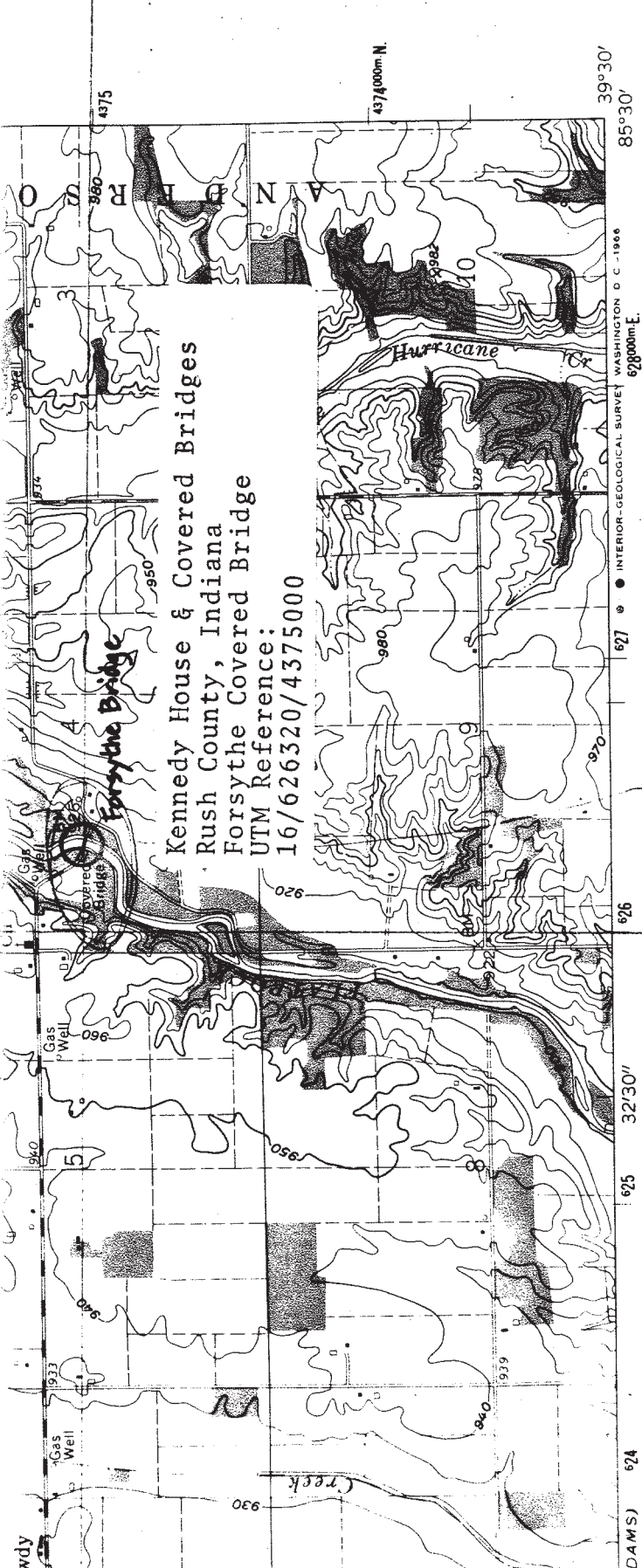
(ADAMS)



Kennedy House and Covered Bridges
 Rush County, Indiana
 Offutt Covered Bridge
 UTM Reference:
 16/625300/4390840

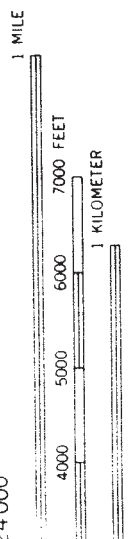
offutt bridge

1/11/11
 1/11/11
 1/11/11
 1/11/11
 1/11/11



Kennedy House & Covered Bridges
 Rush County, Indiana
 Forsythe Covered Bridge
 UTM Reference:
 16/626320/4375000

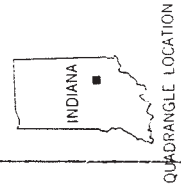
DAMS) 624
 62 INE
 24 000



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

| | | | |
|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Heavy-duty | ————— | Light-duty | ————— |
| Medium-duty | ————— | Unimproved dirt | ————— |
| U. S. Route | ○ | State Route | ○ |

(MILROY)
 3962 IV NW



NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MANILLA, IND.
 N 3930—W 8530/7.5

1960

AMS 3863 II SE—SERIES V851

INDIANA
UNIT OF CONSERVATION

IS, INDIANA
1 MI. TO IND. 144
WDY 1.3 MI.

ADAMS QUADRANGLE
INDIANA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

85°30' 39°30'

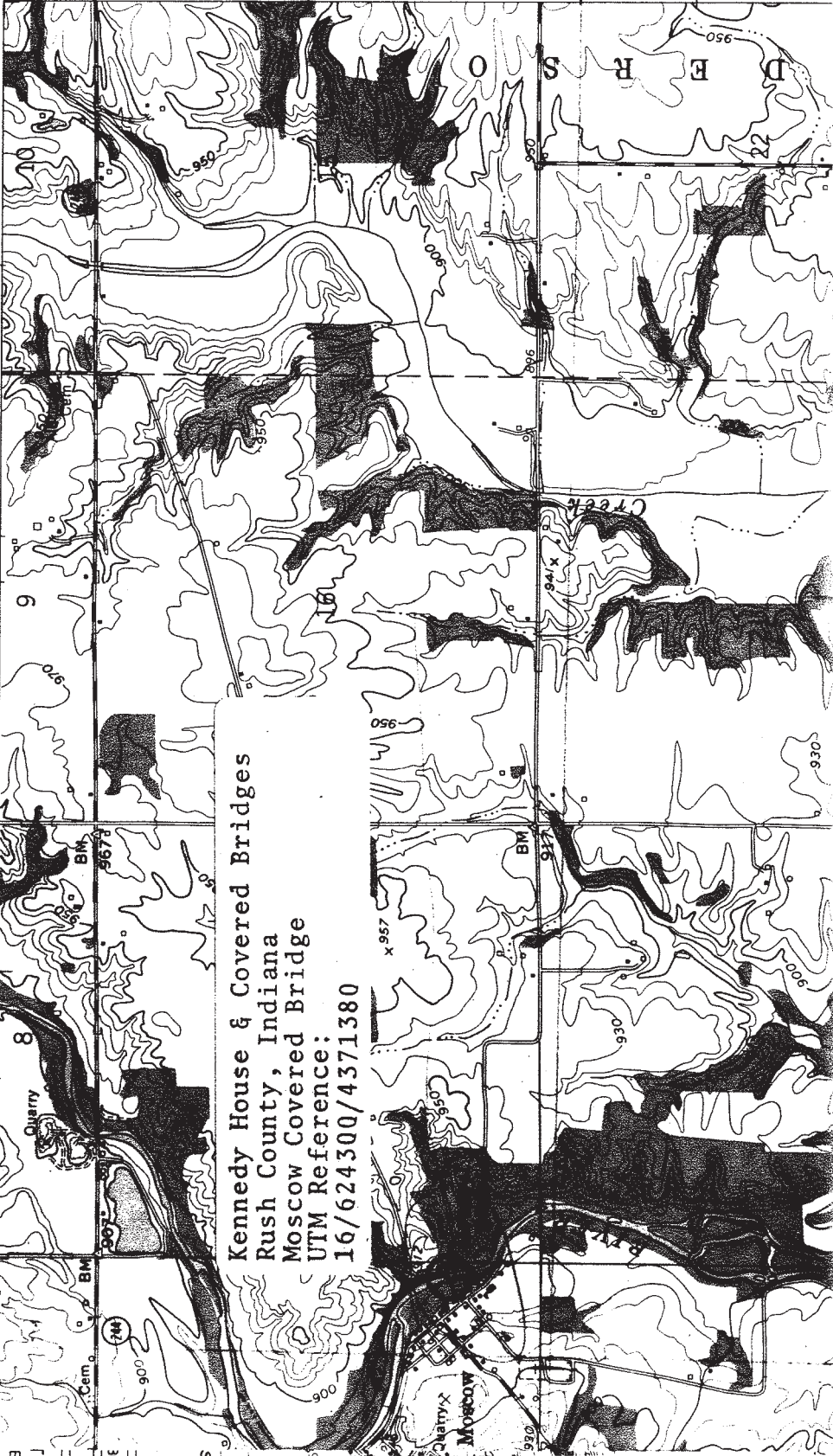
540 000 FEET

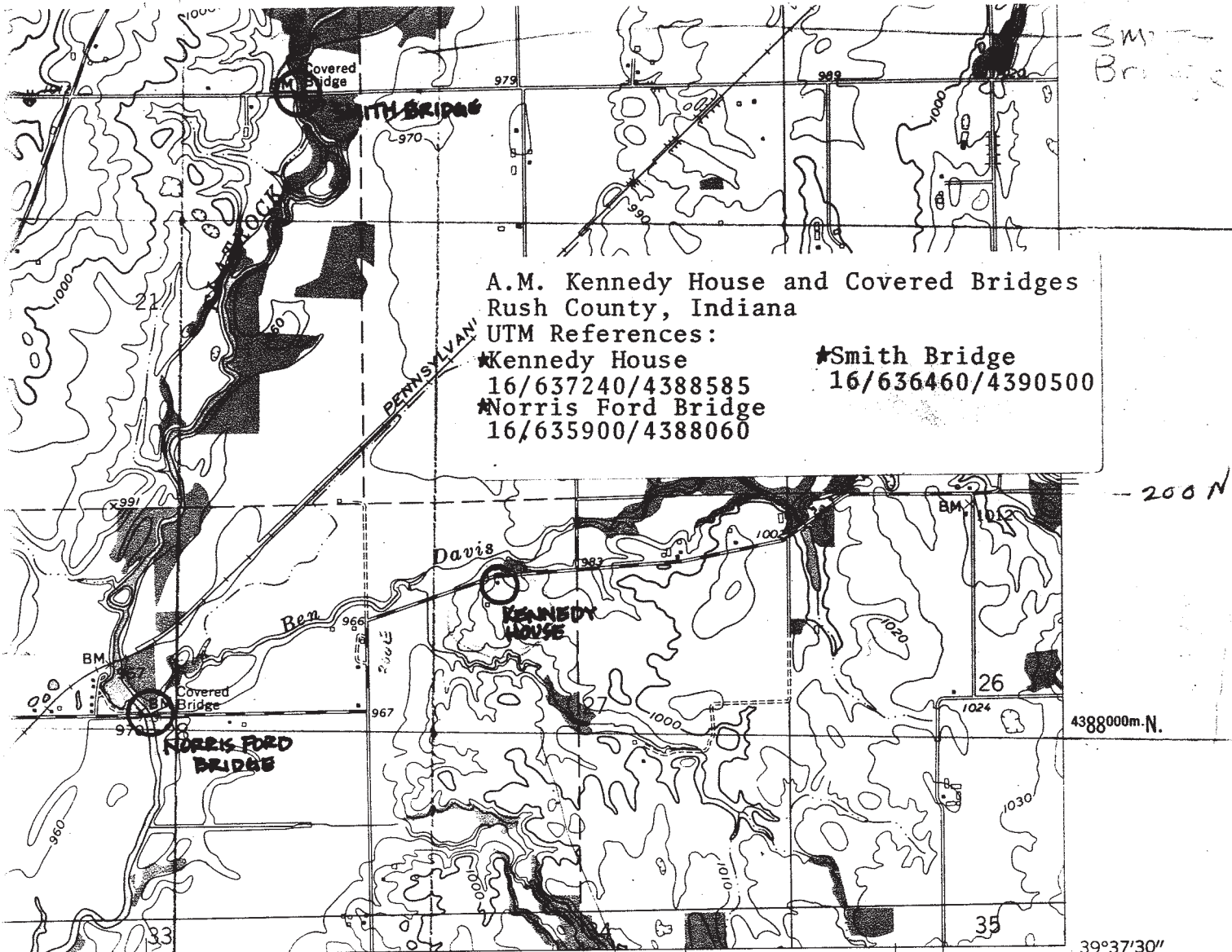
32'30"

MILROY 1.7 MI.
ANDERSONVILLE (JUNC. U.S. 52) 11 MI.

720 000
FEET

Kennedy House & Covered Bridges
Rush County, Indiana
Moscow Covered Bridge
UTM Reference:
16/624300/4371380





**A.M. Kennedy House and Covered Bridges
Rush County, Indiana**

UTM References:

- ★ Kennedy House 16/637240/4388585
- ★ Norris Ford Bridge 16/635900/4388060
- ★ Smith Bridge 16/636460/4390500

IND. 3 25' 33' 35'

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. - 1960-NS
638000m. E. MR 2233

39°37'30" 85°22'30"

1 MILE
0 FEET

Norris Ford Bridge
A.M. Kennedy House

INDIANA
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty —————
- Medium-duty - - - - -
- Light-duty - - - - -
- Unimproved dirt - - - - -

○ State Route

MAYS, IND.
N 3937.5—W 8522.5/7.5

1959