UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE ENTERED

JUL 1 1 1975

RECEIVED

MAR 2 6 1978

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 Valley Pike Covered Bridge Same 2 LOCATION w of may soulle of 1248 STREET & NUMBER tion with Kentucky Route 10. Over Frasure Branch on Valley Pike, 1.5 miles from intersec-CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CITY, TOWN 7 VICINITY OF Fern Leaf COUNTY CODE CODE 021 Mason 161 Kentucky 3 CLASSIFICATION PRESENT USE OWNERSHIP STATUS CATEGORY AGRICULTURE PUBLIC MUSEUM __DISTRICT _OCCUPIED _BUILDING(S) XPRIVATE _UNOCCUPIED __COMMERCIAL __PARK WORK IN PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE XSTRUCTURE BOTH _SITE **PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE** ENTERTAINMENT __RELIGIOUS X.YES: RESTRICTED _OBJECT _GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC IN PROCESS X TRANSPORTATION _YES: UNRESTRICTED INDUSTRIAL BEING CONSIDERED _MILITARY _OTHER: _NO 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME Mrs. R. W. Bouldin STREET & NUMBER Valley Pike STATE CITY, TOWN X VICINITY OF Kentucky Fern Leaf LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Mason County Courthouse STREET & NUMBER STATE CITY, TOWN Mayesville Kentucky REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS Survey of Historical Sites in Kentucky DATE FEDERAL X STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL 1971 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Kentucky Heritage Commission STATE CITY, TOWN Kentucky Frankfort

EXCELLENT

CONDITION

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 $\underline{\underline{X}}_{\mathsf{FAIR}}^{\mathsf{GOOD}}$

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Valley Pike Covered Bridge in Mason County crosses the Frasure Branch of Lee Creek, directly off Valley Pike, 1.5 miles from intersection with Kentucky Route 10. The bridge is located on the property of Mrs. R. W. Bouldin.

The truss design of the bridge is a single kingpost system, resting on stone abutments. Typical of this type of design, the span is short; approximately 30-35 feet in length. Vertically sided and roofed with corrugated tin, the bridge is still open and in use on the Bouldin Farm.

SPECIFIC DATES unknown		BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown				
_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY _INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)		
_1800-1899	COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	XTRANSPORTATION		
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_PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION		
PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Valley Pike Covered Bridge is the only privately-owned covered bridge in Kentucky. Built for access to farmland and barns across the Bouldin farm, it resembles a small barn itself.

Ten miles from Valley Pike is Mason County's other covered bridge over Lee Creek.

The date of origin, along with the name of the builder of the bridge, is unknown.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kentucky Covered Bridge Association. <u>Timbered Tunnel Talk.</u> Newport, Kentucky. (June, 1971).

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FORM PREPARED	BA					
John M. Johnson						
ORGANIZATION			DATE			
Kentucky Heritage C	commission		June, 1975			
401 Wapping Street			TELEPHONE			
CITY OR TOWN			STATE			
Frankfort			Kentucky			
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Form No. 10-300a Rev. 10-74)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
MAY 1 0 1976
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Valley Pike Covered Bridge

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

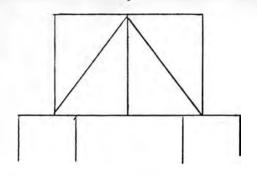
PAGE 2

DATE ENTERED

At one time Kentucky had hundreds of covered bridges spanning her rivers. Just prior to World War II, sixty-five were still standing. By 1952, the numbers had shrunk to thirty-nine. Now only sixteen remain. These sixteen, which represent a variety of structural types, are concentrated in the central and northeast sections of the state in the small communities or rural areas of the state.

Many reasons have been offered to explain the construction of covered bridges in Kentucky during the 19th century. The road across the bridges were kept dry and free of snow in winter. Most important, however, was the protection the covering over the bridges provided against the deterioration of the wood. It permitted the timbered trusses and braces to season properly and kept water out of the joints. The life of the bridge was, therefore, significantly prolonged, averaging, generally seven to eight times that of one left uncovered.

Many of the covered bridges owe their present survival to modern spans constructed nearby that relieve the covered bridges of heavy traffic. Six are now closed to vehicular traffic although, like the others, they are visited by large numbers of tourists. All but one are publicly owned. Few are well maintained and most are in need of immediate repair or restoration if their preservation is to be secured.

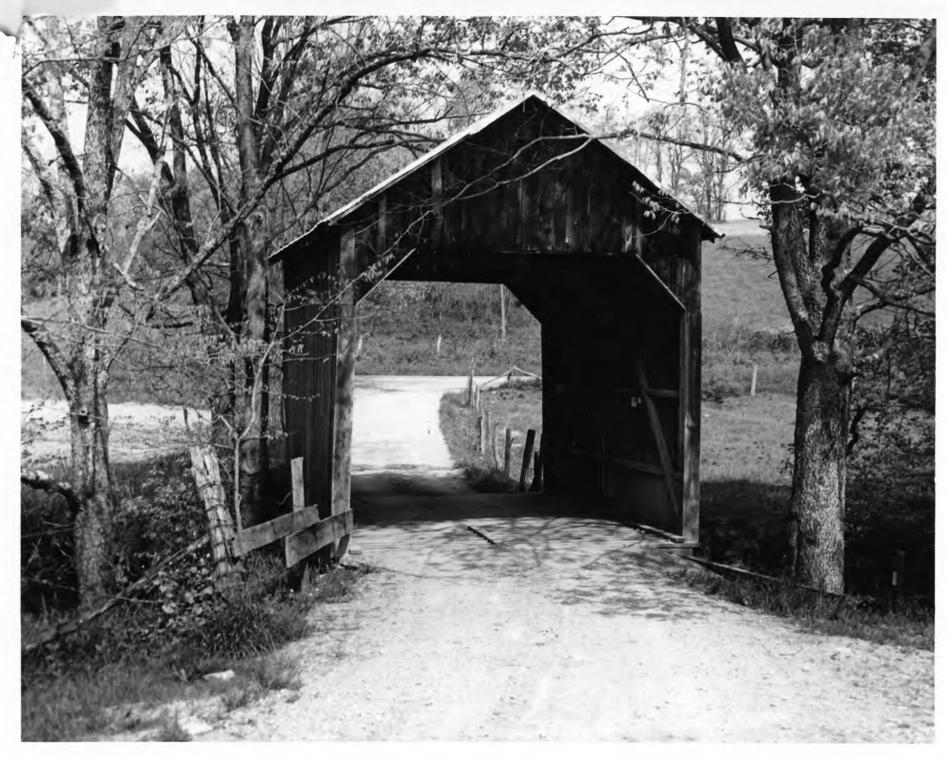


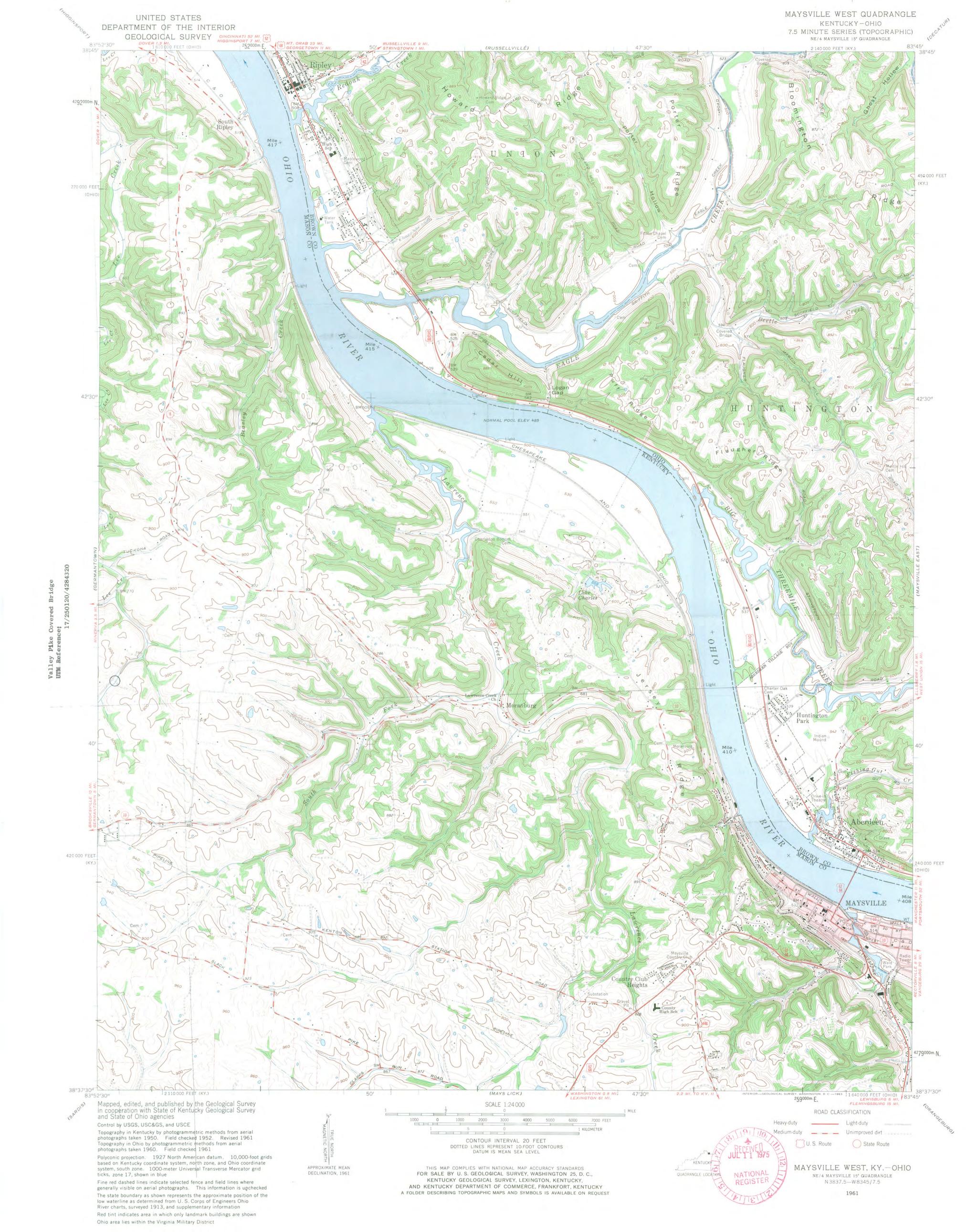
1. THE KINGPOST TRUSS. The kingpost is the oldest and simplest truss, used in roof building for hundreds of years. It consists essentially of the basic truss triangle with two timbers slanting. down from the center to the ends of the lower chord of the bridge. The kingpost extends down vertically from the center to the lower chord, forming two combined triangles. This post is a tension member, with the diagonals and lower chord in compression. There are 53 covered bridges of this type in use, half of them in Pennsylvania. These bridges are seldom over 30 to 35 feet long, but with the use of reinforcing timbers and rods - diagonal, horizontal or vertical - spans of over double this length have occasionally been noted.

Diagram Description of King Post Truss



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ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KENTUCKY STATE

Date Entered

MAR 2 6 1976

Name

Location

Valley Pike Covered Bridge

Sherburne Covered Suspension Bridge

Fern Leaf vicinity Mason County

Sherburne vicinity Fleming County

Also Notified

Hon. Walter (Dee) Huddleston Hon. Wendell H. Ford

Hon. J. Bannett Johnston, Jr.

Hon. Carl D. Perkins

Regional Director, Southeast Region

PR

MOTT: djb

3/29/76

State Historic Preservation Officer Mrs. Eldred W. Melton Director, Kentucky Heritage Commission 104 Bridge Street Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

NATIONA	L REGI	STER	DATA	SF	IEET		
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□ ARCHITECTURE-4 □ ECONOMICS-9 □	NDUSTRY-13 MUSIC-18 NVENTION-14 PHILOSOPHY-20	SOCIAL / CULTURAL - 30 THANSPORTATION 25		'only' □			
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andscape architect/garden designer:	minterior decorator:	artist:	artisan:	3 builder	contractor:		
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reviewers initials di date 6-7-77