

## Covered Bridges History

Early bridges were made of wood, especially where it was a plentiful resource. Wooden bridges tended to deteriorate rapidly from exposure to the elements, having a useful lifespan of only nine years. Covering them protected their structural members, thus extending their life to 80 years or more. Covered bridges were also constructed to be used by travelers during storms and inclement weather.

There are only two Covered Bridges in Franklin County.

### Bergstresser Covered Bridge

Location: S. edge Canal Winchester over Lt Walnut Creek [off US33 on OH674, 8/10 of mile S. to Groveport Rd. E. on Groveport Rd 1+ mile to Canal Winchester & then right on Washington St. 1+mile through town to bridge which is on the right] Closed NRHP

Length: 125'

Built: 1887

### Fairgrounds Covered Bridge on fairgrounds at Hilliard.

This bridge is not an original covered bridge. It was built on the Northwest Franklin County Historical Village as a model and was constructed from pieces of old covered bridges.

Location: off I-270 via Cemetery Rd n to N Main St in Hilliard then N. 8/10 of mile

Length:31'

Built: 1993

### More on Ohio's Covered Bridges

<http://www.dot.state.oh.us/se/coveredbridges/>

# Covered Bridge To Be Preserved

The last covered bridge in Franklin County, an historic landmark, will be preserved, state and county officials promised Thursday.

Members of the Franklin County Historical Society were assured by County Commissioners, County Engineer Guy Elbin and state highway officials that the bridge will remain on its present site.

The bridge is located on State Rt. 674, a mile south of Canal Winchester.

Concern over the fate of the bridge developed recently with the announcement by the State Highway Department that it intends to relocate the highway at the bridge to eliminate traffic hazards. Highway officials noted the bridge is narrow and is approached from the south by a sharp curve.

AT A MEETING earlier in the week, the county commissioners were in accord with the society that "everything should be done to preserve the bridge."

Commissioners C. P. Luderbaugh noted that although the state route would be relocated, the present highway could be used as a county road by the residents living on it.

Thus, as a county road it would be maintained by the county and the upkeep would include the bridge.

IT WAS POINTED out that although the covered bridge is 70 years old it is in a good state of repair.

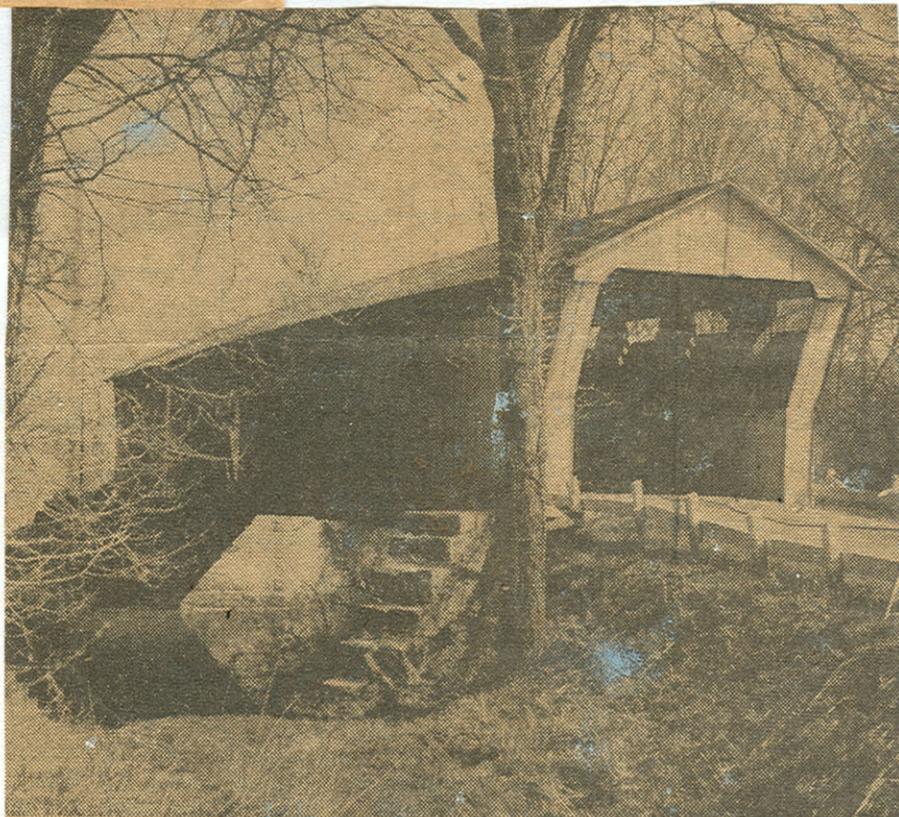
The bridge crosses Little Walnut Creek and is located in a picturesque wooded area.

Other covered bridges in Franklin County were victims of fire and flood and were replaced with modern structures.

WILL COLLINS, city librarian and a member of the Ohio Historical Society's Covered Bridge Committee, reported that three counties in the state have lost their last covered bridges within the past year. They were Mahoning, Clark and Gallia Counties.

He urged county officials to "bend every effort to preserve the bridge here."

The historical group also noted that Canal Winchester residents have expressed interest in preserving the bridge. Leader of the movement in that village is Dr. Walter D. Peer.



THIS IS THE LAST COVERED BRIDGE IN FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Historical Group Helps Save Rt 674 Bridge Near Canal Winchester

OHIO

HISTORICAL  
MARKER

BERGSTRESSER / DIETZ COVERED BRIDGE  
1887-1991

(Continued from other side)

In the 1930's the road travelling over the bridge became State Route 674 and in the 1950's the road was redirected to bypass the covered bridge. In 1990, the county contracted with Abba Lichtenstein & Associates to evaluate the condition of the bridge. The W. J. Seidensticker Company repaired and restored the Bergstresser bridge using original and new materials. This, the last covered bridge in Franklin County, was rededicated September 1, 1991. At this time the ownership of the bridge was transferred to the Village of Canal Winchester.

CITIZENS FOR POSITIVE GROWTH TO THE VILLAGE OF CANAL WINCHESTER  
AND

1992

THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

17-25