

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 19 1975

DATE ENTERED

JUN 10 1975

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Walcott Covered Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

White Bridge

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

3 1/2 mi N of Brooksville on SR 1159 over Locust Creek

1159 Highway from Brooksville to Wellsburgh or Rock Springs NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Walcott Brooksville

VICINITY OF

Seventh

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Kentucky

021

Bracken

023

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. &amp; Mrs. Garner N. Murray (Augusta, Ky.), Mr. Howard Murray (308 Bracken St.,

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Augusta, Ky.), Mrs. Donald Wehmeyer (1612 Bloomingdale Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio),

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bracken County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Brooksville

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Walcott Covered Bridge is located in a rural area in the small community of Walcott at a point where Kentucky Highway 1159 previously crossed Locust Creek in Bracken County, Kentucky. In 1954 a new concrete bridge was constructed approximately 200 feet northwest of the Walcott Bridge and the older structure was then bypassed by highway traffic.

The bridge is of a complex construction, a combination of Queen and King <sup>post</sup> type truss. The sides are completely enclosed and the exterior is presently painted white. It is 75 feet in length, has a horizontal clearance of 14 feet, and a vertical clearance of 13 feet and six inches. The bridge is built of poplar and rests atop two stone abutments. The bridge is in fair condition (the roof was replaced in 1954), but in need of repair. It is currently being maintained by local citizens. Now closed to vehicular traffic, the bridge and surrounding grounds are used as a park area. It is clearly visible from the highway and the newer bridge and has become a popular tourist attraction.

## 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 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

c. 1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At one time Kentucky had hundreds of covered bridges spanning her rivers. Prior to World War II sixty-five were still standing. By 1952 the numbers had shrunk to thirty-nine. Now there are only sixteen, concentrated in the central and northeast sections of the state.

The only covered bridge left standing in Bracken County is that which spans the Locust Creek near Walcott. It is of late nineteenth-century construction of a design similar to other covered bridges in the area. The bridge was built on property belonging to the Murray family and, from all indications, replaced an earlier covered bridge. (According to Murray family history, there did exist a covered bridge in the vicinity of the present White Bridge as early as 1835.)

There are many explanations for the construction of covered bridges, the most logical being that the boarded sides and shingled roof protected the building from deterioration. It is also said that horses crossed the bridges more easily by not being able to view the river beneath.

The covered bridges were an important part of community life in less sophisticated days. Posters, proclaiming the merits of everything from patent medicine and chewing tobacco, to political candidates and revival meetings were posted or nailed to their portals. Some bridges came to be known as "kissing bridges" for obvious reasons.

In Washington County, according to the late Kentucky journalist Joe Creason, they tell about an old farmer who had never seen a covered span before driving up in his buggy to the 270-foot long gunbarrel-shaped bridge over the Chaplin River. He squinted into the long black tunnel to the far end and decided against crossing. "I can git through this end, all right," he figured, "but I ain't sure there's enough room to squeeze through that little hole at yan end." Unless something is done soon, concluded Mr. Creason, there won't be any covered bridges left for future generations to appreciate the uncertainty of the farmer when he looked through to the "little hole at yan end." (Courier-Journal Magazine, July 21, 1968, p.19.)

It is true Kentucky has few covered bridges left, many of which are in de sperate need of repair. But it is hoped that National Register recognition will stimulate interest in preserving these examples of a unique architecture.



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Walcott Covered Bridge

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Creason, Joe, "Last of Their Kind," Courier-Journal & Times Magazine, July 21, 1968,  
pp. 18-19.

Interview with L. K. Patton, President, Kentucky Covered Bridge Association, Newport,  
Kentucky.

75000738

Property Walcott Covered Bridge

Bracken

State Kentucky

Working Number 5.19.75.948

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 1  
Maps 1

**CONTROL**

OK pl  
5.20.75

**HISTORIAN**

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

ACCEPT  
Huganell  
5/21/75

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

They probably mean kingpost and queenpost truss.

**HAER**

Inventory 8B1 6/4  
Review Accept Endy  
6/7

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accept  
Cole  
6-9-75  
ACTY

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

[Signature]  
JUN 9 1975

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered JUN 10 1975

Federal Register Entry 8-5-75

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74





Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1950. Field check 1952  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Kentucky coordinate system,  
north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 16, shown in blue



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242,  
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506,  
AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	4 LANE 6 LANE	Light-duty
Medium-duty	4 LANE 6 LANE	Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route		Slate Route

BROOKSVILLE, KY.  
NE/4 MOUNT OLIVET 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3837.5—W8400/7.5  
1952  
AMS 4161 II NE—SERIES V853







# Kentucky Heritage Commission

401 Wapping Street

Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

May 15, 1975

Dr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
18th and C Streets, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20240



Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Enclosed is the National Register Nomination Form for the Walcott Covered Bridge, 1159 Highway from Brooksville to Wellsburgh or Rock Springs, Walcott, Bracken County, Kentucky. This nomination was approved by the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board on March 25, 1975. As State Historic Preservation Officer, I recommend it be entered on the National Register of Historic Places.

Your early consideration of this nomination will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Eldred W. Melton  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures (See Attachment)

cc: Mrs. John S. Parker, County Representative  
Mr. and Mrs. Garner N. Murray, Owner  
Mr. Howard Murray, Owner  
Mrs. Donald Wehmeyer, Owner

Dr. William J. Murtagh  
May 15, 1975  
Page 2  
Walcott Covered Bridge

ATTACHMENT

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory -- Nomination Form

Form No. 10-300a Continuation Sheet  
Item 9 Page 2

Form No. 10-301a Property Photo Form  
Photo 1 View of east side of bridge.

Form No. 10-310 Property Map Form  
USGS Map, Brooksville Quadrangle

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE      KENTUCKY

Date Entered      JUN 10 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Morton, William ("Lord"), House	Lexington Fayette County
Walcott Covered Bridge	Walcott Bracken County
"Seclusaval" (Hamlin House)	Concord vicinity Calloway County
Fort Williams (or Fort Hobson)	Glasgow Barren County

Also Notified

Hon. Walter D. Huddleston  
Hon. Wendell H. Ford  
Hon. John B. Breckinridge  
Hon. Carl D. Perkins  
Hon. Carroll Hubbard, Jr.  
Hon. William H. Natcher  
Regional Director, Southeast Region

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

PR      MMott/row      6/11/75

# NR Data Sheet

DATE: 2.9.77  
Reviewer INITIALS: *geofo*  
NR  DOE 6/10/75

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Walcott Covered Bridge <sup>①</sup>

OTHER NAMES: White Bridge <sup>2</sup> - SECONDARY

LOCATION: 3.5 mi. N of Brooksville on SR 1159 over Locust Creek

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY SEVENTH code

Bracken - 023

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle)  PRIVATE  STATE  LOCAL GOV'T  MUNICIPAL  COUNTY  OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

## FEATURES:

<u>INTERIOR</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substantially intact-1 _ unknown - 4 _ not applicable - 7	<u>EXTERIOR</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substantially intact-2 _ unknown - 5 _ not applicable - 8	<u>ENVIRONS</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substantially intact-3 _ unknown - 6 _ not applicable - 9
--	--	--

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -	<u>EXCELLENT</u> _ GOOD _ FAIR	<u>DETERIORATED</u> _ RUINS _ UNEXPOSED _ Unexcavated	<u>UNALTERED</u> _ ALTERED _ Reconstructed _ Excavated	<u>ORIGINAL SITE</u> _ MOVED _ Unknown
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ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO  
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO  
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)  
then- BRIDGE

now- NOT IN USE

## SIGNIFICANCE:

- |   |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION                  | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC    | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW/Gov't/politics     | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE                   | <input type="checkbox"/> health         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE            | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN       | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | <input type="checkbox"/> settlement     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ART                    | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)           | <input type="checkbox"/> socio/cultural |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE    | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             |  | <input type="checkbox"/> urban & commun |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS         | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS-GOVERNMENT    |  | <input type="checkbox"/> planning       |

## Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO *remaining in county*

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

personal BUILT ON PROPERTY OF (1) MURRAY FAMILY

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): c. 1880

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY  
OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre) 1 acre.

COMMENTS:

(include architectural information here)

FRAME, VERTICAL SIDING; COMBINATION  
and QUEEN & KING POST TRUSS OF 75' # SINGLE SPAN, 14' # WIDE, STONE & and  
CONCRETE ABUTMENTS; ROOF REPLACED, 1954. ~~THE~~ ONLY COVERED BRIDGE  
REMAINING IN COUNTY; NO LONGER IN USE.

SIGNIFICANCE:

(maximum two sentences)