

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Rolling Stone Covered Bridge

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: County Road 800 North over Big Walnut Creek.

City or town: Bainbridge State: IN County: Putnam

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ Title :</p>	<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

Rolling Stone Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Putnam County, IN
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Rolling Stone Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Putnam County, IN
County and State

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

Rolling Stone Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Putnam County, IN
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Covered Burr arch-truss

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: WOOD: Weatherboard

roof: METAL
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Rolling Stone Covered Bridge, built in 1915 in Floyd Township, Putnam County, has a clear span of 103 feet over Big Walnut Creek. The single-span Burr arch sets atop concrete abutments. The bridge has board-and-batten siding and features a metal roof. The bridge continues to carry vehicular traffic on County Road 800 North.

Rolling Stone Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Putnam County, IN
County and State

Narrative Description

The Rolling Stone Covered Bridge (photo 0001) was built in 1915 by J. A. Britton. The single-span bridge is 103 feet in length and features a Burr arch truss that rests on concrete abutments. The total length is 123' and the portals extend 10' beyond the trusses. The bridge is approximately 19' wide with a portal approximately 16' wide. The bridge is 18'-2" tall from the deck to the ridge. The bridge carries Putnam County Road 800 North over Big Walnut Creek in a general north/south alignment. The terrain around the bridge is rolling and wooded. Modern metal guardrails are installed to each side of the road in front of the portals (photo 02). The road approaches to the bridge are asphalt. The concrete abutments that support the bridge carry the structure approximately 14' over the creek below (photo 07).

The heavy oak timber frame is composed of sawn lumber with the Burr arches spliced together (photo 04). Ten panels of oak timber X-bracing are below the bridge deck and overhead. Floor boards composing the bridge deck are perpendicular with the flow of traffic. Wood runners, parallel with the flow of traffic, form a wide lane atop the deck boards. A wood rail is attached to braces in the walls about two feet above the deck. The bridge's sides are covered with boards and narrow battens, painted red (photos 02, 06). The top of the walls are left open for ventilation. There are two openings in the east wall of the bridge (photo 06) and three openings in the west wall of the bridge (photo 07). The small openings feature pent roofs supported by braces with the roof covered in metal. Each end wall that forms the portal for the bridge has a gabled wall and is covered with vertical planks (photos 03, 05). Rafters and spaced boards form the understructure of the roof on which the metal roof is installed. The bridge remains open to vehicular traffic on County Road 800 North.

Rolling Stone Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Putnam County, IN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Rolling Stone Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Putnam County, IN
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENGINEERING

TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

1915-1919

Significant Dates

Significant Person (last name, first name)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

Britton, J. A.

Rolling Stone Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Putnam County, IN
County and State

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins when the covered bridge was constructed in 1915. While the bridge continues to be used for local vehicular traffic, the period of significance ends in 1919, the year that Highway 36 became part of the Indiana State Highway Commission's network of highways. This lessened the use of Rolling Stone Covered Bridge between the small communities of New Maysville and Bainbridge.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Rolling Stone Covered Bridge, 1915, is a fine example of a wooden Burr arch bridge and is one of nine covered bridges extant in the Putnam County. Rolling Stone Covered Bridge is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places based on two criteria. Criterion A is applicable under transportation as an area of significance. The bridge, which created an important crossing over Big Walnut Creek in Floyd Township, embodies the importance bridges served to development of transportation in the county. Criterion C is applicable with engineering as an area of significance. The bridge represents the development of the Burr arch in wood form, relatively late in its period of construction, while the use of steel or concrete for bridge construction had been in full development. The relative rarity of surviving examples of covered bridges further establishes the significance of the Rolling Stone Covered Bridge.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

ENGINEERING & TRANSPORTATION

The Rolling Stone Covered Brick is an example of the Burr arch (photo 04) with a free span of 103 feet rising about 14' above Big Walnut Creek. The Burr arch was the invention of Theodore Burr (1771-1822), an inventor-engineer from Connecticut, who patented the design on April 4, 1817 (patent no. 2769). The Burr arch functions in tandem with king post trusses for rigidity in the span. While there is some debate as to which member functions for loading versus providing rigidity, the arch or king truss, it is understood that the members must function together. The arch is generally capable of the span and load, but not without failure if not compensated with additional members for rigidity. The bridge type was used in the developing western part of the country and enjoyed significant use in Indiana.

Rolling Stone Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Putnam County, IN
County and State

The oldest extant covered bridge in Indiana is thought to be the Ramp Creek Bridge that crosses Raccoon Creek at the entrance to Brown County State Park. The Burr arch bridge was built between 1836 and 1838 in Putnam County and moved to the park in 1932. This was one of two dual-lane bridges thought to be the first covered bridges constructed in Putnam County with public funds. The bridges were located on the New Albany-Crawfordsville Turnpike which is modern-day U.S. 231. The Ramp Creek Bridge spanned Ramp Creek near Fincastle near the Putnam-Montgomery County Line while the other bridge spanned Big Raccoon Creek near the small village of Raccoon.¹ There are estimated to have been 31 covered bridges constructed in Putnam County from the time the dual-lane bridges were constructed until 1922 when the last one was built over Little Walnut Creek.² While generally thought of as a mid-19th century method for bridge construction, Putnam County Commissioners continued to use covered bridges into the first two decades of the 20th century. Today, the county retains nine of its historic covered bridges that date from 1880 to 1922.

These are the following:

Cornstalk Covered Bridge (1917), Burr arch truss by J. A. Britton
Pine Bluff Covered Bridge (1886), Howe truss by J. A. Britton
Rolling Stone Covered Bridge (1915), Burr arch truss by J. A. Britton
Baker's Camp Covered Bridge (1901), Burr arch truss by J. J. Daniels
Edna Collins Covered Bridge (1922), Burr arch truss by Charles Hendrix
Dunbar Covered Bridge (1880), Burr arch truss by J. J. Daniels
Oakalla Covered Bridge (1898), Burr arch truss by J. J. Daniels
Houck Covered Bridge (1880), Howe truss by Massillon Bridge Company
Dick Huffman Covered Bridge (1880), Howe truss by E. Anderson & Sons

The Rolling Stone Covered Bridge is one of those 20th century constructs. The bridge was built in 1915 joining many crossings already established in the 19th century over Big Walnut Creek in Floyd Township and Jackson Township to the north. After the bridge was constructed in 1915, Putnam County Commissioners ordered a large boulder in the creek to be dynamited in order to protect their investment in the event the stone was loosened during flooding.³ Similar to Pine Bluff Covered Bridge, Rolling Stone Covered Bridge served an important local connection between Bainbridge and New Maysville, cutting several miles from travel under the 19th century road system. However, with the inclusion of a route that would become Highway 36 in the state's 1919 list of designated routes, a more direct route was cut from Bainbridge to the east. This allowed a shorter distance to New Maysville and markets to the east. This would mean that while the bridge remained important to farmers and residents along Big Walnut Creek, traffic would have lessened over the bridge only four short years after it was constructed.

¹ Romine, pg. 5

² Romine, pg. 6

³ Romine, pg. 11

Rolling Stone Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Putnam County, IN
County and State

The Rolling Stone Covered Bridge was constructed by Joseph Albert Britton (1839-1929), a native of Parke County, Indiana who constructed approximately forty covered bridges in a three-county area that included Parke, Vermillion, and Putnam Counties. Britton was the son of a carpenter who enlisted for military service during the Civil War. While he was admitted to the bar as an attorney in Indiana and Kansas, he returned to the carpenter's trade in Indiana and constructed his first bridge in 1882, known as the Narrows Bridge, at today's Turkey Run State Park.⁴

Prior to 1855, most bridges in Indiana were either privately built by landowners or were constructed by private companies who may have required the payment of tolls. The state legislature authorized county governments to construct or financially assist with the construction of bridges in 1855. By 1870, county governments had the sole responsibility for constructing bridges, which is essentially still in place today. Crossing waterways up to this point was done either by fords or ferries. Eventually, open wood structures were built, then later, contractors built wood bridges on stone abutments. Stone arched bridges were being introduced at the same time.

Indiana's wood bridge builders often favored the Burr arch truss which combined king post trusses with a stiffening double wood arch. J. J. Daniels, active in Parke County, and the Kennedy Brothers, active in Rush County, both favored Burr arch trusses. The majority of surviving wood truss bridges in Indiana are Burr arch designs. The Howe Truss concept is more determinate in that specific members act in either compression or tension, while for the Burr Arch, the arches have a role that is difficult to determine, even today. Both truss types offered viable solutions to spanning Indiana's waterways before iron or concrete became the most sought after solutions.

Indiana has the third highest number of covered bridges in the nation. Between 1820 and 1922, it was estimated that 600 covered bridges were constructed of various truss patterns. By 1977, 102 were extant, which dwindled to 98 extant covered bridges by the early 1990s. The first covered bridge in Indiana was constructed around 1820 at Mooresville (now Floyd's Knob); several more followed through the late 1830s. Several covered bridges were constructed during this early time across the National Road (Richmond to Terre Haute) and then the Michigan Road (Madison to Michigan City). A litany of internal infrastructure improvements during the 1830s was brought to a halt during financial woes the state faced in the 1840s.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

⁴ Felkner, Charles. *Parke County Covered Bridges Thematic Resource National Register of Historic Places form* (1978).

Rolling Stone Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Putnam County, IN
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Allen, Richard S. Covered Bridges of the Middle West. Bonanza Books, New York: 1970

Atlas of Putnam County, Indiana. J. H. Beers & Co. Publishers, Chicago: 1879.

Black, Archibald. The Story of Bridges. McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York: 1936.

Boykin, Linda L. *The Wooden Age of Indiana's Covered Bridges*, Butler University Thesis, 1986.

Felkner, Charles. *Parke County Covered Bridges Thematic Resource National Register of Historic Places form* (1978).

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

Indiana State Highway Maps: 1919, 1926.

Ketcham, Bryan. Covered Bridges on the Byways of Indiana. Oxford Printing Co., Oxford, Ohio: 1949.

Reed, Robert. Indiana's Covered Bridges. Arcadia Publishing, Chicago: 2004.

Romine, Malcolm S. *The Covered Bridges of Putnam County, Indiana*. Mitchell Fleming Printing, Knightstown, IN: 2021.

Weik, Jesse W. Weik's History of Putnam County, Indiana. B. F. Bowen & Co., Indianapolis: 1910.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

___ previously listed in the National Register

___ previously determined eligible by the National Register

___ designated a National Historic Landmark

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Rolling Stone Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Putnam County, IN
County and State

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): HB-2012, 133-542-25012

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16S | Easting: 518479 | Northing: 4402778 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Rolling Stone Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Putnam County, IN
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The east and west boundaries are lines parallel to and 10 feet east and west of the edge of the bridge and extend along the right-of-way for County Road 800 North which is approximately 40 feet wide. Similarly, the north and south boundaries are lines parallel to and 10 feet north and south of the edge of the portals. Nothing in this boundary description should be construed as intent to include adjacent private property.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary described includes the outer extents of the covered bridge, its abutments, all parts of the wooden bridge, and the portion of County Road 800 North alignment that features approaches to the bridge.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kurt West Garner
organization: Putnam County Heritage Preservation Society, Inc.
street & number: 12954 6th Road
city or town: Plymouth state: IN zip code: 46563
e-mail: kwgarner@kwgarner.com
telephone: 574-780-1423
date: February 1, 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
-

Rolling Stone Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Putnam County, IN
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Rolling Stone Covered Bridge
City or Vicinity: Bainbridge
County: Putnam State: Indiana
Photographer: Kurt West Garner
Date Photographed: July 18, 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at bridge from south crossing

1 of 7.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking northwest at bridge from south crossing

2 of 7.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north at south portal

3 of 7.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking north through bridge from south end

4 of 7.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southwest at north portal

5 of 7.

Rolling Stone Covered Bridge
Name of Property

Putnam County, IN
County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking south along east side of the bridge from north crossing

6 of 7.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Looking southeast at bridge from north creek bank

7 of 7.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

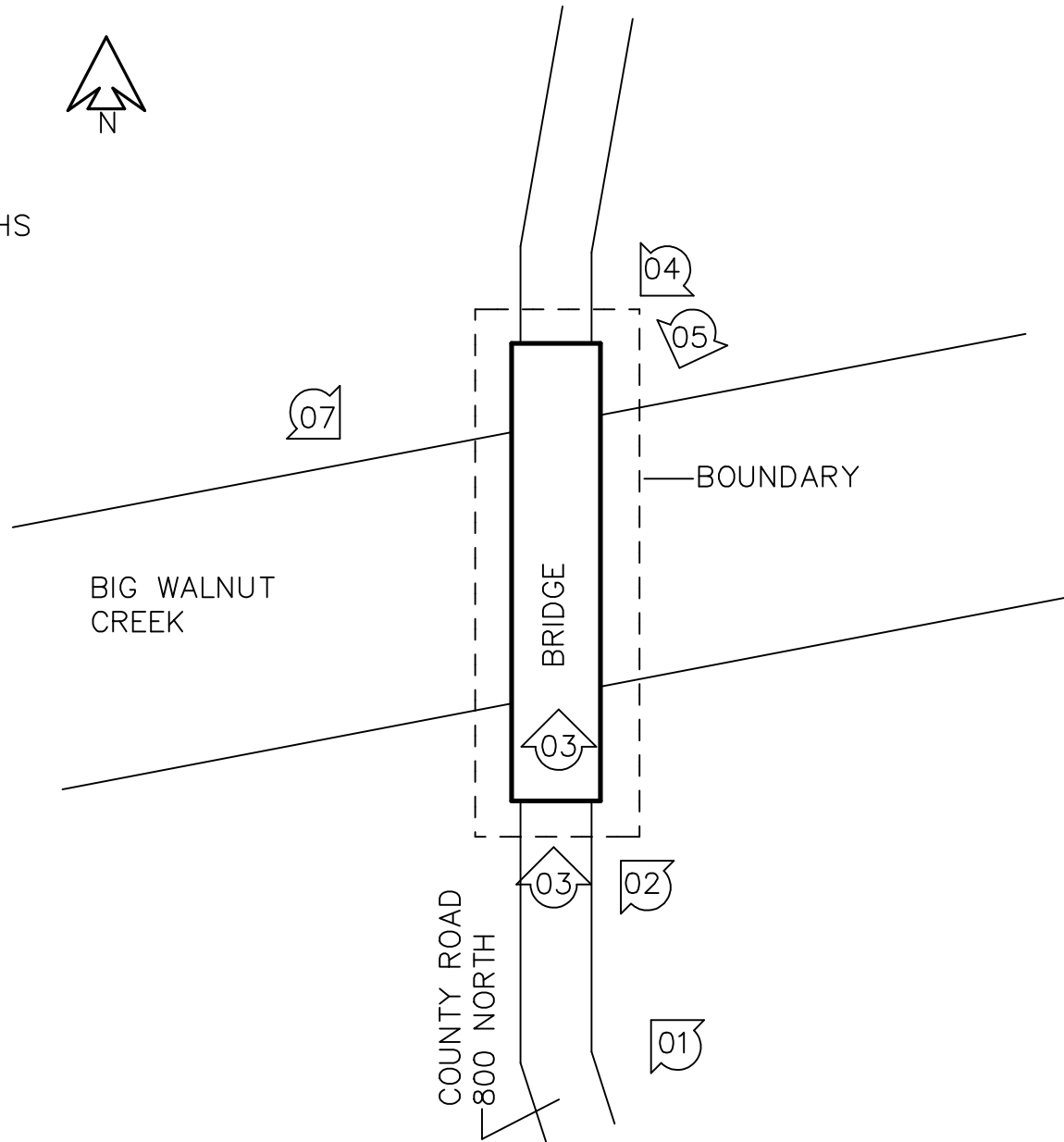
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

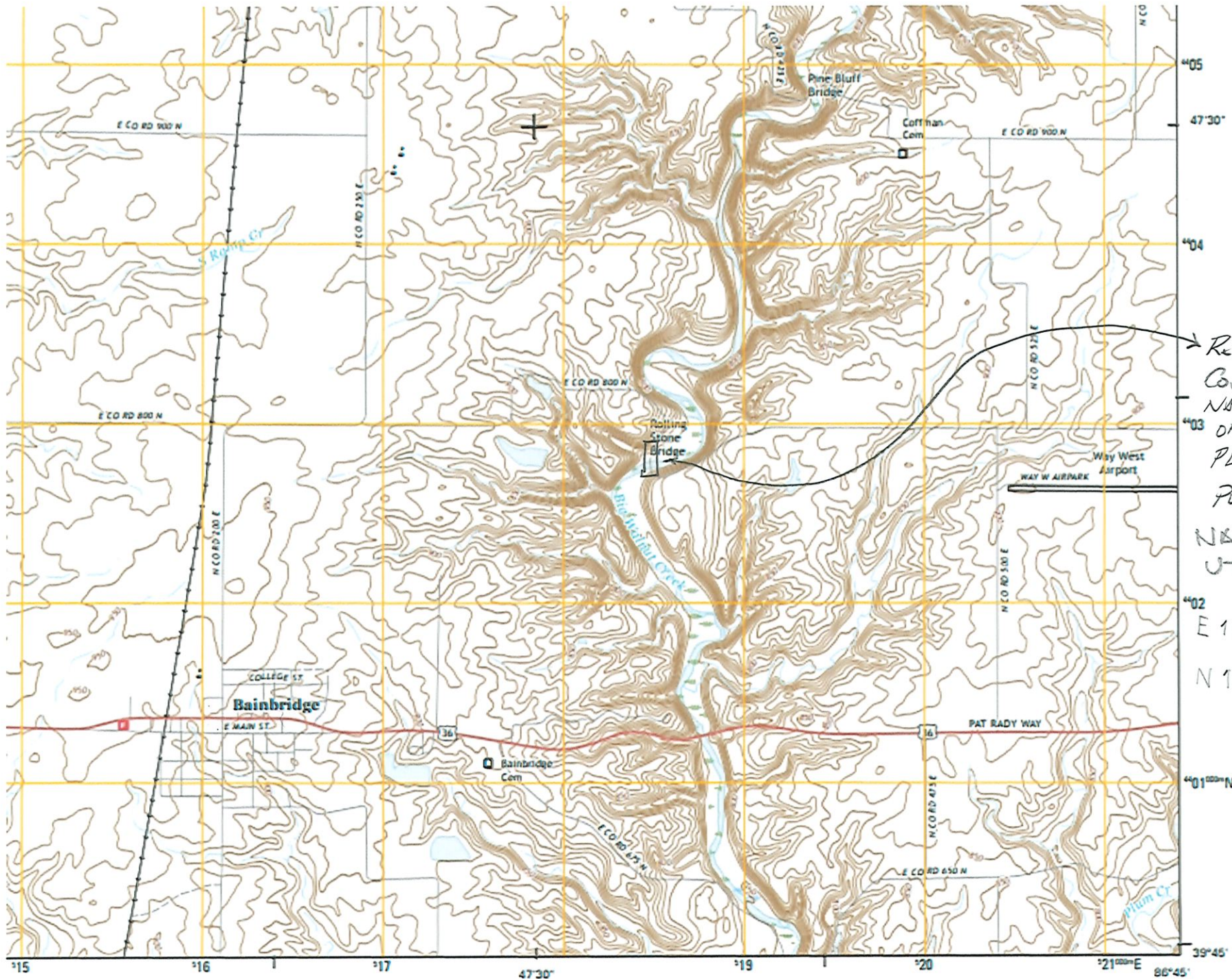
ROLLING STONE COVERED BRIDGE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF
HISTORIC PLACES

PUTNAM COUNTY, IN
SKETCH MAP



 = PHOTOGRAPHS





→ ROLLING STONE
 COVERED BRIDGE
 NATIONAL REGISTER
 OF HISTORIC
 PLACES
 PUTNAM CO. UT
 NAD 83
 UTM
 E 16S 518479
 N 16S 4402778

SCALE 1:24,000

ROAD CLASSIFICATION



IN_PutnamCounty_RollingStoneCoveredBridge_0002



IN_PutnamCounty_RollingStoneCoveredBridge_0004



IN_PutnamCounty_RollingStoneCoveredBridge_0006



IN_PutnamCounty_RollingStoneCoveredBridge_0007