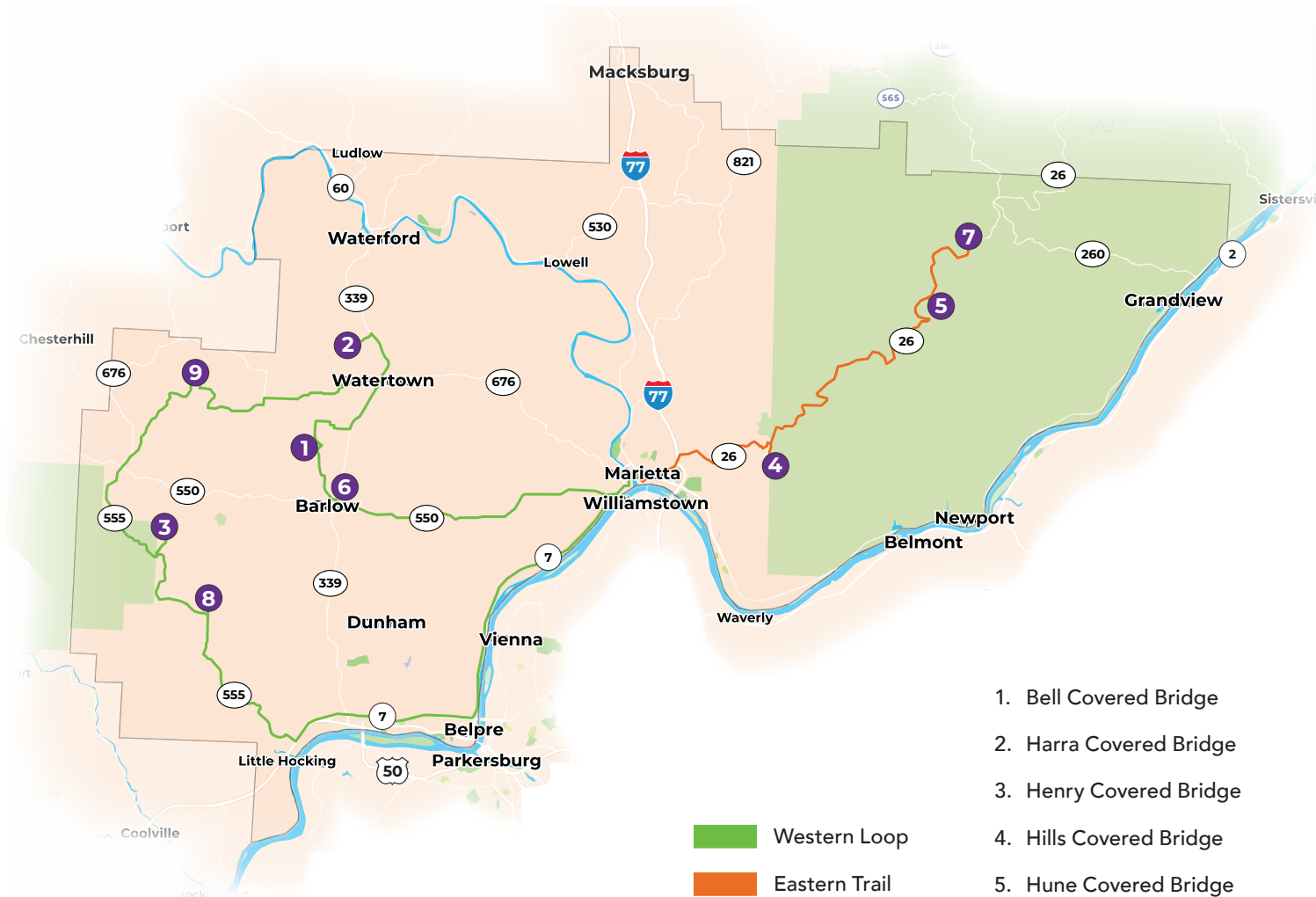


WASHINGTON COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE TOUR MAP



1. Bell Covered Bridge
2. Harra Covered Bridge
3. Henry Covered Bridge
4. Hills Covered Bridge
5. Hune Covered Bridge
6. Mill Branch Covered Bridge
7. Rinard Covered Bridge
8. Root Covered Bridge
9. Shinn Covered Bridge

COVERED BRIDGE TRUSS HISTORY

A bridge truss is an arrangement of triangles joined together to carry a bridge and its load over a stream. Due to its structural strength, the triangle is a natural choice upon which to base truss design. The main difference among truss types is the variation in arrangement of the triangle's compression members (diagonal timbers) and tension members (upright members).

The nine covered bridges in Washington County illustrate six truss designs. The most common truss type, the Multiple Kingpost truss, is seen in the Bell and Mill Branch covered bridges. A Kingpost truss consists of two panels with a compression member in each panel mortised into a tension member. A Multiple Kingpost truss is a Kingpost truss with four or more panels.

The Shinn Bridge is a Kingpost with Burr Arch truss, a combination of a wooden arch with a Multiple Kingpost. It was patented in 1804 and was designed to strengthen the basic truss.

A lengthened version of the Kingpost truss, the Queenpost, is illustrated by the Henry Bridge. The Root, Harra, and Hune bridges are Long truss designs. This truss, first used around 1830, consists of a series of boxed X's with three or more panels making up the entire truss.

In 1869, Ohioan Robert W. Smith patented the truss design bearing his name, and the Smith truss can be seen today in the Rinard Bridge. The Hills (Hildreth) Bridge stands out as an example of the Howe truss, which implements the iron rod into wooden truss design.

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**COVERED
BRIDGE TOUR**

INTRODUCTION

Once called “kissing bridges” for the courting couples who passed their wooden planks on horse and buggy, covered bridges have retained their romantic legacy and country charm. At one time there were more than 50 covered bridges in Washington County, Ohio, providing shelter and safe passage across rivers and creeks. Today, just nine covered bridges remain scattered on public roads throughout the county. A tenth covered bridge, while still visible from the road, is kept on private land. Each one stands as a lasting tribute to the pioneer spirit of invention and American engineering.

ROUTES

There are two routes on the Washington County Covered Bridge Tour – the western loop and the eastern trail. Both paths take travelers through some of the most scenic and hilly terrain in southeast Ohio. The western loop veers off the pavement and onto some dirt roads, which are best covered during ideal weather conditions and/or with a four-wheeled drive vehicle. This path gives explores a view of the many family farms, tiny picturesque villages, ghost towns, country churches and cemeteries of the western portion of the county. The eastern trail consists exclusively of paved roads on a steep and curvy journey winding along the Wayne National Forest. The bridges on this path are well-marked and easy to find.

EASTERN TRAIL
(Along Wayne National Forest)

- There are three well-marked covered bridges along State Route 26 north of Marietta. These three bridges border a portion of the Wayne National Forest.
- Follow State Route 26 and the Scenic Byway northeast of Marietta for about six miles to County Road 333 or Hills Bridge Road. Turn right on Hills Bridge Road and drive about a quarter of a mile to the **Hills Covered Bridge**.
 - Get back on SR 26 and continue northeast about 12 miles through Moss Run and Dart to Township Road 921 or Duff Road where the **Hune Covered Bridge** spans canoe access to the Wayne National Forest.
 - Continue on SR 26 for about 1.5 miles through Wingett Run to the **Rinard Covered Bridge**.
 - Return to Marietta on State Route 26 – a distance of about 22 miles.

BRIDGE HISTORIES

- The Mill Branch Covered Bridge**, built in 1885, was moved to the fairgrounds in 1980. Originally, the bridge crossed the Mill branch of the Little Hocking River. A major restoration was completed in 2007 after flood waters from Hurricane Ivan shifted the bridge. The small span is open to pedestrian traffic only.
- The Bell Covered Bridge** was built in 1888 by E.B. Henderson for less than \$500 with a Kingpost truss design. It crosses the southwest branch of Wolf Creek. The bridge was rehabilitated in 1998.
- The Harra Covered Bridge**, built in 1875, crosses the south branch of Wolf Creek near the intersection of State Route 339 and Township Road 172. The structure’s distinctive cut stone abutments were quarried from a local farm whose owner also lent his name to the bridge. It is one of eight surviving bridges in Ohio constructed with the Long truss design.
- The Shinn Covered Bridge** was built in 1886 by Charles Shinn, a local carpenter, after one of his children drowned. The structure spans the western branch of Wolf Creek in Palmer Township and was constructed with a Burr truss design – a Kingpost truss with a wooden arch. It is one of the last standing examples of a Burr truss in Ohio.
- The Henry Covered Bridge** was built in 1894 over the west branch of the Little Hocking River on Fairfield Road. Open to pedestrian traffic only. It is built with a Kingpost truss design. Like the Shinn Covered Bridge, it was built after a small child met with disaster trying to pass flood swollen waters.



MILL BRANCH COVERED BRIDGE



HARRA COVERED BRIDGE



ROOT COVERED BRIDGE



HUNE COVERED BRIDGE



BELL COVERED BRIDGE



HENRY COVERED BRIDGE



HILLS COVERED BRIDGE



RINARD COVERED BRIDGE

BRIDGE HISTORIES CONT.

- The Root Covered Bridge**, built in 1878, also spans the west branch of the Little Hocking River. It was constructed by Charles and Alta Meredith with a Long truss design. The bridge was named for Root Town, which has become a ghost town.
- The Hills Covered Bridge**, which is also known as the Hildreth Covered Bridge or Lafaber’s Mill Bridge, was constructed over several years between 1871 and 1881. The bridge carried Hills Bridge Road high above the Little Muskingum River. The structure is a wooden Howe truss bridge, still resting on its original stone piers. Its great height above the river makes this bridge one of the most impressive in the region. Open to pedestrian traffic only.
- The Hune Covered Bridge**, built in 1879, spans the Little Muskingum River near the rural community of Dart. Named for a prominent local family, the bridge was constructed by Rollin Meredith using a Long truss style of design.
- The Rinard Covered Bridge**, also known as Hendershott’s Ford Bridge, was destroyed by a flood in 2004 and rebuilt with most of its original timbers in 2006. Its unique Smith truss was patented by Ohioan Robert W. Smith in 1869. The original structure was constructed in 1876 by Smith Bridge of Toledo. It spans the Little Muskingum River.

WESTERN LOOP

- Six of Washington County’s nine public bridges are located along the Western Loop of the covered bridge tour.
- Beginning in Marietta, take State Route 7 south to State Route 550. Drive west on 550 for about 12.5 miles to the intersection with State Route 339 where you will find the Barlow Fairgrounds –and the home of the **Mill Branch Covered Bridge**.
 - Departing the fairgrounds, drive north on State Route 339 for about half a mile to Township Road 39 or Bell Road. Continue on T39 for about 2.5 miles to the **Bell Bridge**.
 - Passing through the **Bell Bridge**, continue on T39 for 1.5 miles to Woodruff Road or T230. Turn right on Woodruff Road and travel east about 1 mile to State Route 339. Take SR 339 about three miles north, past Watertown, to Camp Hervida Road (T108). Drive about half a mile on Camp Hervida Road to the **Harra Covered Bridge**.
 - Backtrack half a mile on Camp Hervida Road to State Route 339. Turn right and drive south on SR 339 to State Route 676. Turn right on SR 676 and continue about eight miles to Township Road 91. Continue for about three miles on T91 to the **Shinn Covered Bridge**.
 - Continue along T91 for about two miles to County Road 206. Turn left and travel south on CR 206, or Patten Mills Road, about 3.5 miles to State Route 555. Continue south on SR 555 for about five miles to Township Road 61 or Clark Road. Turn left onto Clark Road and travel about one mile north to **The Henry Covered Bridge**.
 - Backtrack on Clark Road to State Route 555. Turn left on SR 555 and drive about three miles to County Road 6. Turn left on C6 and travel about half a mile to the **Root Covered Bridge**.
 - Backtrack on County Road 6 to State Route 555. Turn left and continue travelling south on SR 555 to State Route 7/US 50. Follow SR 7 north back to Marietta – a distance of about 19 miles.



SHINN COVERED BRIDGE