

ASHTABULA COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE TOUR

FACTS AND FIGURES

TOUR A: This is a tour of the northern part of the County. The tour begins in the center of Jefferson and travels east on East Jefferson Street. Approximate round trip of this tour is 69 miles. There are 13 bridges in this tour.

1. Netcher Road – Clearance 14’6” (2.7 miles from center of Jefferson)

The bridge is constructed over Mill Creek in Jefferson Township and features a timber arch with inverted Haupt walls. The “Neo Victorian” design structure is 110 feet long, 22 feet wide and 14 feet 6 inches high. Construction was funded by an ODOT Timber Grant and was opened to traffic in 1999.

2. South Denmark Road – Clearance 9’0” (2.7 miles from Netcher Road Bridge)

Built in 1890 this Town Lattice bridge spans Mill Creek. The 81 foot structure was by-passed in 1975 but is easily accessible.

3. Caine Road - Clearance 11’0” – (6.7 miles from South Denmark Road Bridge)

This first Pratt Truss bridge in Ohio was built in 1986 in honor of Ashtabula County’s 175th anniversary. The 124 foot long bridge traverses the west branch of the Ashtabula River in Pierpont Township.

4. Graham Road – By-Pass (5.9 miles from Caine Road Bridge)

The Graham Road Bridge, which was built from remnants of a bridge washed downstream in the 1913 flood, now sits in a small park on the south side of the road. The 97 foot Town Truss was over the west branch of the Ashtabula River in Pierpont Township.

5. Root Road – Clearance 8’4” (3.9 miles from Graham Road Bridge)

A 114 foot Town Lattice built in 1868, Root Road Bridge crosses the Ashtabula River. It was raised 18 inches during the rehabilitation in 1982-83 and new laminated girders and a center concrete pier were added.

6. Middle Road – Clearance 13'6" (8.3 miles from Root Road Bridge)

This 136 foot Howe Truss bridge was built in 1868 over Conneaut Creek, which is the longest river in eastern Ashtabula County. It was reconstructed in 1984 with the help of three volunteers and four college students.

7. State Road – Clearance 16'2" (5.1 miles from Middle Road Bridge)

Containing 97,000 feet of southern pine and oak, the State Road Bridge was erected in 1983 across Conneaut Creek. The 152 foot Town Lattice span was the first covered bridge designed and built by County Engineer, John W. Smolen, Jr. A four foot tall window extends the length of the bridge showing the Town Lattice construction. The dedication of the bridge in 1983 was the forerunner of the Covered Bridge Festival.

8. Creek Road – Clearance 11'4" (3.4 miles from State Road Bridge)

The construction of this 125 foot Town Lattice bridge is unknown. It sits 25 feet above the Conneaut Creek and was extensively renovated in 1994.

9. Benetka Road – Clearance 11'0" (11.5 miles from Creek Road Bridge)

A 138 foot Town Lattice with Arch bridge, Benetka was built about 1900, spanning the Ashtabula River. It was renovated in 1985 when a laminated arch 9 inches wide, 38 inches thick, spanning the length of the bridge, was added.

10. Olin Bridge – Clearance 12'0" (2.5 miles from Benetka Road Bridge)

Located on Dewey Road in Plymouth Township, Olin is the only bridge named for a family. Olin's have owned property next to the bridge since it was built in 1873. The 115 foot Town Lattice structure over the Ashtabula River was renovated in 1985.

11. Smolen-Gulf – Clearance 14'6" (2.6 miles from Olin Bridge)

The longest covered bridge in the United States is of Pratt Truss construction. Engineering and structural design was done by John W. Smolen, Jr. (former County Engineer) and architectural design was done by Timothy J. Martin (current County Engineer). The bridge was dedicated on August 26, 2008. It is 613 feet long and stands 93 feet above the Ashtabula River. With a clear width of 30 feet it will support full legal load traffic and has a life expectancy of 100 years.

11B. Riverview - The new pedestrian covered bridge is 150 feet long and 14 feet wide. It is of Pratt truss, like Smolen Gulf Bridge, and was designed by Smolen Engineering. It sits below Smolen Bridge in Indian Trails Park. It was dedicated on Oct 4th, 2016

12. Giddings Road – Clearance 15'6" (8 miles from Smolen-Gulf Bridge)

Pratt Truss construction was used for this 107 foot bridge built in 1995 with funding from an ODOT Timber Grant. It crosses Mill Creek in Jefferson Township.

At this point the tour returns to Jefferson via Jones Road, Route 167 and Route 46. It is approximately 3.5 miles back to Jefferson.

TOUR B: This is a tour of the southern part of the county. The tour begins in the center of Jefferson and travels north on Route 46, then west on Route 307 to Doyle Road. Approximate round trip of this tour is 68 miles. There are 6 bridges in this tour.

13. Doyle Road – Clearance 13'6" (1.8 miles from Jefferson)

A 94 foot long Town Lattice bridge built in 1868, Doyle spans Mill Creek. Mill Creek is a tributary of the Grand River. This bridge was renovated in 1987 when a laminated arch was added.

14. Liberty Street – Clearance 15'0" (10.6 miles from Doyle Road Bridge)

The shortest covered bridge in the United States spans only 18 feet. Its design is one-of-a-kind. The structure is supported by a single Kingpost and its roof is a Scissor Truss which gives the bridge a lighter, open feeling. The roof has a more pronounced slope than a typical timber covered bridge. This, along with the extended overhangs, eaves and rakes, give the bridge a floating appearance. The bridge includes a toll-keeper booth to remind visitors of pioneer days when travelers often had to pay for the privilege of crossing a bridge. The timber for the bridge was donated from locally grown timber. The bridge was modularly constructed by students on the campus of the Ashtabula County Joint Vocational School.

15. Harpersfield – Clearance 10'9" (3 miles from Liberty Street Bridge)

This two span Howe Truss bridge is 228 feet long and is the second longest covered bridge in the State of Ohio. It spans the Grand River which is the primary drainage channel of western Ashtabula County. The bridge was built in 1868 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. A flood in 1913 washed soil away from the north end of the bridge and changed the river

channel. The steel bridge was then attached. A walkway was added in 1991-92 when the bridge was renovated.

16. Mechanicsville Road – Clearance 10'0" (4.6 miles from Harpersfield Bridge)

The longest single span covered bridge in Ashtabula County, this 156 foot Howe Truss with Arch was built over the Grand River in 1867. The arch is 15 layers of 2x8 lumber and is encased by large beams which form the X's of the Howe Truss. Believed to be the oldest of the County's covered bridges, this bridge was renovated and opened to traffic in the Fall of 2003.

17. Riverdale Road - Clearance 9'6" (9.2 miles from Mechanicsville Road Bridge)

This 114 foot Town Lattice bridge sits high above the Grand River. It was built in 1874. The floor was rebuilt in 1981 and glue laminated wood girders were added. Center steel bracing had been replaced under the bridge in 1945. The road at the east end of the bridge washed out in 1987 and a new concrete abutment was built for added support.

18. Windsor Mills – Clearance 11'3" (14.5 miles from Riverdale Road Bridge)

Located in a very picturesque area of the County, Windsor Mills Bridge spans Phelps Creek, a tributary of the Grand River. Built in 1867 the Town Lattice sits atop cut stone abutments with unique center supports. One is from sandstone that was quarried nearby and the other is made from creek stone. Windsor Mills Bridge is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This bridge was renovated in 2002-03 and was opened to traffic in the Fall of 2003.

At this point the tour returns to Jefferson by way of Route 322, Route 45 and Eagleville Road. It is approximately 24 miles back to Jefferson.

Ashtabula County Covered Bridge Festival

25 West Jefferson Street

Jefferson, Ohio 44047

440-576-3769

2nd Full Weekend of October