

CEDARBURG COVERED BRIDGE
National Covered Bridges Recording Project
Spanning Cedar Creek on a bypassed section of Covered Bridge
Road
Cedarburg
Ozaukee County
Wisconsin

HAER WI-117
HAER WI-117

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

ADDENDUM TO:
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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CEDARBURG BRIDGE

HAER No. WI-117

- Location:** Spanning Cedar Creek at bypassed section of Covered Bridge Road, Cedarburg, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. The Cedarburg Covered Bridge is located at latitude: 43.3375700, longitude: -88.0054962. The coordinate represents the approximate center of the deck of the bridge. This coordinate was obtained on March 2, 2016, by plotting its location on Google Earth. The accuracy of the coordinate is +/- 12 meters.
- Date of Construction:** 1876
- Builder:** Unknown
- Structure Type:** Wood covered bridge; Town lattice truss
- Present Owner:** Ozaukee County, Wisconsin
- Present Use:** Pedestrian bridge in a public park
- Significance:** The Cedarburg Bridge is the last historic covered bridge in the state of Wisconsin. Also known as the Cedar Creek Bridge, it was built by the Town of Cedarburg in 1876.
- Description:** The Cedarburg Bridge is a single-span Town lattice truss sitting on a supplemental center pier. The total length of the bridge is 120' from portal to portal. The bridge has a vertical clearance of 12', with a roadway width of 13'. The Town lattice truss is three diamonds high, composed of 3"x10" planks, connected by two treenails at each intersection. The typical diamond is 4' wide, 4'-8" high, at a 60 degree angle. The upper and lower chords are two pairs of parallel 3"x10" planks. Where the lattice members meet the chords, they are connected by three treenails.
- The lower chords rest on mortared stone abutments, with a supplemental center pier added in 1927. The deck consists of 2"x6" laminated boards, sitting atop 6"x8" stringers. They are supported by a pair of 3"x12" floor beams spaced at approximate 8' intervals, reinforced by 4"x6" lower lateral bracing. The bridge is sheathed with board and batten siding. A 1'-10" clerestory opening runs the entire length of the bridge. It is sheathed by board and batten siding, with a cedar shingled roof.

History: Town of Cedarburg constructed the bridge in 1876. The planks and timbers were milled in Baraboo, Wisconsin, and hauled 100 miles to its location spanning Cedar Creek at a point about a mile north of downtown Cedarburg, where the trusses were assembled. In 1927, a concrete center abutment was added to support vehicular traffic. The Ozaukee County Board voted to preserve the structure in 1940 as a historic monument. The bridge remained in vehicular service 1962, when it was bypassed by a modern concrete span. It is now used for pedestrian traffic as the main feature of Covered Bridge Park, managed by Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department. The Cedarburg Covered Bridge is the last historic covered bridge remaining in the state of Wisconsin.

Historian: Christopher H. Marston, 2015

Project Information: The National Covered Bridges Recording Project is part of the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), a long-range program to document historically significant engineering and industrial works in the United States. HAER is administered by the Heritage Documentation Programs Division (Richard O'Connor, Chief), a division of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Federal Highway Administration's National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation Program (NHCBP) funded the project (Sheila Duwadi, administrator).

The NHCBP funded "Use of Laser Scanning Technology to Obtain As-Built Records of Historic Covered Bridges," a partnership between the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory (Robert J. Ross, Engineer) and University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) Natural Resources Research Institute (Brian Brashaw, Program Director). The FARO scanning and processing of the Cedarburg Bridge was completed by Dennis Thomas of FARO, LLC and Penny Anstey and William Krueger of Sightline, LLC in 2010. Draft AutoCAD drawings were produced by Samuel Anderson (UMD NRRI) in 2011. In 2014, HAER took the data and produced final HAER drawings in AutoCAD for transmittal to the Library of Congress. The HAER field team consisted of Christopher H. Marston, HAER Project Leader; and Pavel Gorokhov, Benjamin Shakelton, and Hummam Salih, (all Catholic University) architects. Martin Stupich shot the large format photography and digital photography in 2015.

Related Documentation: Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. "Covered Bridge." HABS No. WI-28-12.

SOURCES

“Covered Bridge.” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, listed March 14, 1973.

Ross, Robert J., Brian Brashaw, Samuel J. Anderson. *Use of Laser Scanning Technology to Obtain As-Built Records of Historic Covered Bridges*. General Technical Report FPL-RP-669. Madison, Wisconsin: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory. 2012.

ILLUSTRATED APPENDIX

All color digital photographs (fig. 1-11) were taken by Martin Stupich, April 2015.



Figure 1. General view of Cedarburg Bridge over Cedar Creek; view to west.



Figure 2. General view from shoreline of river; view to northwest



Figure 3. General oblique view west and south sides, view to northeast.



Figure 4. Detail west side, center pier; view to east.



Figure 5. North portal, showing residential development in distance; view to south.



Figure 6. Interior view of deck from south to north



Figure 7. Interior oblique view of east truss; view to southeast.



Figure 8. Interior view, south end west side lattice, clerestory and deck, view to west.



Figure 9. Interior detail west side truss connection to roof structure



Figure 10. Detail of deck resting on concrete pier, view south



Figure 11. View of lower chord, floor beam, and lower later bracing; view to north.