

**Pendleton Avenue Bridge  
Spanning Fall Creek on Pendleton Avenue  
Pendleton  
Madison County  
Indiana**

**HAER No. IN-95**

HAER  
IND  
48-PEN,  
1-

**PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

**Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Great Lakes System Support Office  
Midwest Field Area  
Department of the Interior  
1709 Jackson Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 46102**

Historic American Engineering Record  
Pendleton Avenue Bridge

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**Location:** Spanning Fall Creek on Pendleton Avenue, Pendleton, Madison County, Indiana

**UTM:** 16.607070.4428900

**Quad:** Anderson South, Indiana

**Date of Construction:** 1915

**Present Owners:** Madison County Commissioners

**Significance:** The existing structure is a four span steel beam bridge (jack arch) constructed on masonry abutments and interior concrete piers. The bituminous over concrete deck is bordered by architecturally articulated concrete railings; aluminum guardrail extends along Pendleton Avenue from all four corners of the bridge. The bridge is nearly square to Fall Creek with the channel flow from the northeast to the southwest. The bridge replaced an existing structure, and was built in 1915 and repaired in 1982, according to the Madison County, Indiana Bridge Inventory Rating and Safety Inspection of May 1983. The Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has indicated that this structure is within the Pendleton Historic District which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 27, 1991. The bridge is a contributing resource to the historical significance of the district. The bridge is significant at the local level.

**Project Information:** This historic documentation was undertaken in July 1997 in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement between the Madison County Commissioners, Indiana Department of Transportation, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Federal Highway Administration, and the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer as a mitigation measure prior to replacement of the bridge. Because the bridge is a contributing resource to the district, the bridge replacement project will result in the physical destruction, damage or alteration of all of the bridge, thereby perpetuating an adverse effect to the structure and within the district (36 CFR 800.9(b)(1)).

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**Description:** Pendleton Avenue Bridge (also called Madison County Bridge No. 901) spans Fall Creek on Pendleton Avenue in Section 16, Township 18 North, Range 7 East of Fall Creek Township as shown on the 7.5 minute Anderson South U.S.G.S. quadrangle. The structure is one of two original bridge crossings of Fall Creek on the north side of Pendleton; the other crossing is on Main Street, one block to the west. The crossing of Fall Creek and Pendleton Avenue form the west boundary of Falls Park which extends to the east and northeast. The bridge and surrounding land uses are shown on the attached site maps.

The existing structure is a four span (maximum span length of 30 feet) steel beam bridge (jack arch) constructed on masonry abutments and interior concrete piers. The structure replaced by the Pendleton Avenue bridge in 1915 was an iron bow truss; research of available resources did not reveal the original date of construction of any bridge at this location. The existing structure is 126 feet in length. The clear roadway on the structure is 22 feet wide (curb to curb) and provides two travel lanes. A three foot wide sidewalk extends the length of the bridge along the west side. The out-to-out deck width is 28.5 feet. The bituminous over concrete deck is bordered by architecturally articulated concrete railings; aluminum guardrail extends along Pendleton Avenue from all four corners of the bridge. Vertical clearance over the deck is unlimited. The bridge is nearly square to Fall Creek with the channel flow from the northeast to the southwest. Since the bridge is skewed, the channel water flows out from under the north abutment. The posted weight limit on-structure is 7 tons, and the bridge is posted for no truck traffic. The sufficiency rating of the bridge is 20.10 (March, 1992). A sufficiency rating in the range of 0-50 warrants structure replacement.

The existing structure is in fair to poor condition with significant

signs of deterioration evident. The structure vibrates under a live load, and the deck shows transverse and longitudinal cracking. It is narrow for the traffic volumes along Pendleton Avenue. The concrete piers show grout spalling. The steel beam superstructure shows extensive rust. Although the bridge has an operating rating of 12 tons, it has an inventory rating of only 7 tons and is posted as such. Truck traffic is prohibited from use of this bridge and, therefore, along Pendleton Avenue. The estimated remaining life of the bridge was less than four (4) years in 1995. As previously stated, the sufficiency rating of 20.10 qualifies it for replacement. Therefore, the deteriorating condition of the bridge, its short remaining life, and the high traffic volumes are warrants for structure replacement.

**History:**

The Pendleton Avenue Bridge is within the Pendleton Historic District which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 27, 1991. The bridge is a contributing resource to the significance of the district. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has indicated that the bridge is significant at the local level.

As stated, the Pendleton Avenue Bridge is one of two original crossings of Fall Creek on the north side of Pendleton. This small number of bridge crossings made it significant to the local transportation system of the town since Fall Creek flowed completely through the town, east to west. North-south access across Fall Creek was limited to Pendleton Avenue and Main Street. Its importance grew, especially after the introduction of the automobile.

The Pendleton Historic District comprises most of the town of Pendleton in the southwestern part of Madison County on Fall Creek. It is bounded by Fall Creek on the north, the Conrail Railroad right-of-way on the east, Madison Street on the south and Adams Street on the west. It is shown on the site maps. Fall Creek, which flows from the northeastern portion of the county, is located along the northern boundary of the district. Falls Park is located in the northeast corner of the district, adjacent to Fall Creek. Southwest of the park is the primary commercial district of Pendleton.

The historic district contains the best collection of extant resources associated with the early settlement period in Madison County. The district is also significant for representation of the commercial history of Pendleton. The historic district contains 419 contributing buildings and 121 non-contributing buildings. The only contributing site is Falls Park, the location of an 1825 public hanging of white men for killing Indians, and of an 1843 speech by Frederick Douglass. The district has two contributing structures, the Pendleton Avenue Bridge and the lighthouse in Falls Park. The only contributing object is a fountain in Falls Park.

Although the history of Pendleton and the inclusion of a portion of it in the National Register of Historic Places is well documented, the literature search revealed little about the history of the Pendleton Avenue Bridge. The only specific references to the bridge are contained in The National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (Register); in Pendleton, Indiana: An Architectural Study and Handbook for Active Revitalization (Handbook); and in Madison County (Interim Report) - Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory (Inventory). None of the other listed sources provided any historical data about the bridge.

In the Register, the Pendleton Avenue Bridge is identified as a concrete girder with concrete balustrades constructed around 1920. A picture is included as Number 25. It also states that the previous bridge constructed at this location was an iron bow truss (Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 1991). The date of construction of this truss is unknown, as is the reason for its replacement.

The final source, the Inventory, lists the Pendleton Avenue Bridge as Number 005. It identifies the bridge as Neo-Classic architectural style with construction around 1920. The Inventory evaluates the significance of the bridge as a contributing property (Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 1984).

A diligent attempt was made to document the historical significance of the Pendleton Avenue Bridge. A detailed listing of the references which were available and researched has been provided in the following section.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Works Progress Administration of Indiana, Madison County, Indiana, Index of Names of Persons and of Firms, Volumes I and II. Indianapolis, Indiana: Works Progress Administration of Indiana.

#### LIBRARIES

1. Indiana State Library  
Indiana Division  
140 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Topics reviewed included Bridges, Covered Bridges, Iron Bridges, Indiana Floods, Madison County Bridges, Indiana Monuments, and Indiana Historical Bridges.

2. Indiana Historical Library  
315 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Topics reviewed included Covered Timber Bridges, Covered Bridges, American Heritage, Outdoor Indiana, and various issues of the Indianapolis Star Magazine. Also reviewed the Universal Inquiry for Madison County Bridges.

3. Pendleton Public Library  
595 East Water Street  
Pendleton, Indiana 46064

Topics reviewed included Bridges, Concrete Bridges, Indiana Bridges, Pendleton Town History, Madison County History and Falls Park.

also

The Pendleton Times Newspaper Card File

Available newspapers reviewed topics including Bridges, Concrete Bridges, Indiana Bridges, Pendleton Town History, Madison County History and Falls Park.

4. Anderson Public Library  
111 East 12th Street  
Anderson, Indiana 46016

Topics reviewed included Bridges, Concrete Bridges, Indiana Bridges, Pendleton Town History, Madison County History and Falls Park.

also

Anderson Herald-Bulletin Newspaper Card File

Available newspapers reviewed topics including Bridges, Concrete Bridges, Indiana Bridges, Pendleton Town History, Madison County History and Falls Park.

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