

THE BEESON BRIDGE

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Parke County Guide #38



The Beeson Bridge was built in 1906 by the Frankfurt Construction Company in Marshall, Indiana, and was named for adjacent landowners. It is of Burr Arch Construction and is 55 feet long, 16 feet wide and has a clearance of 13 feet. The Beeson Covered Bridge is the only remaining bridge in Parke County built by a professional construction company. It originally crossed Roaring Creek on the back road from Marshall, Indiana.

After surviving 70 years of sun, storms and flood, it was closed to traffic in the late 1970's. The bridge has suffered two arson attempts, one on August 9, 1979 and the other on August 15th of the same year. If you look closely at the beams towards the bridge's ends, you can still see burn marks from those attempts.

As the result of a joint effort by Parke County, Inc. and Billie Creek Village, the bridge was dismantled and the frame moved to the Village in the spring of 1980. After a complete restoration, it is now lighted at night and serves as the stately entrance to the village. It was posted to the National Register of Historic Places on December 22, 1978.

Parke County is the home of the nation's largest Covered Bridge Festival (see <http://www.coveredbridges.com>). Established in 1821 and named in honor of the first territorial delegate to Congress, Benjamin Parke, this county is located in West Central Indiana and Rockville is the County Seat.

Parke County originally had fifty-seven (57) known covered bridges plus one (1) it shared with Vermillion County to it's west. Today it has thirty (30) remaining.

Points of interest in the County include: Turkey Run State Park, Billie Creek Village, Raccoon Lake Recreation Area, and all of the beautiful Covered Bridges.