

## **Brochure for Goddard Covered Bridge**

Project Item Number: N/A

County and Route: Flemming, KY 32

Project Description: This covered bridge is part of the Kentucky Covered Bridge Restoration Program, and its rehab served as a landmark case in restoring bridges in an historical context.

Project Manager Contact information (Cabinet): Jim Simpson

Project Manager Contact Information (Consultant): N/A

Other contacts: Bart Bryant, CDE, KYTC D9, P.O. Box 347, Flemingsburg, KY 41041, Phone: 606.845.2551, email: bart.bryant@ky.gov; or Allen Blair, PIO, 606-845-2551

Approximate dates: August 2007/August 2008

Comments (number of people reached, effectiveness of the technique, what you would do differently, etc.): Hundreds of people were reached through brochures as they visited the Goddard Covered Bridge at the county's annual festival in August each year. The brochure served as a keepsake for visitors and therefore became a unique "gateway" to share information about the cabinet's mission in restoring covered bridges, the project list and investments.

## GODDARD COVERED BRIDGE

CIRCA 1820-1860

Located near the community of Goddard, Kentucky, off KY 32, this 63-foot Ithiel Town lattice truss bridge crosses Sand Lick Creek in Fleming County. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

This covered bridge is the only surviving example of Ithiel Town lattice design in Kentucky, and is one of Kentucky's 13 covered bridges still standing. Goddard is also one of only three covered bridges in the state still open to traffic.

The bridge was relocated in 1932 due to a road reconstruction project, and now resides north of its original construction site over Sand Lick Creek. Previous restorations include rehabilitation in 1910 by Louis Bower, and again in 1968 by his son Louis Stockton Bower. A Kentucky Transportation Cabinet restoration took place in 2005 and 2006, which strengthened the structure while maintaining its valuable historical integrity through emphasis on existing materials.

A favorite spot for photographers, the Goddard "White" Bridge, as it is historically known, frames the Goddard United Methodist Church in the background. The church was built in 1910 on the site of an earlier log church that was founded and built by John and Joseph Goddard, who came from Virginia. The church was rebuilt following a fire in August 1980.

Goddard Bridge folklore, as well as covered bridge lore across the United States, has it that sweethearts would rendezvous inside, away from prying eyes ... hence, many people refer to a covered bridge today as a "kissing bridge."



## GODDARD COVERED BRIDGE



SPANNING THE GENERATIONS IN FLEMING COUNTY, KY

## THE KENTUCKY COVERED BRIDGE RESTORATION PROGRAM



The Transportation Cabinet is at the two-thirds mark of “bridge work” in its Kentucky Covered Bridge Restoration Program.

Of Kentucky’s twelve publicly-owned covered bridges, restoration of Switzer, Dover, Colville, Oldtown, Walcott, Bennett’s Mill, and Goddard most recently, have been completed for a total of \$9.3 million spent. The Johnson Creek Covered Bridge in Robertson County is number eight on the list, and work on that project — currently ongoing in the 2008 fiscal year — will push the total spent to \$10 million.

The Cabinet has adopted the principles of the Burlington Charter for the Preservation of Historic Covered Bridges as the primary design document for covered bridge restoration projects. It is an approach that emphasizes restoration efforts as opposed to strictly the replacement of bridge components.



**Ringos Mill**

The Burlington Charter states that “covered bridges are vitally important cultural, economic, educational, aesthetic, and historic resources” and, therefore, with the help of the Kentucky Heritage Council and partners such as the Buffalo Trace Covered Bridge Authority, the Cabinet’s goal is “to preserve the historic structural and material integrity of covered bridges to the maximum extent possible, consistent with public safety.”



**Grange City**

The Cabinet will continue to work on bridge restorations as funding becomes available. Applications have been made for national grant monies. Remaining bridges in the restoration program include Cabin Creek in Lewis County, Beech Fork in Washington County, and Ringos Mill and Grange City bridges in Fleming County.



## THE RESTORATION AT GODDARD

Work at Goddard – which cost \$1 million and utilized historic covered bridge building techniques – set the standard for future restorations in Kentucky, in that the existing bridge members were retained as much as possible. Today, it is possible to drive across the bridge while still viewing the unique historical carvings.

**March 2005:** First project team meeting with state, contractors and consultants – bridgewright Arnold Graton and structural engineer David Fischetti.

**May 2005:** Intech contractors began work, while Dry Stone Conservancy began site visits.

**Summer 2005:** Stone work; bridge lifted two inches; siding, bottom chords and flooring removed.

**Fall-Winter 2005:** Replacement of selected bottom chords; new bottom chords; “sisters,” or new wood attached to old wood, installed; flooring and lattice work started.

**Summer 2006:** Completion and re-opening of the bridge to traffic.



*The “lattice truss” design Ithiel Town patented in 1820.*

## OTHER FLEMING CO. BRIDGES ...

### Ringos Mill

Now closed to vehicular traffic, this 86-foot Theodore Burr truss span with multiple kingposts was used to cross Fox Creek on KY 158 at Ringo’s Mill in rural Fleming County. Construction dates from between 1867 and 1869.

### Grange City

This late 1860s wooden truss bridge spans Fox Creek at KY 111. Like Ringos Mill, it is based on the Burr design. Flooding has made the 86-foot bridge unusable with the highest water mark of 7-foot 4-inches, recorded in 1997.

