

# Virtual Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Covered Bridges



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# Introduction

McColly Covered Bridge (LOG 13-1.56) and Bickham Covered Bridge (LOG 38-0.29) have been used for a litany of things over many, many years – from an impromptu storm shelter, to a wedding venue, and, yes, to transfer horse-drawn and automotive vehicles from one side of the Great Miami River to the other.

To ensure the continued benefits of local residents and tourists and to help deter vandalism, these historically significant structures underwent a rehabilitation process that began in the summer of 2015 and finished that fall.



Working in that time frame meant the contractor dealt with a range of weather conditions including high water that slightly delayed the rehab process on McColly, sweltering summer heat on both projects and temperatures dropping below freezing while finishing Bickham.

These bridges are quite familiar with Ohio weather as McColly was built in 1876 (the same year Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone) and Bickham was built in 1877 - combined they have been standing for an astounding 279 years!



# Costs

Financial assistance was provided through the National Historic Covered Bridge Program, which covered 80% of the rehabilitation costs with the Logan County Engineer funding the other 20 percent.

## Total cost of each project

McColly: \$168, 533.75

Bickham: \$274,500.00

# Contractor

The primary contractor for the project was Brian Brother's Painting and Restoration out of Piqua and Thompson Electric of Bellefontaine performed the electrical and lighting work.

# McColly



A single 135-foot span Howe through truss structure that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



# McColly



Renovation work included restraining the outside of the structure, application of a fire retardant paint to interior members and installing interior aesthetic lighting.

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# McColly



Completed interior

# McColly

High water (shown to the right of the bridge) slightly delayed the rehab process.



# McColly



L: Painting interior  
R: Completed underside



# McColly



Tarps were set-up to keep debris out of the Great Miami River

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# McColly



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# McColly



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# Bickham

Bickham is a single span Howe through truss structure with a length of 106 feet.



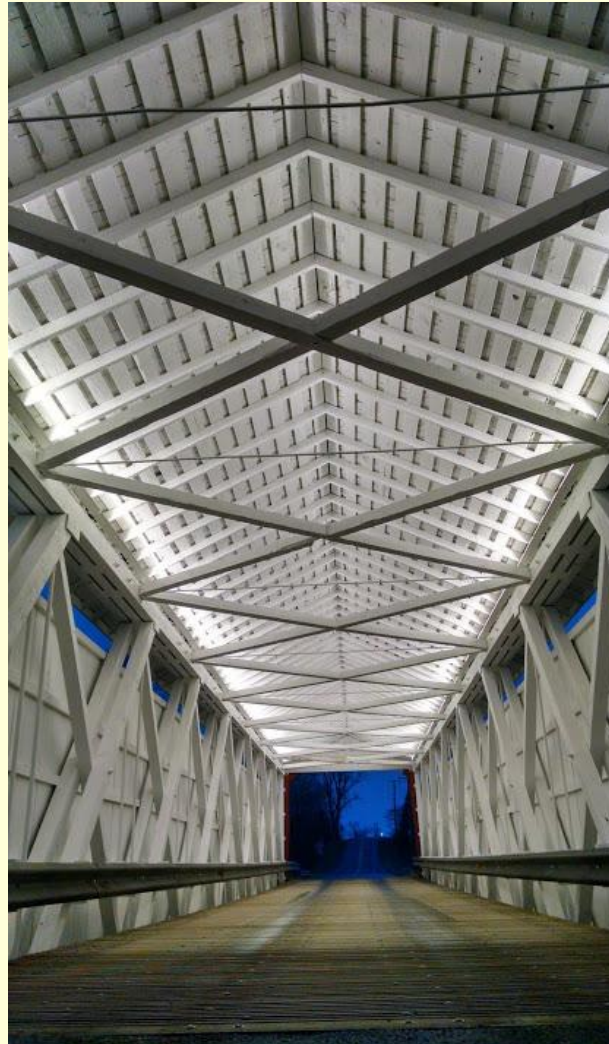


# Bickham



Rehabilitation included restaining the outside of the structure, application of a fire retardant paint to interior members, replacing several exterior siding pieces, installing interior aesthetic lighting, refurbishing the existing steel beams and installing a new timber deck.

# Bickham



# Bickham

Removal of the old deck is complete:



# Bickham



Installing the new timber deck

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# Bickham



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# Bickham



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# Future

Please help keep these vital pieces of local history protected by being aware of these height restrictions on each bridge: 12'2" for Bickham and 12'8" for McColly.



# Future

Unfortunately some drivers have repeatedly damaged each bridge by driving large vehicles (i.e. big box trucks) through the portal and hitting various sections of it, most notably the upper bracing members. When this happens, the County is forced to use valuable manpower and equipment to repair these unnecessary and disrespectful damages.





# Location

Interested in visiting these historic sites?

McColly Coordinates: Latitude: 40.401667 Longitude: -83.923333  
0.08 miles east of TR 59

Bickham Coordinates: Latitude: 40.474361 Longitude: -83.840431  
0.03 miles south of CR 98

# Location of McColly



# Location of Bickham

