DEARBORN COUNTY BRIDGE #77 Dearborn County Highway Department Spanning Taylor Creek on Woliung Road Dearborn County Indiana

# PHOTOGRAPHS WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Hunter Crews and Jonathan Spodek Ball State University 2000 W University Avenue Muncie, IN 47304

## DEARBORN COUNTY BRIDGE Dearborn County, Indiana

### I. INTRODUCTION

Location: Woliung Road at Taylor Creek, .1 west of Happy

Hollow.

Latitude: 39.22169

Longitude: -85.025414

Date of Construction: 1917

Builder: JWBC

Original and Present Owner: Dearborn County

Structure Type: Single-span reinforced concrete rib and girder

Present Use: Single-lane, vehicular traffic bridge

Significance: An early example of a reinforced concrete bridge

Project Information: Documentation and research of Dearborn County

Bridge #77 as mitigation for future demolition as required by Section 106 of the National Historic

Preservation Act of 1966.

#### II. HISTORY

This report was prepared by Hunter Crews and Jonathan Spodek of Ball State University's Applied Anthropology Lab, under a contract with the Dearborn County (Indiana) Board of Commissioners to fulfill the stipulations of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) executed between the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Indiana State Preservation Officer (ISHPO), and Dearborn County. This document provides an overview history of Dearborn County Bridge #77.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The on-site measurements and photographs to complete the measured drawing and photographic documentation of Dearborn County Bridge #77 was completed on July 20, 2017. Field measurement were completed using hand measuring techniques following guidelines established by the National Park Service Heritage Documentation Servies. Photographs were taken using a digital single lens reflex with a 50mm lens.

In addition to on-site review of the bridge, historical research was completed between July 17 and August 1, 2017. Archival searches for records were conducted at the Dearborn County Highway Department, the Indiana Department of Transportation, and the Ball State Archives and Special Collections. Interviews and consultations were conducted with Mary Kennedy and Kelyn Alexander of the Indiana Department of Transportation Cultural Resource Office and Nick Kocher, P.E. of United Consulting in Indianapolis. Several databases for were reviewed for relevant information: Professor Emeritus of History (Depauw University) James Cooper's database on historic Indiana bridges; records of the Historic American Buildings Survey; records of the Historic American Engineering Record, and Bridgehunters.com.

Limited information is available on this bridge. This report includes all information found relevant or relating to Dearborn County Bridge #77.

#### HISTORY OF DEARBORN COUNTY BRIDGE #77

Dearborn County Bridge #77 is a reinforced concrete, rib and girder bridge built in 1917. It is located on Woliung Road and spans Taylor Creek. The bridge abutments are inscribed on each side of the road with "JWBC 1917." 1917 refers to the year that the bridge was constructed, and JWBC refers to the builder who is unknown. The bridge was inspected in 1985 and it was suggested to the county that the bridge's load limit be downgraded from 15 tons to 12 tons. This change was never made. In 2016, the bridge was inspected and found to be structurally deficient. At this time, the bridge was recommended for replacement.

The bridge is approximately 54 feet long. Each side of the structure has concrete abutments that have four rectangular relief patterns on each side. To accommodate vehicles using a private drive at the end of the bridge, approaching the bridge via

the curves on each side, the east end of the south abutment was partially demolished.

## III. INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

Hunter Crews, photographer, July 2017

DCB-17-1	FROM WOLIUNG ROAD LOOKING WEST WITH WOLIUNG ROAD AND SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE IN BACKGROUND
DCB-17-2	WEST APPROACH TO BRIDGE FACING EAST
DCB-17-3	NORTHEAST FACE OF BRIDGE FACING SOUTHWEST FROM ROAD
DCB-17-4	SOUTHWEST FACE OF BRIDGE FACING NORTHEAST FROM ROAD
DCB-17-5	NORTH SIDE OF BRIDGE FACING SOUTH FROM CREEKBED
DCB-17-6	SOUTH SIDE OF BRIDGE FACING NORTH FROM CREEKBED
DCB-17-7	UNDERSIDE OF BRIDGE FACING EAST
DCB-17-8	UNDERSIDE OF BRIDGE FACING NORTHEST, DETAIL OF STRUCTURE
DCB-17-9	"JWBC 1917" DETAIL AT MIDDLE OF SOUTH ABUTMENT

## IV. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- "Bridge #77 Memorandum." Dearborn County. Published 1985, Accessed July 13, 2017.
- Cooper, James. "Dearborn County Bridge #77." *Personal Historic Indiana Bridge Database*. Accessed 28 July 2017.
- United Consulting. "Structure Inventory and Appraisal Report." Published 2016, Accessed 13 July 2017.



















