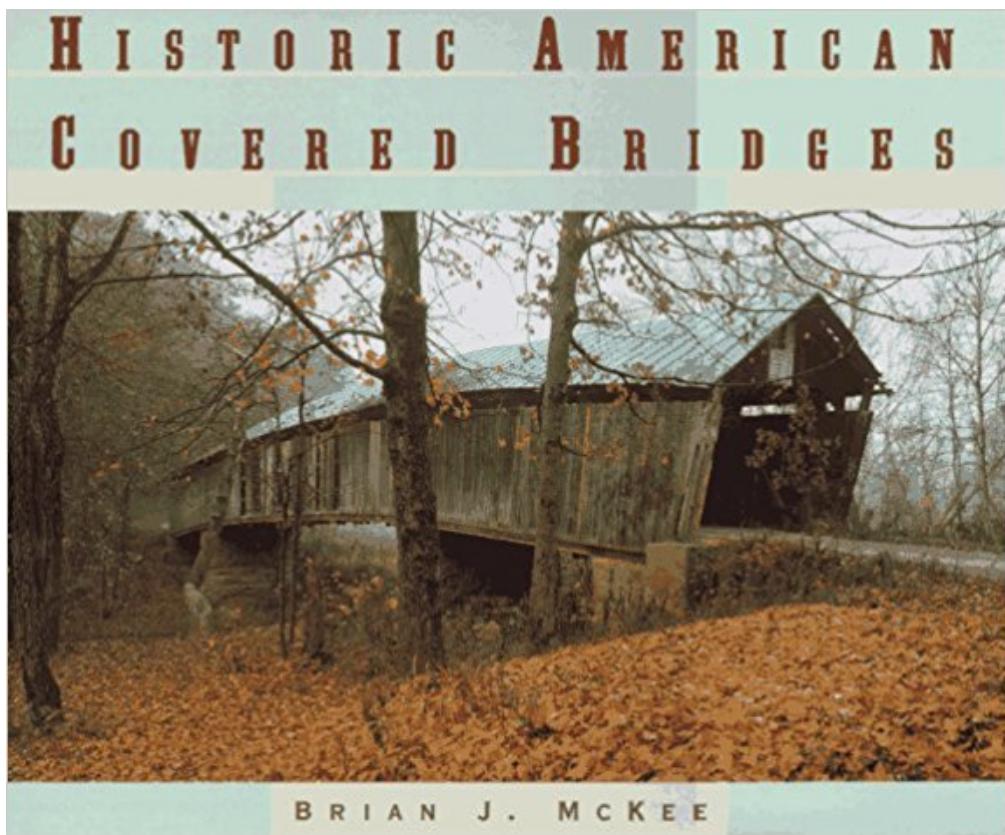


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# Historic American Covered Bridges



## Synopsis

The covered bridge is one of the last surviving icons of rural America. Originally designed with roof-like covers to protect the wooden support beams from the elements, the covered bridge dominated bridge design for fifty years, until the Bessemer process introduced the cheap steel which then became the material of preference. Yet these bridges over the years have been treasured for their rustic charm, romantic atmosphere (they are nicknamed "kissing bridges"), curious engineering, and historical value. Now, *Historic American Covered Bridges* presents a superb photographic record of 138 historic covered bridges found in the United States and Canada. Compiled by Brian J. McKee, a leading authority on covered bridges, the book features a full color photography of each bridge, detailed truss diagrams, basic construction details, and information about the locale, including where to find the bridge. Plus, the book provides an index of the nearly 1,000 surviving covered bridges in North America. Among the featured bridges are two of the longest covered bridges left in the United States, the Medora and Williams bridges; Kentucky's Bennett Mill Bridge, the only surviving Wheeler truss bridge; and the Stark Bridge in New Hampshire, which provides one the most picturesque scenes in America. The volume also includes the Roberts Bridge, the only remaining double-barreled covered bridge in Ohio and one of only six remaining in the United States, and the Parker Bridge, which was nearly destroyed by a fire in 1991, but restored in 1992, after a fundraising drive. Boasting 138 full-color bridge photographs and including some bridges that are more than 150 years old, *Historic American Covered Bridges* provides a lasting reminder of America's heritage.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 160 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1St Edition edition (April 10, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195213351

ISBN-13: 978-0195213355

Product Dimensions: 11.2 x 0.7 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,306,629 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Architectural > Bridges #4046 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Photojournalism & Essays > Photo Essays #7175

## Customer Reviews

You don't have to be a fan of Robert James Waller to admire the covered bridges of the American Midwest. You'll learn from this heavily illustrated book how important those bridges were to rural communities; quite apart from spanning streams of water, they served as gathering places, even makeshift town halls and wedding parlors. You'll also learn that many of them are all but doomed to disappear in the face of "progress." The bridges were not originally confined to the Midwest, but many in the East are already gone; only one, for instance, survives in New Jersey. This book makes a quiet but powerful case for preserving those that remain. If you're a fan of Eric Sloane's books of rural Americana, you're sure to enjoy this excursion into the countryside.

**About the Author:** Brian J. McKee is president of the Ohio Historic Bridge Association and a member of several other covered bridge societies. He has collected thousands of photographs of covered bridges in North America. He resides in Marion, Ohio.

Very interesting and detailed descriptions of older, authentic, covered bridges. Covers nationwide, data leaning more to where the bulk of older bridges are, mainly the Eastern U.S. Very good book. recommended for anyone loving covered bridges.

A very good photo essay of the nostalgia of the wooden bridge era. It makes a nice coffee table book

great product

This book was beautifully illustrated, and informational. Each photographed bridge holds part of our past, and an opportunity to understand a part of our history. Once inside the pages you are transported back into a time that others have forgotten. I recommend this book to all who have been in love with the Covered Bridge for a long time, and to those like me who have just fallen in love with this beautiful part of our history.

What a wonderful book. It's a series of great photos of significant covered bridges, with descriptions that include building methods and styles, dates, history and best yet... driving directions! I find

myself itching to go out and visit some nearby ones. An enjoyable, easy read that I know I will refer to over and over.

Brian's book is filled with some of the most breathtaking photographs you will ever see of Covered Bridges. If a bridge had a soul, he certainly knows how to capture it with his photographs. The historical and technical information is wonderful as well. It is a magnificent book!

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