

HISTORIC BRIDGES



Length: 94 feet
Year: 1873
Builder: Partridge
Spans: Treacle Creek
Historical Marker

CULBERTSON BRIDGE

This bridge was originally located on State Route 4 and was moved prior to 1922. In 1977 a runaround was constructed for farm equipment and other large, heavy vehicles to bypass the covered bridge. The original cost of the bridge was \$1,375.



Length: 94 feet
Year: 1873
Builder: Partridge
Spans: Old Rail Bed
Historical Marker

POTTERSBURG BRIDGE

This bridge was formerly in the location of the North Lewisburg Road Covered Bridge. Extensive repairs have been made to the bridge over the years, including the installation of the full-length canopy and side windows in 1937. In 2006 it was moved and now sits on the 1.9 mile North Lewisburg Multi-Purpose Trail.



Length: 102 feet
Year: 1873
Builder: Partridge
Spans: Little Darby Creek
Historical Marker

BIGELOW BRIDGE

This bridge was named in honor of Eliphas Bigelow, a nearby resident whose family founded Plain City. In 1990 the bridge underwent an extensive renovation and massive nail-laminated arches were seated into new concrete foundations. This new arch system now carries the weight of traffic on the bridge.



Length: 64 feet
Year: 1883
Builder: Partridge
Spans: Spain Creek
Historical Marker

SPAIN CREEK BRIDGE

This quaint bridge is Union County's smallest covered bridge. The bridge has been rehabilitated several times after heavy machinery damaged the overhead braces. Notice the "bridge-within-a-bridge" concept. This design allows the covered bridge to rest, while the bridge inside carries the weight of traffic. Spain Creek is designated as an Exceptional Warm Water Habitat and Cold Water Habitat by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.



Length: 200 feet
Year: 1914
Builder: Central Concrete & Construction Co.
Spans: Big Darby Creek
Historical Marker

STRENG ROAD BRIDGE

This steel Pratt truss bridge was built in 1914 to replace a covered bridge that was destroyed in the flood of 1913. Union County received special recognition for the renovation of this bridge in 1993. All of the original ornamentation and decorative elements are still in place.

REUBEN PARTRIDGE



Reuben L. Partridge was born in Wilmington, NY in 1823. In 1836 Partridge moved to Marysville and began to learn the carpentry craft while building carriages with his brother. In 1855 he accepted a contract to build the first self-supporting bridge in Union County. By 1866 he was building bridges full-time and in 1872 he received a patent for his truss design. By 1883 he had built over 125 bridges, most of

them in Union County and surrounding areas. Over the course of his life, he served as a member of the Marysville City Council, as the Paris Township Clerk, and as a Paris Township Trustee. He was a part of the first militia formed in Union County. He was also very active in supporting service groups from Union County that served in both the Mexican War and the Civil War. He died in August 1900 as a result of injuries he sustained while dismantling one of his covered bridges.

BIG DARBY PLAINS SCENIC BYWAY

The Big Darby Plains Scenic Byway offers more than 40 miles of spectacular views. Including the scenic river, nature preserves, parks, covered bridges, century farms, pioneer cemeteries and historic homes and churches. The beautiful Big Darby Plains Scenic Byway truly lives up to its name. Considered one of the most scenic views in the area, the byway gives travelers the chance to see not only the Big Darby Creek and farmland, but also historic sites.

The Big Darby Plains Scenic Byway is a wonderful place to snap photos, eat a picnic lunch, and learn about the history of Union County and surrounding areas.

COVERED BRIDGE RESTORATION FUND

The historic Pottersburg Bridge, built in 1868, was moved to its current home on a multi-use trail in 2006. Because it is not on the highway system it is no longer eligible for public funding for maintenance.

Your tax-deductible donation to the Pottersburg Bridge Preservation Fund is a gift that helps to preserve this landmark for years to come. Every dollar you can donate will help!

Donations to the Pottersburg Bridge Preservation Fund are accepted through the Union County Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization serving Union County, Ohio.

Donations can be made by check or online at www.unioncountyfoundation.org.

UNION COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE AND BIG DARBY PLAINS SCENIC BYWAY MAP



Union County Convention & Visitors Bureau
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UNION COUNTY COVERED BRIDGES

HISTORIC BRIDGES

Union County has five historic bridges. Four of these five are still in use on the county highway system and are well-maintained by the Union County Engineer. The historic covered bridges were designed and built by Marysville resident, Reuben L. Partridge.

MODERN BRIDGES

Union County has the sixth highest number of covered bridges in Ohio. Three of the seven bridges have been built in the 21st century.



SCAN FOR
TURN BY TURN
DIRECTIONS

MODERN BRIDGES



Length: 160 feet
Year: 2006
Builder: Righter Company
Spans: Big Darby Creek

BUCK RUN ROAD BRIDGE

This is the third bridge to be on this site. The first was a covered bridge, the second a steel truss bridge and finally this modern two-lane covered bridge. This bridge is currently the longest single-span wooden bridge in Ohio. In order to receive funding for this covered bridge, the Union County Engineer had to prove that building a covered bridge was more economical than other bridge styles.



Length: 135 feet
Year: 2006
Builder: Righter Company
Spans: Big Darby Creek

NORTH LEWISBURG ROAD BRIDGE

This is the original site of the Pottersburg Bridge. When the one lane Pottersburg Bridge could no longer handle the growing volume of traffic, it was moved to a nearby multi-purpose trail. Once the original bridge was safely moved, it was promptly replaced with this modern two-lane covered bridge. This new bridge has a modified Pratt truss with substructures built at a cost of \$1.6 million.



Length: 125 feet
Year: 2010
Builder: Righter Company
Spans: Mill Creek

THOMPSON ROAD BRIDGE

This modern covered bridge was built on Thompson Road in Millcreek Township near the Delaware County line. In 1881 a covered bridge was built on this location but was destroyed during the "Great Flood of 1913". This modern covered bridge has two lanes and can carry all modern-day traffic loads.

BRIDGE & BYWAY MAP

ICON KEY



1. Take a free tour featuring Honda's vintage and state-of-the-art machines at their company museum.
2. North Lewisburg Road Covered Bridge
3. Pottersburg Covered Bridge
4. Spain Creek Covered Bridge
5. First settled by William & Nancy Howard as a 500-acre farm in the 1830s.
6. Buck Run Covered Bridge
7. The Big Darby Creek was named after Native American Wyandot Chief Darby, who once lived along its banks.
8. Milford Center was Union County's first county seat. While in town, see a replica of the first courthouse at Liberty Park.
9. This site supports at least 57 different species of prairie plants. Visit July through August to see the reserve in full bloom.
10. Built in 1839, the Hathaway House has a secret room believed to be a hiding place used for the Underground Railroad.
11. The historic Milford Center United Methodist Church built in 1831.
12. In the Milford Center Cemetery visit the Civil War memorial monument and the impressive Chinckapin Oak Tree, which has been nominated as an Ohio Champion Tree.
13. Culbertson Covered Bridge
14. Bigelow Covered Bridge
15. The Bigelow House was built in 1846 by Russell Bigelow, one of the first pioneers to settle the Darby Plains.
16. See beautiful rare species of prairie grasses and wildflowers at the Bigelow Pioneer Cemetery and Nature Preserve.
17. Streg Road Bridge
18. Partridge home, recognized as a National Historic Place Located at 245 W. 7th Street, Marysville.
19. Thompson Road Covered Bridge
20. In Mitchell Cemetery visit the resting place of Mary Hawn, the first female immigrant born in Ohio.
21. Vice President Charles W. Fairbanks was born in the quaint village of Unionville Center. Stop by the Village Green to see a historical marker which tells his story.
22. The historic Unionville Center United Methodist Church built in 1895.
23. While following the paths at Smith Cemetery Prairie and Nature Preserve, see colorful native prairie grasses and wildflowers.
24. The Farmers National Bank Building was built in 1902 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
25. The historic Plain City United Methodist Church built in 1902.
26. The famous Plain City Clock Tower was donated to the town in 1902. Presently, this Seth Thomas clock is one of two remaining in the country.
27. Originally an Indian trail blazed by Chief Tecumseh, S.R. 161 was later used as a post route for the Pony Express.

The Big Darby Plains Scenic Byway.