Cataract Falls Covered Bridge

Cataract Falls Bridge is the only surviving covered bridge in Indiana and is one of six Smith trusses in Indiana. This construction was patented by Robert W. Smith and built by his company or under license to him.

While the majority of Indiana's covered bridges have Burr Arch Trusses, this truss design was a single lattice-work, crossing the opening of the truss. The members pointing away from the center as they go up were in tension, and the members pointing in as they go up were in compression. Instead of constructing the entire bridge on site, Smith built his bridges in the “controlled environment” of his Toledo shops and delivered the pieces to be assembled on location. This allowed the Catsaract Falls truss to be covered over to have smooth, planed surfaces and uniform dimensions.

Smith trusses were produced in a manner very much at odds with the original and concept of covered bridges as a product of pre-industrial times. Instead, bridges like the one at Cataract Falls show many features characteristic of the late 19th century emerging industrial age we are more likely to associate with iron bridge construction. This bridge may be the best surviving example of the Smith truss.

The preservation work was partially funded by National Historic Covered Bridge Preservation (NHCBP) Program and Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) grants. NHCBP provides funding to assist efforts to preserve, rehabilitate, or restore National Registered Historic Places (NRHP). TEA-21 funds activities that are “designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the Nation’s transportation system” It has been instrumental in funding the preservation of numerous bridges, depots, and one-of-a-kind transportation related historic structures throughout the United States. Both programs are funded by acts of Congress, and operated by the Federal Highway Administration through the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT).

Rehabilitation cost approximately $620,000. The DNR's share was approximately $110,000.

The bridge was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in April of 2005, and was documented by the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) in 2004.

DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

1. COVERED BRIDGE NATURE TRAIL: MODERATE — 75 mile. Starts and ends near the sports and activity center. The trail passes through a rural trail with benches and covered bridge. Wheelchair Accessible.

PLEASSTAY ON MARKED TRAILS!

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

AQUATIC CENTER — Located at Lieder SRA. Opens Memorial Day. Length of season may vary. For swimming; personal flotation devices are required. Discounts available.

BOAT RAMPS — Available at two (2) locations, boat launching ramps are marked on the map.

BOAT RENTAL — Fishing boats and pontoon boats are available by the hour or day. Inquire at Boat Rental. Call (765) 795-3552 for rates and reservations at the marina.

CAMPING — Campsites available are: Electric and Non-electric sites. Occupancy limited to 14 consecutive nights. Reservations are available through the Central Reservations Office.

CONCESSION & CAMPGROUND GROCERY — Open summer months. Wood, ice, picnic supplies and groceries available.

FISHING — Bass, bluegill, catfish, crappie, hybrid striped, and other state and local license required and available at property office.

HUNTING — Easy to moderate marked Wildflower and Nature trails are available for hunting all year.

HUNTING — All hunters are required by law to sign in and return a hunting permit card to a hunter sign-in station. Hunting in restricted areas is regulated by permit only. Areas available for disabled hunters.

INTERPRETIVE & RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Explore the world of natural resources while enjoying interpretive and recreational programs at the Nature Center. Program schedules are available on the website at www.interpretiveservices.IN.gov or call (765) 795-3552.

MARINA — Located at Lieder SRA provides concessions, seasonal mooring, fuel, boat rental and fishing supplies.

PICNIC AREAS — Tables, grills, toilet facilities, playground equipment and facilities. Accessible picnic sites available.

SHELTERS — Reservations for shelters available through the Central Reservation System.

Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding deer is prohibited. Feeding of wild animals can result in harm to the animals and loss of their natural fear of humans. Feeding of wild animals can result in harm to the animals and loss of their natural fear of humans. Feeding of wild animals can result in harm to the animals and loss of their natural fear of humans. Feeding of wild animals can result in harm to the animals and loss of their natural fear of humans.

Today, over a century later, for many of these same industries provide a livelihood for area residents who take pride in their resourceful heritage. Livestock and grain farms, forest industries, and limestone quarries continue to thrive along the area’s landscape. Many of these old industries (under different names) are still active and important in the movement of area products.

Reservations for the Smithings Mill in Cata- ract can — with imagination stimulated by a glimpse of the old dam and mill remains — relive the early days of the life among the rolling hills.

CATERING SERVICES

Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at the State Park are available. Shelter reservations are made by going online or use the toll free number. www.camp.IN.gov (1-866-646-campahoot (1-866-622-6746)

Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inn and Inn-operated cabins can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

www.innindians.com (1-877-hodges 1 (1-877-563-4371)

Please call out all trash you produce in order to keep your property clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Cagles Mill Lake

Cagles Mill Lake Natural Area

2008 Southside, Suite C

Cedarville, IN 46120

Call: (765) 795-4956

Indianapolis Department of Natural Resources

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operating and maintenance costs of the lake. List of fees available in the lake office.

The Programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against, contact the facility as described above. If you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Equal Opportunity Officer, 400 W. Washington Street, Room W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

Cagles Mill Lake lies in Putnam and Owings Counties — approximately midway between Indianapolis and Terre Haute.

Cagles Mill Lake was designed and built by the Louisville District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and is operated primarily for flood control in the Eel and White River watersheds and forms an integral unit of the comprehensive flood control plan for the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Cagles Mill Lake was the first flood control lake project in the Louisville District selected for construction under the authority of the Flood Control Act of 1938. Construction began in July 1948 and was completed in June 1953. The lake is also known locally as “Cataract Lake.”

The recreation facilities at the lake are maintained and operated by the State of Indiana, Department of Natural Resourc- es, Division of Natural Areas which is the management agency for the Corps maintains and operates.

CATERING SERVICES

Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at the State Park are available. Shelter reservations are made by going online or use the toll free number. www.camp.IN.gov (1-866-646-camping (1-866-622-6746)

Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inn and Inn-operated cabins can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

www.innindians.com (1-877-hodges 1 (1-877-563-4371)

Please call out all trash you produce in order to keep your property clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Cagles Mill Lake

Cagles Mill Lake Natural Area

2008 Southside, Suite C

Cedarville, IN 46120

Call: (765) 795-4956

Indianapolis Department of Natural Resources

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operating and maintenance costs of the lake. List of fees available in the lake office.

The Programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against, contact the facility as described above. If you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Equal Opportunity Officer, 400 W. Washington Street, Room W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.