

Mull Covered Bridge



In the mid-1800s, Amos Mull owned and operated a sawmill along the east bank of Wolf Creek in Ballville Township. As his business grew he realized a bridge across the creek would make access easier for his customers. In 1851, Mull was granted \$75 from the Sandusky County Commissioners to build the bridge. The Mull Bridge was constructed in 1851 with the help of local carpenter Achiel Foster. It was built in a Town Lattice through truss design, which uses diagonal elements and allows traffic to pass through the structure, instead of over it. The bridge spans 100 feet and when a concrete support was added it became a two-span bridge.

The Mull Covered Bridge has undergone many changes in the last 170 years. In 1951 it was temporarily closed due to damage caused by a heavy vehicle. This damage was repaired, but within a few years there was talk of building a replacement and potentially tearing down the Mull bridge. There was a public outcry, and the Sandusky County Historical Society fought to keep the bridge intact. One member of the public wrote in a poem published in a 1961 newspaper article,

"May old Mull Bridge ever stretch from shore to shore;
Make it a monument, keep it we pray,
Until it shall moulder in dust away."

After the outcry, the bridge became a trust of the Historical Society in August of 1962 when the bridge was officially closed to the public and the replacement bridge was completed. A ceremony was held to commemorate both the closing and the opening of the bridges. Today, the Mull Covered Bridge is one of the 125 covered bridges remaining in the state, and the only one in Sandusky County.

Timeline:

1851 - The Mull Covered Bridge is constructed

1951 - The bridge is damaged by a large trailer and is temporarily closed

1961 - The county is debating between maintaining the bridge after it is replaced or tearing it down

1962 - The bridge is closed and becomes property of the Sandusky County Historical Society. The gravel driveways and parking lot are added, and some of the siding is replaced.

1974 - The bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1995 - The bridge becomes a partnership between the Sandusky County Park District, Commissioners Office, and Engineers Office.

1990 - The Sandusky County Park District replaces some of the floor beams.

2015 - The Sandusky County Park District replaces the concrete entrances, adds new fencing and siding, and paints the bridge red.