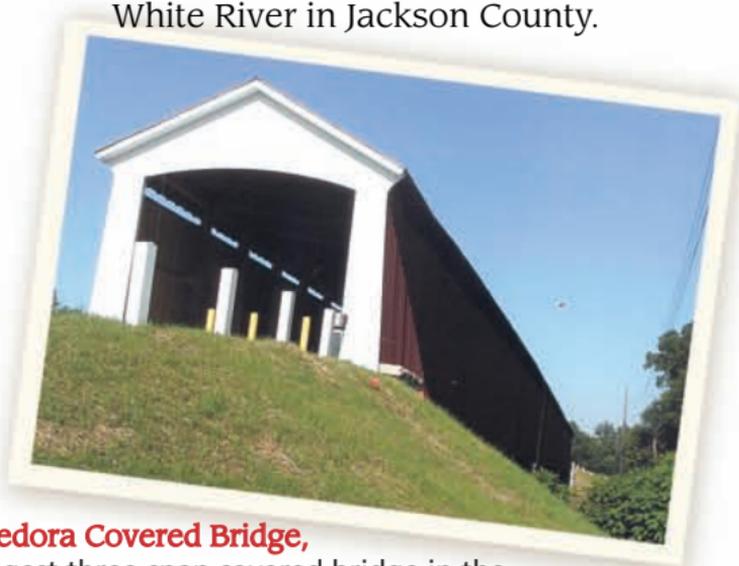


Covered Bridges

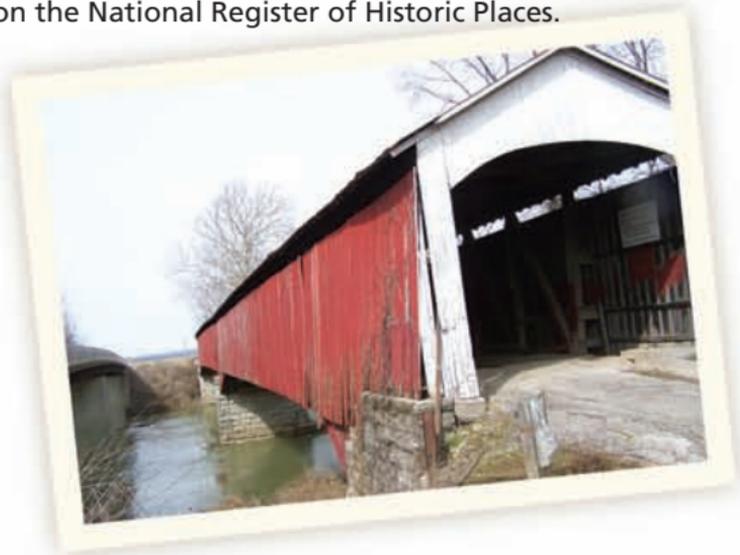
OF JACKSON COUNTY

A covered bridge, an inexpensive alternative to stone bridges, was believed to be cheaper to maintain than an open bridge and have an indefinite life span if well maintained. The enclosed sides and roof of the covered bridges, designed to protect the heavy wooden timber structure from the weather, also protected travelers from storms. Bridge companies sometimes charged travelers a toll to cross the bridge on foot, by horse or by wagon. Even cattle, horses, pigs and sheep were charged to cross some bridges. Two historic covered bridges built by J.J. Daniels cross the meandering White River in Jackson County.



The Medora Covered Bridge,

the longest three-span covered bridge in the United States, officially opened for travel on July 17, 1875. The bridge, representative of the work of master builder J.J. Daniels of Parke County, Indiana, was built at a cost of \$18,142. The double Burr Arch designed bridge is 460 feet long including 14 foot overhangs on each end. The bridge's stone abutments and piers were quarried at the nearby Dixon's quarry. Closed to traffic in the 1970's, the bridge is located near Medora on the East Fork of the White River next to St. Rd. 235 and was recently renovated. It is on the National Register of Historic Places.



The Shieldstown Covered Bridge was the fourth and last covered bridge to be constructed in Jackson County. Built by J. J. Daniels at a cost of \$13,600, the two-span bridge was completed on November 17, 1876. The 355-foot-long bridge which spans the East Fork of the White River, has a multiple King Post design and utilizes the Burr Arch Truss system. The bridge carried traffic until the 1980's and is located approximately 1 mile north of U.S. Hwy. 50 W. on Co. Rd. 200 N.