

## Hoffman Bridge

Hoffman Bridge is a Howe truss design that stretches 90 feet across Crabtree Creek, about 1 mile northeast of the town of Crabtree.

Built in 1936, the bridge is named after Lee Hoffman, who built the structure following State Highway Department specifications. Close examination of the internal trusses show signs of having been worked by hand, not unusual given that most bridge crews in 1936 were not using power tools. Timber was usually cut nearby, and the beams and trusses were carefully crafted using adzes and other hand tools.

Gothic windows in the covered sides present a sophisticated appearance. The original portal entrances were opened and squared to allow the passage of larger loads at some point after the original construction.

Both Crabtree Creek and the nearby town of Crabtree were named after John Crabtree, who settled in the area in 1845.

Like many of the other bridges on the tour, Hoffman Bridge spans a popular swimming hole. A rope swing can be spotted just south of the bridge, and footholds are carved into the high bank.