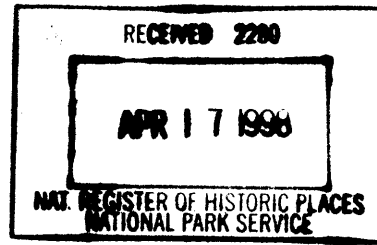


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Washington Avenue Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number U.S. Highway 20 over Iowa River not for publication

city or town Iowa Falls vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Hardin code 083 zip code 50126

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia Chunks DSITPO 4-7-98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
 - See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register
 - See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain):

Alison A. Beall 5-15-98

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Highway Bridges of Iowa

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

other: concrete open spandrel arch

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls

roof

other concrete

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Located in Iowa Falls, the Washington Avenue Bridge spans the Iowa River in an urban setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 2 construction date: 1934
 span length: 173.0' construction cost: \$51,710.55
 total length: 380.0' current condition: good
 roadway wdt.: 23.8' alterations: extensive repairs, 1984

superstructure: concrete open spandrel arch
 substructure: concrete abutments, wingwalls and pier
 floor/decking: concrete deck
 other features: two sets of guardrails, one concrete and one concrete and decorative wrought iron; pedestrian sidewalks on either side of roadway; 2 electroliers at each approach

Other than maintenance-related repairs and alterations noted above, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Washington Avenue Bridge today retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

engineering

Period of Significance

1934

(The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)

Significant Dates

1934 (construction date)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Bullder

designer:

Iowa State Highway Commission

fabricator:

none

builder:

Weldon Brothers Construction Company

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
other
name of repository:

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property less than one acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 15 477740 4707300
zone easting northing2 15 477840 4707300
zone easting northing**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 26 feet by 380 feet, which is centered on the UTM point(s) listed above. Included within this rectangular parcel are the bridge's superstructure, substructure, approach spans and floor system.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected)

The nominated structure includes the bridge's superstructure, substructure, floor system, any approach spans and the property on which they rest. These boundaries encompass, but do not exceed, all of the property that has been historically associated with the bridge.

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Michelle Crow-Dolby and Clayton Fraserorganization Fraserdesign date 31 August 1994street & number 1269 Cleveland Avenue telephone 303-669-7969city or town Loveland state Colorado zip code 80537**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**

A USGS map (7½ or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name/title Iowa Department of Transportationstreet & number 800 Lincoln Way telephone 515-239-1251city or town Ames state Iowa zip code 50010

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 1 Washington Avenue Bridge Hardin County; Iowa

This impressive two-span, open spandrel concrete arch crosses the Iowa River in Iowa Falls. Carrying U.S. Highway 20 (Washington Avenue) through the center of the city, the bridge dates to 1934. This structure was preceded by a steel bridge, known locally as the Foster Bridge, whose construction history is well-documented in county records. In late May of 1911 county commissioners adopted plans and specifications for the proposed bridge and immediately advertised for construction bids. Fifteen bids, ranging from \$8450.00 to \$11,400.00, were received by June. Low-bidder Lana Construction Company of Harlan, Iowa, was awarded the contract, and the company began work soon after. Evidently the Foster Bridge experienced severe problems in the next few decades, and these structural difficulties precipitated construction of a new, permanent bridge in 1933. That year the state highway commission designed this two-span concrete arch structure and hired the Weldon Brothers Construction Company of Iowa Falls to build it. Costing \$51,710.55, the Washington Avenue Bridge was ceremoniously opened on July 24, 1934, by Mrs. F.H. Cottrell, wife of the Iowa Falls mayor, with several thousand people in attendance. "I christen thee the Washington Avenue Bridge," she intoned, "a beautiful bridge over a beautiful river." Since its completion, the spandrel arch has functioned in place, carrying heavy urban and highway traffic, with only maintenance-related repairs.

Although highway commission engineers typically used riveted steel trusses for medium-span river crossings in rural settings, they used concrete open spandrel arches for a number of urban and small town structures in the 1920s. The Mederville Bridge [CLAT15], built in 1918, was apparently the first of these, designed as an alternate to a steel truss bridge. This was followed by the Adair Viaduct [ADAI01] in 1923 and the Iowa Falls Bridge [HARD04] in 1928. By using open spandrel arches, ISHC could achieve a relatively long span at a reasonable cost, while contributing aesthetically to the urban settings in which the bridges stood. But given the restrictive parameters of the arches' use - urban setting, long-span crossing, sufficient vertical clearance - only a few were built during this period. The Washington Avenue Bridge is distinguished as a well-preserved, two-span example of this application of urban bridge design. A centerpiece for this small city, it is a local landmark and an important transportation-related resource.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 9 Page 2 Washington Avenue Bridge Hardin County; Iowa

Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. 027000.

Iowa State Highway Commission, **Weekly Letting Report**, 27 September 1933, page 4.

Cardex file, Hardin County Engineer's Office, Eldora City IA.

Hardin County Board of Supervisors' Minutes, Book F: page 39 (22 May 1911), page 41 (22 June 1911) - located at the Hardin Courthouse, Eldora City IA.

"Bridge Opened at Iowa Falls," **The Register**, 26 July 1934.

Copy of Hardin County Supervisors' proceedings for bridge's bid opening, 3 July 1911.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser and Sheila Bricher-Wade, 10 March 1991.

**Attachment to the Washington Avenue Bridge
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

Due to the relocation of Highway 20 to the south of Iowa Falls this roadway is now Highway 941/Washington Avenue. Also on November 7, 1995 ownership of the bridge was transferred from the Iowa Department of Transportation to the City of Iowa Falls. The bridge was built by Welden Brothers Construction Company, Iowa Falls.