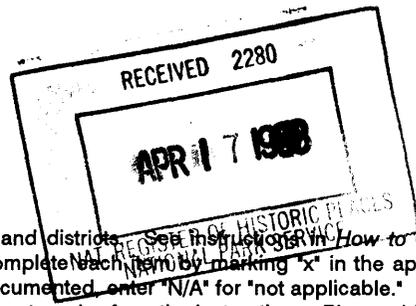


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**



492

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 Big Slough Creek Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Bancroft Avenue over Big Slough Creek not for publication

city or town 2.0 miles west of Nichols vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Muscatine code 139 zip code 52766

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 Chinking DSHPO 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):

Edson 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)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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 rigid frame

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 2.0 miles west of Nichols, the Big Slough Creek Bridge spans Big Slough Creek Bridge in a rural Muscatine County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 1, span length: 46.0', total length: 46.0', roadway wdt.: 19.9', construction date: 1937, construction cost: unknown, current condition: good, alterations: none

superstructure: concrete rigid frame, substructure: concrete abutments and wingwalls, floor/decking: concrete deck, other features: concrete post-and-rail guardrails with solid concrete bulkheads

Other than maintenance-related repairs, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Big Slough Creek 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

1937

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

Significant Dates

1937 (construction date)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

designer:

Iowa State Highway Commission

fabricator:

none

builder:

Otto Wendling, Muscatine IA

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	<u>15</u>	<u>637920</u>	<u>4592840</u>	2	_____	_____	_____
	zone	easting	northing		zone	easting	northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 22 feet by 46 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 By

name/title	<u>Clayton B. Fraser</u>		
organization	<u>Fraserdesign</u>	date	<u>31 August 1994</u>
street & number	<u>1269 Cleveland Avenue</u>	telephone	<u>303-669-7969</u>
city or town	<u>Loveland</u>	state	<u>Colorado</u> zip code <u>80537</u>

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 locationA **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	<u>Muscatine County</u>		
street & number	<u>3610 Park Avenue West</u>	telephone	<u>319-263-6351</u>
city or town	<u>Muscatine</u>	state	<u>Iowa</u> zip code <u>52761</u>

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 **Big Slough Creek Bridge** Muscatine County; Iowa

Located west of Nichols, this small-scale concrete bridge carries a gravel-surfaced county road over Slough Creek. The bridge consists of a single-span concrete rigid-frame structure, supported by concrete abutments. Although its dimensions are modest - spanning only 45 feet - the structural configuration of the bridge is noteworthy. The slightly arched, continuous reinforced concrete slab is tied rigidly into the abutments, forming a rigid-frame structure. The Iowa State Highway Commission designed the structure in the spring of 1937. Using the ISHC design, Muscatine County solicited competitive proposals and in June awarded a contract for this bridge and two others to Otto Wendling of Muscatine. Presumably completed later that year, this structure has functioned in place since, in unaltered condition.

With notable engineers such as Thomas McDonald and Conde McCullough on its staff, the Iowa State Highway Commission was from the beginning a leader among state highway agencies in the standardization of bridge design. Immediately after its re-organization in 1913, ISHC began developing design standards for several short-span structural types. But within this framework of standardization, ISHC was continuously experimenting with innovative applications of existing and new technologies. This diminutive bridge in Muscatine County is evidently the result of ISHC experimentation. It and the other bridges let in the June 1937 contract employed rigid-frame configurations - this one using a reinforced concrete slab. Further research is needed to determine the purpose and circumstances of this exercise, but it appears that the bridge is a formative application by ISHC in concrete rigid-frame. The Big Slough Bridge was not the first concrete rigid frame bridge designed by ISHC. But it is today distinguished as one of few such rigid-frame bridges (and the only rigid-frame slab) in Iowa - 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 **Big Slough Creek Bridge** Muscatine County, Iowa

Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal, Structure No. 257760.

Iowa State Highway Commission, **Weekly Letting Report** 25:23 (9 June 1937), **Weekly Letting Report** 25:24 (16 June 1937), on file at Iowa Department of Transportation, Ames, IA.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 15 December 1992.