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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Mill Creek Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Plum Street over Mill Creek not for publication

city or town 1.0 mile north of Clarence vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Cedar code 031 zip code 52216

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 Chubinski DSITP 5-6-98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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):

Don A. Beall 6-25-98

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)

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

other: pinned Pratt pony truss

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls

roof

other Wrought iron

Narrative Description

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

Located 1.0 mile north of Clarence, the Mill Creek Bridge spans Mill Creek in a rural Cedar County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 1	construction date: 1888-89
span length: 58.0'	construction cost: unknown
total length: 117.0'	current condition: fair
roadway wdt.: 15.7'	alterations: abutments replaced; steel approach spans added

superstructure: wrought iron, 4-panel, pin-connected Pratt pony truss, with steel stringer approach spans
 substructure: concrete/timber pile abutments with concrete-filled iron cylinder piers
 floor/decking: timber deck (partly removed) on steel stringers
 other features: upper chord/endpost: 2 channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 looped rectangular eyebars (inclined at outer panels); vertical: 4 angles with lacing; diagonal: 2 square eyebars; counter: 1 round eyerod with turnbuckle; lateral bracing: round rod with threaded ends; floor beam: tapered plate girder, field bolted to vertical above lower chord; guardrail: lattice (2 angles at approaches)

Other than maintenance-related repairs and alterations noted above, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Mill 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

1888-89
(The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)

Significant Dates

1888-89 (construction date)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

designer: Ward and Keepers, Clinton IA
fabricator: Ward and Keepers, Clinton IA
builder: Ward and Keepers, Clinton 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 15 660530 4640750
zone easting northing2 _____
zone easting northing**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 18 feet by 117 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 Clayton B. 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 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 Cedar Countystreet & number 400 Cedar Street telephone 319-886-6102city or town Tipton state Iowa zip code 52772

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 Mill Creek Bridge Cedar County; Iowa

In June 1888 the Cedar County Board of Supervisors received a petition from citizens in Dayton Township for a new bridge over Mill Creek near the township center. The structure would carry wagon traffic on the road that extended northward from the small town of Clarence, in the north part of the county. The board granted the petition that November. Supervisor William Hahn viewed the proposed site and recommended that the county erect a single 66-foot iron span on pile bents. What the county built instead was a 58-foot pony truss on concrete-filled iron cylinder piers, with timber stringer approach spans. The board contracted for the bridge's construction with Ward and Keepers, who held Cedar County's annual contract for bridge construction and repair in 1888 and 1889. The Clinton-based bridge builders completed the medium-span truss in 1889. The bridge displayed typical pin-connected design and detailing for its early date; two distinguishing features are the tapered, "fishtail" riveted girder floor beams and the inclined lower chords at the outer panels. Over its hundred years of use, the Mill Creek Bridge has undergone several substructural alterations, including construction of concrete abutments on the south, encasement of the base of the northeast cylinder with concrete, and construction of new timber pile piers beneath the approach spans. The bridge no longer carries traffic and stands abandoned, with its superstructure intact but the deck in deteriorating condition.

Completed in January 1877, the Cedar Bluff Bridge over the Cedar River was the first all-iron span in Cedar County. It was followed by four other modest iron spans later that year; by the time the supervisors undertook the Mill Creek Bridge in 1888, Cedar County had contracted for several other iron spans, including major structures over the Cedar River at Rochester and Cedar Valley. This medium-span pony truss was thus neither the earliest nor the largest all-metal wagon bridge erected by the county. However, it is today distinguished as the last remaining bridge from this formative construction period. The structure is technologically representative for its period of construction. Comprised of a wrought iron, pinned Pratt pony truss, the bridge exemplified wagon bridge construction in Iowa in the late 19th century. One of the state's oldest pony trusses, the Mill Creek Bridge is an important remnant of early Iowa transportation.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 9 Page 2 Mill Creek Bridge Cedar County; Iowa

Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. 104650.

Cedar County Supervisors' Minute Book 4, pages 174-75 (5 November 1887), page 219 (4 June 1888), page 253 (12 November 1888), page 254 (15 November 1888).

The History of Cedar County, Iowa (Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1878), pages 395-400.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 15 December 1989.