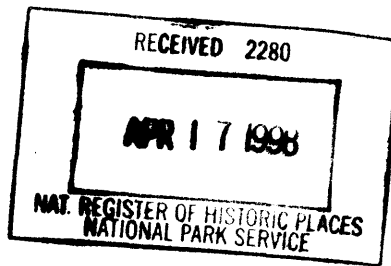


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



533

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 Bridgeport Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number (vacated road) Take 280th Avenue to Old Quarry not for publication

city or town 3.5 miles northwest of Denmark Road vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Lee / Des Moines code 111/057 zip code 52624

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 Osterking 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 H. 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)

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

other: Pennsylvania through truss

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone masonry

walls

roof

other Steel

Narrative Description

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

Located northwest of Denmark, the Bridgeport Bridge spans the Skunk River in a setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 1 construction date: 1904
 span length: 240.0' construction cost: \$5110.00
 total length: 293.0' current condition: fair
 roadway wdt.: 15.0' alterations: pier replaced

superstructure: steel, 12-panel, pin-connected Pennsylvania through truss, with pin-connected Pratt pony truss approach on north end
 substructure: stone masonry abutments and wingwalls; solid concrete pier between main span and pony approach span
 floor/decking: timber deck over steel stringers
 other features: [main span] inclined end post and upper chord: 2 channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 punched, rectangular eyerods; vertical: 2 channels with lacing; diagonal: 2 channels with lacing; lateral bracing: round rod with threaded ends; strut: 2 sets of 4 angles with lacing with lateral bracing between them; guardrail: steel angle; counter: square eyebar with turnbuckle; A-frame portal strut; builder's Plate: **1904 Clinton Bridge and Iron Works Builders Clinton Iowa.**

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

1904

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

Significant Dates

1904 (construction date)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/BUILDER

designer:

Clinton Bridge and Iron Works, Clinton IA

fabricator:

Clinton Bridge/Iron Wks; Carnegie Steel Co.

builder:

Clinton Bridge and Iron Works, 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 638030 4516560
zone easting northing2 15 638030 4516660
zone easting northing**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 17 feet by 293 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 Michelle Crow-Dolby
 organization Fraserdesign date 31 August 1994
 street & number 1269 Cleveland Avenue telephone 303-669-7969
 city 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 Lee County / Des Moines County
 street & number P.O. Box 158 / 13522 Washington Road telephone 319-372-2541 / 319-753-8241
 city or town Fort Madison / Burlington state Iowa zip code 52627/52655

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 Bridgeport Bridge Lee/Des Moines County; Iowa

Located in northern Lee County near Denmark, this long-span through truss spans the Skunk River. The structure features a 240-foot, pin-connected Pennsylvania truss with a small pony truss at one end, all supported by a stone/concrete substructure. Known as the Bridgeport Bridge, this structure dates to 1903, but it was predated by an earlier bridge at this crossing. Prior to the erection of the Bridgeport Bridge, however, a previous span was already experiencing structural weaknesses in 1887 and 1893. On 15 September 1889 the county boards from Des Moines and Lee met to discuss the bridge's fate. Evidently, the truss itself was in repairable condition, but the middle stone pier was giving way and would either need to be rebuilt or the bridge replaced altogether. The decision was made in the fall of 1903 to rebuild the entire structure and a Lee County engineer was subsequently directed to prepare a cost estimate and specifications. Two months later bids were opened and the Clinton Bridge and Iron Works proved to not only have the lowest bid, but was the bridge contractor determined to have the best bridge design for the price. Built on a joint account with the two counties, the bridge was assumably completed by the Iowa bridge builder, using steel components rolled by the Pittsburgh-based Carnegie Steel Company, by the contractual deadline, July 1904. Costing \$5110.00, the stately 240-foot span was formally accepted by the boards in November the same year. Except for maintenance-related repairs, the Bridgeport Bridge carried local traffic in its rural setting while maintaining a high degree of both structural and historical integrity, until its recent closure.

Serving as a major inter-county crossing of the Skunk River for almost 90 years, the Bridgeport Bridge has played a longstanding role in the development of regional transportation. The structure's channel span is technologically noteworthy as a well-preserved example of a Pratt truss subtype - the Pennsylvania truss. With its polygonal upper chords and subdivided panels, the truss exemplifies this relatively uncommon structural type, which was used primarily for long-span applications after the turn of the century. And with its 240-foot span length, the Bridgeport Bridge is distinguished as the longest pinned truss remaining in Iowa. It is one of the state's more significant early roadway trusses.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 9 Page 2 Bridgeport Bridge Lee/Des Moines County; Iowa

Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. 219350.

Lee County Supervisors' Minutes, Book 9: n.p. (22 December 1904); Lee County Supervisors' Journal 7: page 246 (13 January 1904), located at the Lee County Courthouse, Fort Madison IA.

Des Moines County Record Board of Supervisors No. 3: page 633 (18 June 1887); Book 5: page 147 (15 September 1899), page 399 (17 September 1903), page 421 (12 November 1903), page 441 (13 January 1904), page 486 (16-17 November 1904); Book 7: page 77 (3 January 1910), located at the Lee County Courthouse, Fort Madison IA.

Clinton Bridge and Iron Works Proposal (17 December 1903) and Contract (13 January 1904), located at the Des Moines County Courthouse, Burlington IA.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 18 August 1991.