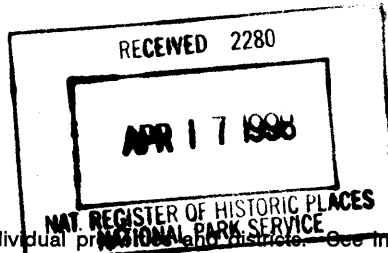


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**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 River Street Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number River Street over Iowa River not for publication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 Ontenking DS/HPD 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): _____

Elson 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)

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 River Street Bridge spans 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: 1	construction date: 1924
span length: 140.0'	construction cost: \$16,900.00 (contract amount)
total length: 180.0'	current condition: good
roadway wdt.: 29.7'	alterations: original electroliers removed, deck widened and guard-rails replaced, 1958

superstructure: concrete open spandrel arch

substructure: concrete abutments and wingwalls

floor/decking: concrete deck

other features: six-foot pedestrian sidewalks on either side of roadway; two sets of steel and concrete guardrails on either side of sidewalk; commemorative bridge plate: **River Street Bridge / 1922 / Built by Weldon Bros. Iowa Falls, IA / Designed by the Marsh Engineering Co. / Supervisors Norman N.S. Carpenter / S.C. Engelking, County Engineer, J.R. Maher**

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

1924

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

Significant Dates

1924 (construction date)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

designer:

Marsh Eng. Co.; Hardin County Eng.; ISHC

fabricator:

none

builder:

Welden 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 477980 4707300
zone easting northing2 _____
zone easting northing**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 32 feet by 180 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 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 City of Iowa Fallsstreet & number P.O. Box 698 telephone 515-648-2527city or town Iowa Falls state Iowa zip code 50126

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 River Street Bridge Hardin County; Iowa

This long-span concrete arch carries River Street across the Iowa River in the city of Iowa Falls, in north-central Hardin County. Preceded by an earlier structure at this crossing, the existing bridge traces its history to 1921, when plans and specifications for the structure were drafted by Des Moines civil engineer James B. Marsh in behalf of the state highway commission. For this urban crossing, Marsh delineated a single open spandrel arch, with three massive arch ribs carrying a series of concrete columns. The bridge would be handsome in its simplicity, as observed by J.H. Ames, bridge engineer for the Iowa State Highway Commission, to a member of Iowa Falls Community Club: "I am sure that you are going to be pleased with the type of construction that is proposed, as it will make a very artistic and substantial bridge." Moreover, it would be far more stable than the earlier span. "The bridge that crosses the river at that point has been there many years," The **Iowa Falls Sentinel** reported, "And it is getting in bad condition." There was some disagreement among the city, the county and the state highway commission regarding the height and location for the proposed structure, but when the county suggested dropping the project altogether, the city reacted strongly. Local citizens actively supported the bridge, citing the important commercial value of the project. Eventually the residents prevailed in securing financial backing for the bridge's construction, and commissioners advertised for competitive bids in late spring of 1922. Awarded the contract that summer, the Welden Brothers Construction Company of Iowa Falls began work in July by demolishing the earlier bridge. Completed without incident in 1924 for the aggregate sum of \$16,900.00, the Iowa River Bridge continues to carry steady traffic in its urban setting. The structure maintains good physical integrity, with a 1958 widening of its deck and removal of the original guardrails and electroliers as the most serious alteration.

The River Street location has been a pivotal one in Iowa Falls development. Initially a simple ford, the crossing was followed by a timber bridge, then an iron structure, then a 140-foot steel Pratt truss. As the fourth bridge here, the existing concrete arch represents the development of bridge technology in Iowa. Its open spandrel configuration is unusual in Iowa. Relatively few such arches were ever built (all in urban locations like this one), and even fewer remain in use today. Designed by one of the state's foremost bridge engineers, it is an excellent example of its structural type.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 9 Page 2 River Street Bridge Hardin County; Iowa

Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. 006610.

Hardin County Board of Supervisors' Minutes, Book G: n.p. (1924) - located at the Hardin County Courthouse, Eldora City IA.

ISHC Service Bulletin Weekly Letting Report, page 1 (12 July 1922), Ames IA.

"Plans Completed for New Bridge on South River Bridge," *Iowa Falls Sentinel*, 9 December 1921.

"Bridge Over Iowa May be Abandoned Supervisors Say," *Iowa Falls Sentinel*, 16 December 1921.

"Supervisors Guests at Noonday Luncheon," *Iowa Falls Sentinel*, 20 January 1922

"Bridge Plans Now Complete," *Iowa Falls Sentinel*, 11 May 1922.

"City to Grade to New Bridge," *Iowa Falls Sentinel*, 22 June 1922.

"Tearing Down River Bridge," *Iowa Falls Sentinel*, 20 July 1922.

"Supervisors Approve Councils Resolution," *Iowa Falls Sentinel*, 13 July 1922.

"Bridge Over River Nears Completion," *Iowa Fall Sentinel*, 26 April 1923.

"Picture of Old River Street Bridge Recalls Early History," *Iowa Falls Sentinel*, 21 April 1933.

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

**Attachment to the River Street Bridge
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

It should be noted that in March of 1986 the City Council of the City of Iowa Falls did rename the River Street Bridge the "Richard W. 'Dick' Welden River Street Bridge". A copy of the Resolution renaming the bridge and giving reasons for the renaming is attached.