

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**



537

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 Fremont Mill Bridge

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number pedestrian path over small pond in Central Park  not for publication

city or town 7.0 miles east of Anamosa  vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Jones code 105 zip code 52205

**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 Oriskany 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):

Elson H. Beall

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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/pedestrian-related

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

other: bowstring through arch-truss

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Timber pile

walls

roof

other Wrought iron

**Narrative Description**

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

Located 7.0 miles east of Anamosa, the Fremont Mill Bridge spans a small pond in a rural Jones County park. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 1                      construction date: 1873  
 span length: unknown              construction cost: \$5428.05  
 total length: unknown              current condition: fair  
 roadway wdt.: unknown              alterations: truss moved, 1930; 1986

superstructure: wrought iron, 15-panel bowstring through arch-truss  
 substructure: timber pile abutments and wingwalls  
 floor/decking: timber deck over timber stringers  
 other features: arch: built-up iron member, with 2 iron plates joined by tube lattice; lower chord: 2 rectangular eyebars; vertical: 1 star iron; diagonal: 1 round rod with threaded ends; lateral bracing: 2 back-to-back angles; strut: 2 plates with tube lacing; floor beam: I-beam and timber; railing: chain link; star iron outriders

The Fremont Mill Bridge has been moved, twice, and installed on a new substructure, but the bridge's superstructure remains essentially unaltered. It retains a high degree of integrity of design, materials and workmanship.

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.)

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENGINEERING

Period of Significance

1873

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

Significant Dates

1873 (construction date)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Bullder

designer: Massillon Iron Bridge Co., Massillon OH

fabricator: Massillon Iron Bridge Co., Massillon OH

builder: Massillon Iron Bridge Co.; James Milne

Primary location of additional data:

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

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

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 15 654390 4663460  
zone easting northing2 \_\_\_\_\_  
zone easting northing**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel of unknown dimensions, 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 Robert Hybben, Charlene Roise 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 Jones Countystreet & number P.O. Box 368 telephone 319-462-3785city or town Anamosa state Iowa zip code 52205

**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 Fremont Mill Bridge Jones County; Iowa

---

The Fremont Mill Bridge, as it is locally known, now carries a pedestrian path in Central Park in Jackson Township, seven miles east of Anamosa. This wrought iron bowstring through arch-truss originally crossed the Maquoketa River in Monticello City. The previous structure at that site was destroyed by a perilous ice flow in the winter of 1873, necessitating the erection of the bowstring. Five companies presented sealed competitive bids to the Jones County Board of Supervisors in the spring of 1873. County officials followed the customary method of letting out two construction contracts, one for the truss itself and one for the foundations. The contract for the superstructure was awarded to the Massillon Iron Bridge Company of Massillon, Ohio, which bid \$23 per lineal foot. The second contract, for the substructure, was let to James Milne of Scotch Grove, Iowa. The overall contractual deadline for the bridge's completion was initially June 20, 1873. It was not until October of that year, however, that board minutes reported that the structure was finished. Total cost was \$5428.05, \$2,944.00 of which went to Massillon for the superstructure. The truss was subsequently moved to a site spanning Buffalo Creek in January 1930, and again to its present location in Jones County's Central Park in July 1986. The well-traveled Fremont Mill Bridge now only carries pedestrians visiting the park with few alterations of note.

The bowstring arch-truss was the iron span of choice for Iowa counties in the late 1860s and 1870s. Marketed exclusively throughout the Midwest by such Ohio-based industry giants as the Wrought Iron Bridge Company, the King Iron Bridge Company and the Massillon Bridge Company, these often-patented bridge configurations featured a wide range of span lengths, economical fabrication cost and relatively quick erection. The proliferation of the bowstring corresponded with the initial development of Iowa's road system, and as a result, perhaps thousands of these prototypical iron spans were erected throughout the state. The bowstring had some rather severe structural flaws, however, relating primarily to lateral stability of the arches, and it was largely superseded by the pin-connected truss in the early 1880s. Despite this, some bowstrings were still erected in Iowa in the 1880s, although the number dwindled precipitously by the decade's end. Through subsequent attrition, almost all of Iowa's bowstrings have since been replaced and demolished. Now less than twenty remain in place. Through its association with the Massillon Bridge Company and owing to its excellent state of preservation, the Fremont Mill Bridge is an outstanding early transportation-related resource.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number   9   Page   2   Fremont Mill Bridge Jones County; Iowa

---

Jones County Supervisors' Records, Book B: page 477 (9 April 1873), page 480 (10 April 1873), page 517 (22 October 1873), located at the Jones County Courthouse, Anamosa IA.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 9 December 1990.