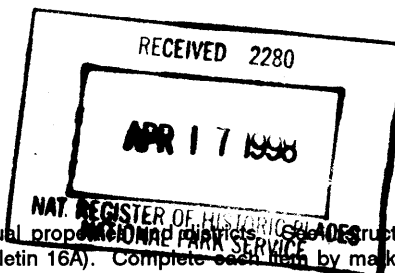


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



520

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties. 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 Sutliff Bridge

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

2. Location

street & number Sutliff road over Cedar River  not for publication

city or town 11.0 miles northeast of Iowa City  vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Johnson code 103 zip code 52240

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.)

Patticia Orth Knig DSHP 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 A. 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: pinned Parker 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 northeast of Iowa City, the Sutliff Bridge spans the Cedar River in a rural Johnson County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 3                      construction date: 1897-98  
 span length: 238.0'                construction cost: \$12,000.00 (approximate)  
 total length: 827.0'                current condition: good  
 roadway wdt.: 15.0'                alterations: bridge closed

superstructure: steel, 11-panel, pin-connected, Parker through trusses with timber stringer approach spans

substructure: main span: stone masonry piers; approach spans: timber pile bent piers and abutments

floor/decking: timber deck over steel stringers

other features: upper chord and inclined post: 2 channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 punched rectangular eyebars; vertical: 2 channels with lacing (2 looped rectangular eyebars at the hips); end panel diagonal: 2 looped rectangular eyebars; diagonal: 2 looped square eyebars; counter: 1 looped square eyebar; railing: angle iron; floor beam: I-beam; bottom lateral: round rod; portal bracing: angles; sway bracing: 4 back-to-back angles with lacing and round-section rods; portal builder's plate: 1897 / Built by J.R. Sheely & Company / Des Moines / Iowa / Board of Supervisors...

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

1897-98

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

**Significant Dates**

1897-98 (construction date)

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

designer:

G.W. Wynn

fabricator:

Jones &amp; Laughlin Steel Company

builder:

J.R. Sheely and Company, Des Moines 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 Data**Acreage of Property less than one acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 15 633310 4632950  
zone easting northing2 15 633515 4633060  
zone easting northing**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 17 feet by 827 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 Robert Hybben, Demian Hess and Michelle Crow-Dolbyorganization 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 Johnson Countystreet & number 4810 Melrose Avenue telephone 319-356-6046city or town Iowa City state Iowa zip code 52240

**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   Sutliff Bridge Johnson County; Iowa

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The Sutliff Bridge spans the Cedar River in the small town of Sutliff, named after long-time resident Allen C. Sutliff. Dry crossings of the Cedar River at this location date to the establishment of Allan Sutliff's ferry service in 1838. Sandbars eventually formed in the river, however, rendering the ferry inoperative, therefore forcing travellers to make a long detour in order to find a suitable crossing. Dissatisfied with this state of affairs, area residents petitioned county supervisors for a permanent structure at Sutliff. City officials finally voted in December 1896 to construct a steel bridge at the old ferry site. To design the bridge, the county turned to an engineer named G.W. Wynn who, it appears, had rather dubious credentials. Referring to Wynn, one Iowa City newspaper reported that the bridge builder's "work has been severely criticized by engineers of highstanding [sic]." Fortunately, the Sutliff Bridge proved to be a sound structure. The county awarded the contract to erect the bridge to J.R. Sheely and Company of Des Moines on January 8, 1897. Completed for approximately \$12,000.00 in April 1898, the bridge was the longest in the county at that time. Over a thousand people, responding to a local newspaper's request for "All hands... to turn out and have a good time," gathered at the new bridge on a beautiful June morning that year for its opening day ceremonies and celebratory picnic. Many decades later, area residents again rallied around their beloved bridge when they worked together to raise money to purchase the Sutliff Bridge from Johnson County in 1984. Currently used as a pedestrian bridge in connection with a surrounding public park, the Sutliff Bridge retains an exceptionally high degree of both historical and structural integrity. It is an outstanding example of an uncommon early wagon truss design.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number   9   Page   2   Sutliff Bridge Johnson County; Iowa

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Johnson County Supervisors' Record, Book 6: page 391 (8 January 1897), located at the Johnson County Courthouse, Iowa City IA.

"Sutliff, Iowa; Bridge Closed to Cars, not People," *Iowa City Press-Citizen*, 16 July 1988, pages 1C, 10C.

Charles Ray Aurner, *Leading Events in Johnson County, Iowa, History* (Cedar Rapids IA: Western Historical Press, 1912), pages 203-204.

*Iowa City Weekly Republican*, 1 June 1898.

Field inspection by Danielle Johnson, 28 September 1991.