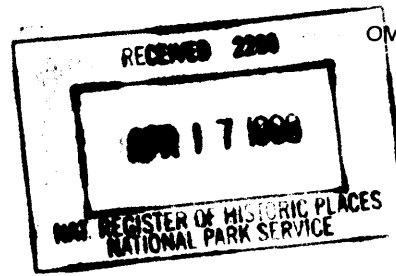


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



509

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 Cunningham Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Upland Trail over North River not for publication

city or town 4.9 miles northwest of Bevington vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Madison code 121 zip code 50033

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 Orlin 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):

Edson H. Beall 5-13-98

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: pinned Pratt pony 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 4.9 miles northwest of Bevington, the Cunningham Bridge spans the North River in a rural Madison County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 1 construction date: 1886
 span length: 80.0' construction cost: \$820.00
 total length: 143.0' current condition: fair
 roadway wdt.: 13.4' alterations: deck replaced, 1954 and 1970

superstructure: wrought iron, 5-panel, pin-connected Pratt pony truss
 substructure: timber pile bent abutments, wingwalls and piers
 floor/decking: timber deck over timber stringers
 other features: upper chord and inclined end post: 2 channels with batten plates; lower chord: 2 punched rectangular eyebars; vertical: 2 tees with lacing; diagonal: 2 punched rectangular eyebars; counter: 1 looped round eyebar with turnbuckle; lateral bracing: round rod with threaded ends; floor beam: 2 channels, field bolted to vertical; guardrail: timber

Other than maintenance-related repairs, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Cunningham 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

1886

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

Significant Dates

1886 (construction date)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

designer:

King Iron Bridge & Mfg. Co., Cleveland OH

fabricator:

King Iron Bridge & Mfg. Co., Cleveland OH

builder:

George E. King Bridge Co., 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 428020 4583500 2 zone easting northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 15 feet by 143 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 Clayton B. Fraser
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 (7 1/2 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
A 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 Madison County
street & number P.O. Box 152 telephone 515-462-1136
city or town Winterset state Iowa zip code 50273

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 **Cunningham Bridge** Madison County; Iowa

Located some five miles northwest of Bevington, this medium-span iron truss carries a gravel-surfaced county road over the North River. The Cunningham Bridge, as it is known locally, consists of a pinned Pratt pony truss, approached on both sides by timber stringer spans and supported by timber pile bents. The structure dates to 1886. That year the Madison County Board of Supervisors contracted with the George E. King Bridge Company of Des Moines to erect an 80-foot wrought iron truss at this Crawford County crossing and move the existing bridge to another site. Costing \$820.00, the truss was shipped to the county and assembled by June. Since its completion, the Cunningham Bridge has functioned in place without substantial alteration.

Like virtually all of Iowa's counties, Madison County followed a definite progression in its bridge construction in the 19th century, in response to evolving transportation needs and technological development in the bridge industry. The first simple spans, built as the county was undergoing its initial settlement, were rudimentary timber structures: cheap and easy to build but lacking in durability and limited in span length. With greater revenues from increased settlement, the county could undertake more ambitious timber trusses in the 1850s and 1860s. Iron was used for tension members in the covered combination spans erected during the 1860s and 1870s. But even with their plank and shingle sheathing, these timber trusses lacked the strength and durability of all-iron trusses. As a result, timber trusses were superseded by wrought iron configurations (either bowstrings or full trusses), which were readily available in the 1870s and 1880s through mass-production techniques. Although the county supervisors barely noticed the transition from iron to steel in the 1890s - and, indeed, continued to refer to new bridges as iron that were undoubtedly made of steel - this evolution marked a watershed that would continue into the 20th century for bridge fabricators and the rolling mills that supplied them. Of the many substantial wagon bridges built in the 19th century by Madison County, only a few remain intact. The Cunningham Bridge is one of these: a relatively well-preserved example of early all-iron truss construction.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 9 Page 2 **Cunningham Bridge** Madison County; Iowa

Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. 233620.

Madison County Board of Supervisors' Minutes, Book D: page 148 (26 July 1884), page 374 (10 June 1886), page 385 (15 June 1886), located at the Madison County Courthouse.

Madison County Bridge Book Numbers 1 and 2, located at the Madison County Engineer's Office, Winterset IA.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser and Sheila Bricher-Wade, 24 March 1990.