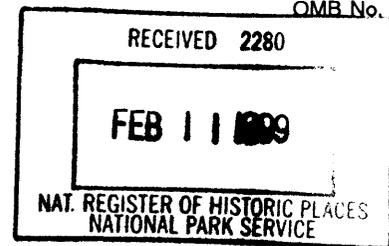


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**



311

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 Main Street Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Main Street over Cedar River N/A not for publication

city or town Charles City N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Floyd code 067 zip code 50616

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 Churkin 2-3-99
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 3/12/99

Bar Keeper

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 filled spandrel arch

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
 walls N/A
 roof N/A
 other N/A

Narrative Description

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

Located in Charles City, the Main Street Bridge spans Cedar River in a setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 3 construction date: 1909-10
 span length: 80.0' construction cost: \$40,000.00 (approximate)
 total length: 248.0' current condition: good
 roadway wdt.: 50.0' alterations: guardrails and light standards replaced

superstructure: concrete filled spandrel arch
 substructure: solid concrete abutments and piers
 floor/decking: asphalt over earth fill
 other features: triangular panels outline haunch; bridge plate: **Designed and Built by Advance Construction Co., Waukesha, Wisconsin, 1910, Geo. W. Miller, Engineer; A.B. Cambier, President; E.L. Chambers, Vice President; W. H. Stane, Sec. and Tres., W. A. Hey, Supt. of Construction**

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

1909-10

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

Significant Dates

1909-10 (construction date)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

designer:

G.W. Miller; Advance Construction Co.

fabricator:

none

builder:

Advance 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 526360 4767675
zone easting northing2 _____
zone easting northing**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 52 feet by 248 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 Robert M. Hybben and Clayton B. 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 Charles Citystreet & number 105 Milwaukee Mall telephone 515-257-6309city or town Charles City state Iowa zip code 50616

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 **Main Street Bridge** Floyd County; Iowa

Early settlers in the Charles City area crossed the Cedar River by ferry or at a ford during the summer, and over the thick ice in the winter. The townspeople first resolved to build a 190-foot timber bridge at Mill Street (now Main Street) in 1857, but the structure was swept away by a flood in 1858 before it was completed. A second bridge, built in 1864, was partially destroyed by a flood two years later. A temporary timber bridge, installed in 1867, was later replaced in 1870 by a 2-span, 250-foot iron truss bridge, designed and built by W.H. and L.E. Truesdell of Belvidere, Illinois, for \$14,422.50. It survived for nearly 40 years, despite an engineer's study in 1892 that concluded: "The bridge is not safe... It should be condemned and replaced by a suitable structure."

It was not until April 1908 that county supervisors approved construction of a new bridge at this site. They awarded the contract to the Des Moines-based Marsh Bridge Company for the sum of \$33,500.00. County funding for the bridge was to be raised by a 2% property tax. On June 13th county supervisors ordered the removal of the old bridge to a location five blocks downstream. The project was delayed, however, when the county rescinded the contract with Marsh and advertised for new bids. On November 12th, the new bids were examined and the plans provided by the three lowest bidders - Marsh, the Western Concrete Bridge Company of Chicago, and the Cook Construction Company of Des Moines - were sent to the state engineer for approval. In January 1909 the supervisors again awarded the contract to Marsh, this time for \$38,475.00. An additional delay was incurred when, a month later, the board hired attorneys to deal "with the receiver of The Marsh Bridge Company," a financial problem from which the county apparently wanted to distance itself. In March 1909 the board finally selected the bid of the Advance Construction Company of Waukesha, Wisconsin. Plans for the bridge were prepared by Advance's "Designing Engineer" G.W. Miller; W.A. Hey served as construction supervisor. (The Miller-Hey Construction Company, based in Des Moines, was founded after this bridge was constructed; the firm subsequently received a number of bridge contracts from the county. In addition, E.L. Chambers, listed as vice president of Advance, had built many bridges for the county under his own name in the late 1890s and early 1900s.) The Cedar River Bridge was completed by 1910 for approximately \$40,000.00, of which more than \$26,000.00 was provided by the county and at least \$7,000.00 by the city. The concrete barrel arch style was popular during this period, particularly for major urban crossings. Other examples in Floyd County include the Bradford Street Bridge [FLOY20] in Marble Rock, erected in 1915, and the First Street Bridge [FLOY22] in Nora Springs, dating from 1916.

Iowa's major urban bridges have followed a definite technological progression, reflective of the evolution and development of more durable bridge types. In the 1870s the bowstring arch-truss was used for major river crossings in Iowa's cities. This was superseded by the pin-connected iron truss in the 1880s and, in the 1890s, by the steel truss. After 1905 a number of multiple-span concrete arches were built in the state. Although some were constructed in Des Moines, the majority of these monumental bridges were built in the northern and eastern counties - in cities such as Waterloo, Iowa City, Charles City and Mason City -

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 8 Page 2 Main Street Bridge Floyd County; Iowa

over the Cedar, Iowa and Shell Rock rivers. Although far more durable than the lightweight metal bridges that preceded it, the concrete arch form was itself superseded in later years by other, more efficient bridge configurations. In the years between 1905 and 1920, however, it was the predominant structural type for large-scale urban crossings, for both structural and aesthetic reasons. The Main Street Bridge in Charles City is noteworthy among the remaining urban arch bridges in Iowa for its relatively early construction date and for its well-preserved condition. A major crossing in the city and the county, it is a technologically and historically important transportation-related resource.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 9 Page 3 Main Street Bridge Floyd County; Iowa

Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure Number 001820.

Floyd County Supervisors' Minutes, Book 4: n.p. (17 November 1892), Book 7: page 336 (10 April 1908), page 339 (20 April 1908), page 361 (13 June 1908), page 375 (10 October 1908), page 387 (12 November 1908), page 389 (14 November 1908), page 406 (5 January 1909), page 413 (6 January 1909), page 444 (4 February 1909), page 450 (20 March 1909); Book 8: page 43 (12 November 1909), pages 96-98 (20 April 1910), located at the Floyd County Courthouse, Charles City IA

History of Floyd County, Iowa (Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen & Co., 1917), pages 192-93.

History of Floyd County, Iowa (Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Co., 1882), pages 683-84.
Field inspection by Danielle Johnson, 17 July 1991.