

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Anoka-Champlin Mississippi River Bridge

and/or common

2. Location

street & number U.S. Highway 52 at Mississippi River not for publication

city, town Anoka vicinity of congressional district 8th

state Minnesota code 22 county Anoka *(also in Hennepin County)* code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Bridge

4. Owner of Property

name Minnesota Department of Transportation

street & number Transportation Building

city, town St. Paul vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anoka County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Anoka vicinity of state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978, 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

city, town St. Paul vicinity of state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Anoka-Champlin Mississippi River Bridge (Mn/DOT No. 4380) is located at the river crossing of U.S. Highway 52, above the head of navigation. At this point U.S. 52 joins the cities of Anoka in Anoka County, and Champlin in Hennepin County.

According to the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Structure Inventory Sheet, this continuous arch bridge of steel reinforced concrete has eight main spans and two approach spans. The total length is 995.1 feet with a maximum span length of 109 feet. The deck width (out-out) is 60.5 feet with a roadway width of over 40 feet and eight-foot sidewalks along both sides.

The open spandrel construction consists of twin concrete arches for each span with supporting spandrels and simple transverse slabs with in turn support the concrete deck and road surface. The approach spans have closed spandrels. A mildly classical concrete railing with simple outlined panels runs the length of the deck. Original iron lamp posts top each pier on the railing. Vertical fluting ornaments the piers.

The bridge was remodeled in 1971, but retains complete original integrity.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1929 **Builder/Architect** C.M. Babcock; Minneapolis, Bridge Company

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Anoka-Champlin Mississippi River Bridge, built by the Minneapolis Bridge Company in 1929, is significant for both historical and engineering reasons. Historically it represents a major river crossing, joining together two communities with long-standing commercial and economic links. Technologically it is a fine representative of the open spandrel concrete arch bridge type which reached a high state of development in the Twin Cities and surrounding area in the late 1920s.

Two prominent bridge authorities, Carl Condit and David Plowden, have recognized the significance of the Twin Cities' concrete arch bridges. As Plowden points out, "the first really sophisticated American program of concrete highway bridge construction evolved around Minnesota's Twin Cities."¹ This happened, says Condit, because here "the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers offered the engineers numerous opportunities to try their ingenuity."²

In its current excellent condition, maintaining full integrity, the Anoka-Champlin Mississippi River Bridge exhibits the twin qualities of the Minnesota concrete arch open spandrel bridge: a graceful and pleasing aesthetics coupled with an economy of design and construction.

¹ Condit, Carl, American Building, page 255.

² Plowden, David, Bridges: The Spans of North America, page 299.

PLEASE NOTE: The manuscript for this nomination was prepared before the one paragraph limit for significance statements was stipulated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property _____
 Quadrangle name Anoka Quadrangle scale 7.5
 UMT References 15 / 468900 / 5003960 (south end) 15 / 469040 / 5004240 (north end).

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The bridge carries U.S. Highway 52 across the Mississippi River in the E $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19, T131N, R25W, connecting the municipalities of Anoka (Anoka County) and Champlin (Hennepin County).

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynne VanBrocklin Spaeth/Robert M. Frame
 organization Minnesota Historical Society date May 1979
 street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House telephone (612) 296-9074
 city or town St. Paul state Minnesota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Russell W. Fridley

Russell W. Fridley
 title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 11/1/79

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Carol D. Shull
 acting Keeper of the National Register

date 12-31-79

Attest: *Kristen J. O'Connell*

date 12/26/79

Chief of Registration