

MAY 20 1980  
JUL 28 1980

HISTORIC NAME: Marsh Concrete Rainbow Arch Bridge

COUNTY: Blue Earth

CURRENT NAME:

CITY/TWP.: Cambria Township

LEGAL DESC.: The nomination includes the bridge itself and an area extending 30' to the ends and sides of the abutments in T109N, R29W, Section 19, SW $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE $\frac{1}{2}$ .

ADDRESS: County Road 101

CLASSIFICATION:

Building \_\_\_\_\_  
Structure X  
Object \_\_\_\_\_  
District \_\_\_\_\_

CONDITION:

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_  
Good \_\_\_\_\_  
Fair X  
Deteriorated \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNIFICANCE:

Local \_\_\_\_\_  
State X  
National \_\_\_\_\_

THEME/S:

Primary Engineering  
Secondary \_\_\_\_\_  
Others \_\_\_\_\_OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ Restricted \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD: Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Bridge

OCCUPIED: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1911

ORIGINAL USE: Bridge

ORIGINAL OWNER: Blue Earth County

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Marsh Engineering Co.,  
Des Moines, IowaOWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Blue Earth County  
County Courthouse  
Mankato, MN 56001ACREAGE: Less than one acre XLOCAL CONTACT/ORG.: Blue Earth County Historical Society  
606 South Broad Street, Mankato, MN 56001UTM REFERENCE:  
Cambria Quad. 7.5

15 / 391330 / 4898860

FORM PREPARED BY: Dennis Gimmetad

DATE: January 1980

## DESCRIPTION:

The Marsh Concrete Rainbow Arch Bridge in Cambria Township carries County Road 101 across the Little Cottonwood River in the northwest corner of Blue Earth County.

The structure was designed and built in 1911 by the Marsh Engineering Company of Des Moines, Iowa. The two concrete arches of the 60 foot single span spring from concrete abutments at a point below the roadway level. Above the roadway level, each arch carries five concrete verticals, which in turn carry the connecting floor beams which support the 19.2 foot wide deck. A double concrete rail extends between the verticals of each arch and extends on both ends to a broad concrete unit at the edge of each approach.

At the southeast corner of the bridge is a metal name plate with the following inscription:

"Designed and Built 1911

by

Marsh Engineering Co.

Des Moines, Iowa

for

Blue Earth Co. Minn.

Alec. Hansen. Co. Commissioner

Chairman

Cambria Township."

There is some deterioration of the concrete and exposure of the metal reinforcement on the bridge.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

The Marsh Concrete Rainbow Arch Bridge in Cambria Township is significant as the oldest known of its type in Minnesota. It is also one of the earliest concrete rainbow arch bridges constructed by the Marsh Engineering Company of Des Moines, who were an important promoter of the design. James B. Marsh (1856-c.1936) had founded the Marsh Bridge Company in 1904; in 1909 the company incorporated and became the Marsh Engineering Company. Marsh filed a patent for a concrete rainbow arch bridge (patent #1035026) in 1911. The Cambria Bridge, constructed the same year, follows the patent plan closely, and is the earliest known example of the type built by the company. Six other concrete rainbow arch bridges are known to exist in Minnesota; three of them, like the Cambria bridge, are small, one-lane structures on rural roads. Because of the incompatibility of the width of these bridges with modern farm equipment, their life expectancy is short. (The other three examples are multi-laned structures of somewhat later (1919-1926) construction.) Timely recognition of the Cambria Bridge as an very early example of the type is important.

MAY 20 1980

Marsh Concrete Rainbow Arch Bridge

Cambria Township  
Blue Earth County, MN

Upsman, Mike (Office of Primary Planning, Iowa Department of Transportation, Ames). Telephone interview with Dennis Gimmestad, January, 1980.

Minnesota Department of Transportation. Structure Inventory Sheet (Bridge # (201)90554), 1978.

United States Patent Office. Patent 1,035,026. August 6, 1912.

MAY 20 1980



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Note: These changes apply to  
Marsh Concrete Rainbow Arch Bridge  
in Blue Earth County, Minnesota.**

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 80001953

**STATE:** MINNESOTA

**COUNTY:** Blue Earth

**RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC):**

**CITY:**

**VICINITY OF:** Courtland

**ADDRESS:** Co. Rd. 101 over Little Cottonwood River

**CERTIFICATION DATE:**

**REMOVED DATE:**

**COMMENTS:**

*Nina M. Archabal*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nina M. Archabal  
State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date