

MINNESOTA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

HISTORIC NAME:

COUNTY:

81000681
LeSueur

CURRENT NAME:

Bridge #4846(1)

CITY/TWP.: Kasota Township

LEGAL DESC.: That part of County Road 102 (a width of 60 feet) located within the right-of-way of Trunk Highway 22 (a width of 100 feet.) See attached map for exact location.

ADDRESS: County Rd. 102 over Hwy. 22

CLASSIFICATION:

CONDITION:

SIGNIFICANCE:

THEME/S:

Building _____

Excellent _____

Local _____Primary TransportationStructure _____Good _____

State _____

Secondary Engineering

Object _____

Fair _____

National _____

Others _____

District _____

Deteriorated _____

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Yes No _____ Restricted _____

PRESENT USE:

VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD:

Yes No _____

Bridge (roadway)

OCCUPIED:

Yes No _____

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1875; moved 1929

ORIGINAL USE: bridge (roadway)

ORIGINAL OWNER:

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Department of Transportation
Transportation Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

ACREAGE: Less than one acre

LOCAL CONTACT/CRG.: LeSueur County Historical Society
Elysian, Minnesota 56028

UTM REFERENCE:

St. Peter Quad.

FORM PREPARED BY: Britta Bloomberg

15 / 423530 / 4906150

DATE: August 1980

DESCRIPTION:

Bridge #4846 carries County Road 102 over Trunk Highway 22 in a rural location approximately .1 mile southeast of the Minnesota River in Kasota Township. The bridge was constructed in 1875 and was originally located over the Blue Earth River, just south of Vernon Center in Blue Earth County. It was replaced in 1928 and moved to its present location in January 1929 when the new Trunk Highway 22 was built. The bridge spans a rock cut made for the new highway.

The main span is a metal pin-connected through truss of Pratt design, 115.7 feet long with a 13.7 foot wooden deck. The end floor beams rest on stone abutments. In 1971 the steel beam supporting structure near the west abutment was added, and concrete was added to reinforce the sagging abutment. Cast iron date plates inscribed "1875" are located on the portal struts. No additional identifying marks are located on the bridge proper, and the manufacturer is unknown.

The 105 year old bridge is the oldest known Pratt truss highway bridge in Minnesota; the bridge remains in use and is in remarkably good condition. The steel supporting structure is the only evident alteration.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Bridge #4846 is significant both as the oldest Pratt through truss highway bridge in the state of Minnesota and as a notable example of the truss bridges that were a common element on the Minnesota landscape during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The bridge was constructed in 1875 to cross the Blue Earth River just south of Vernon Center in Blue Earth County. In 1928 it was replaced by a larger truss bridge that could handle more traffic and larger vehicles. Still in good condition and very usable, Bridge #4846 was moved to its present location in Kasota Township in January 1929. It is not uncommon to discover that a bridge of this type was moved from its original location - truss bridges are reasonably portable structures and many have been moved one or more times as traffic needs change. The disappearance of these truss bridges has been greatly accelerated by a National Bridge Replacement Program, and Bridge #4846 is the oldest of a dwindling number of nineteenth century Pratt trusses in Minnesota.

JAN 15 1981

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Bridge #4846(1), Minnesota Department of Transportation - Structure Inventory Sheet,
October 1, 1979.

Kachelmyer, C.P., Preliminary Design Engineer, Minnesota Department of Transportation,
Memo to Britta Bloomberg dated September 2, 1980.

Letter dated January 3, 1929 regarding Bridge #4846, on file at Minnesota Department of
Transportation.

JAN 15 1981

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
Bridge No. 4846 in LeSueur County,
Minnesota.**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 81000681

STATE: MINNESOTA

COUNTY: LeSueur

RESOURCE NAME (HISTORIC): Bridge No. 4846(1)

CITY:

VICINITY OF: Kasota

ADDRESS: Co. Hwy. 102 over Mn. Hwy.22

CERTIFICATION DATE:

REMOVED DATE:

COMMENTS:

Nina M. Archabal

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State Historic Preservation Officer

JUN 17 1988

Date