Form No.	10-300	(Rev. 10-74)
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 3 0 1976

DATA SHEET

DATE ENTERED NOV 7 1976

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HISTORIC		ha		
AND/OR COMMON	ler Keystone Bridge		······································	
LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER				
	Bridge St Highway	13	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN			CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	IICT
Elkad	ler	VICINITY OF	2	
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Towa			Clavton	?
CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS N/A	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	-XPUBLIC	OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	
BUILDING(S)			COMMERCIAL	PARK
X.STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED		INDUSTRIAL	
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
	DDODEDTV	· · · ·		
	, FRUJET.R I I			
OWNER OF				
NAME				
NAME	f Elkader			
NAME <u>City o</u> STREET & NUMBER	f Elkader			
NAME <u>City o</u> STREET & NUMBER			STATE	
NAME <u>City o</u> STREET & NUMBER <u>City</u> CITY, TOWN	of Elkader Clerk, 207 Main			
NAME <u>City o</u> STREET & NUMBER <u>City</u> CITY. TOWN <u>Elkade</u>	of Elkader Clerk, 207 Main er —		STATE IOWA	
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7 DESCRIPTION

CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	KONE
XEXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	_XJNALTERED	$X_{ORIGINAL SITE}$	
GOOD	RUINS	ALTERED	MOVED DATE	_
FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The twin arched keystone bridge is one of the largest west of the Mississippi. Prior to the building of this bridge the Turkey River was spanned by several double iron trusses. The plans upon which the contract was based called for two spans each 84 feet in the clear, with a center pier 19feet wide at the foundation. The other dimensions were: clear hight of each arch, 27.9'; outside width of bridge, 34'; clear width of bridge, 30'; entire length of bridge, 346'. The road bed was macadamized with gutter on the upperside of the roadway, and a curb stone and hexagonal block cement sidewalk six feet wide.

In 1924 a sidewalk was added to the north side of the bridge, and replaced in 1972. Other than replacement of the sidewalk, the only real change has been the blacktop resurfacing of the highway.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW PERIOD ___PREHISTORIC __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ___COMMUNITY PLANNING ___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ___RELIGION ___1400-1499 ___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC ___CONSERVATION __LAW ___SCIENCE __1500-1599 ___AGRICULTURE ___ECONOMICS __LITERATURE ___SCULPTURE ___1600-1699 ___ARCHITECTURE __EDUCATION ___MILITARY __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN ART ___ENGINEERING __MUSIC THEATER ___1800-1899 ___COMMERCE ___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT ___PHILOSOPHY ___1900-....COMMUNICATIONS ----POLITICS/GOVERNMENT __OTHER (SPECIFY) __INVENTION BUILDER/ARCHITECT Byrne & Blade/M. Tschirgi SPECIFIC DATES 1888-89

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8 SIGNIFICANCE

The Elkader Keystone Bridge, in its blend of the practical and the aesthetic, is a <u>tour de force</u> of 19th-century stone construction. In 1888, an old iron truss bridge over the Turkey River was declared unsafe. The Clayton County Board of Supervisors, mindful of the cost of replanking the floor of a wood or iron bridge, decided that since limestone was locally available, a new bridge might be constructed of native stone. M. Tschirgi, an engineer on the high bridge constructed at Dubuque, drew up plans and estimates for a stone arch bridge. Bids were solicited for either an iron or stone bridge, the latter proving less costly. The contract was awarded to Dubuque stonemason/contractors Byrne and Blade. The bridge was completed in 1889.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Clayton County Register for Elkader's 125th Anniversary (1846-1971, Aug. 5-8), p. 4 History of Clayton County, Iowa, Vol. 1 (1916), Rialto Price (ed.) p. 246

10 GEOGRAPHICAL D	ΔΤΔ	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPER		e acre		
UTM REFERENCES				
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VERBAL BOUNDART DESCRI	PTON			
LIST ALL STATES AND	COUNTIES FOR PROPERT	IES OVERLAPPING S	TATE OR COUNTY BOUNDA	RIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	<u> </u>	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
ORGANIZATION Elkader Hist STREET & NUMBER	orical Society	2	DATE 28 May, 1974 TELEPHONE	
104 McKinley				
CITY OR TOWN			STATE	
Elkader			Iowa	<u></u>
2 STATE HISTORIC	PRESERVATIO			
NATIONAL			LOCAL	
As the designated State Historic Pro hereby nominate this property for				
criteria and procedures set forth by		-		
		1 A		
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFF	ICER SIGNATURE	m N. G	preism	
TITLE Direct	L. Div. Hihi	· Preservati	DATE 9/26	126
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KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL RE	GISTER	- And		· / Þ
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