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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Alden Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Main Street over the Iowa River not for publication

city or town Alden vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Hardin code 083 zip code 50006

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 DSHPD 4-7-98
 Signature of STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA Date

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 F. Beall 5-15-98

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 rigid frame

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete Concrete

walls _____

roof _____

other concrete Concrete

Narrative Description

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

Located in Alden, the Alden Bridge spans the Iowa River in a rural Hardin County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 2	construction date: 1936
span length: 75.0'	construction cost: \$20,000.00
total length: 150.0'	current condition: good
roadway wdt.: 20.0'	alterations: none

superstructure: concrete rigid frame, with arched girders
 substructure: concrete abutments, wingwalls and pier
 floor/decking: concrete deck
 other features: four-foot-wide pedestrian sidewalks on each side of roadway; ornamental steel guard-rails; 2 electroliers at each approach

Other than maintenance-related repairs, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Alden 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

1936

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

Significant Dates

1936 (construction date)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

designer:

Iowa State Highway Commission

fabricator:

none

builder:

Welden Bros. Construction Co.; WPA

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 469160 4707480
zone easting northing2 _____
zone easting northing**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 22 feet by 150 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 Michelle Crow-Dolby and Clayton 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 Aldenstreet & number P.O. Box 26 telephone 515-859-3344city or town Alden state Iowa zip code 50006

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 Alden Bridge Hardin County; Iowa

The bridge over the Iowa River in Alden formed a longstanding link for the two sides of the small town, but by the mid-1930s the existing wood structure had "long since seen its best day," according to the *Alden Times*. Hardin County in 1935 moved to replace it and the bridge at Steamboat Rock. The county sought financial assistance for construction of the two structures from the Works Progress Administration, securing approval from that agency in October 1935. The projects were to be a great boon for Alden's unemployed, who would be used as day labor to help construct the concrete bridge over the Iowa River. The estimated cost for the 150-foot-long structure at Alden was \$20,000.00, \$11,163.00 of which was to be funded by a WPA grant, with the remainder to be financed by Hardin County.

The Iowa State Highway Commission designed the Alden Bridge as a concrete rigid-frame structure, comprised of two spans supported by a concrete substructure. The selection of concrete as the construction material for several Depression-era, WPA-funded bridges was not coincidental. As described by the October 24, 1935, edition of the *Alden Times*: "The bridges will be of the concrete type with steel reinforcing, since this type provides more employment in building than all steel construction." Hardin County advertised for competitive bids and subsequently received proposals from four bridge companies: Leo Plumb of Wappello; S.C. Anderson of Des Moines; Zitterell Mills Company of Webster City; and the Weldon Brothers Construction Company of Iowa Falls. The WPA workers were to be supervised by Weldon Brothers, which won the contract to build the bridge with a bid of \$11,922.00; they were paid by the federal government. Work on the substructure began in January of 1936, and the bridge was completed the same year. To celebrate its completion, the town officially dedicated the bridge on July 4, 1936, in conjunction with Independence Day activities, with thousands of citizens in attendance. Consisting of a two-span deck girder supported by a concrete substructure, the Alden Bridge is lit at night by four electroliers (two at each approach) and features ornamental steel guardrails and pedestrian sidewalks at either side of the roadway. Since its completion in 1936, the Alden Bridge has carried fairly heavy urban traffic in northwestern Hardin County.

The Alden Bridge was one of the first concrete rigid-frame structures designed by ISHC. The concrete rigid-frame configuration, developed in Westchester County, New York, in the early 1930s, became especially popular for federal relief projects during the 1930s. Both picturesque and practical, the flat-arched design appealed to proponents of urban beautification. The Iowa State Highway Commission, like many state highway departments, built a tentative number of rigid frames in the 1930s, of which the Alden Bridge is a distinguished, early example.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 9 Page 2 Alden Bridge Hardin County; Iowa

Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. 000110.

Hardin County Board of Supervisors' Minutes, Book I: page 531 (6 September 1935), page 564 (2 January 1936), page 570 (17 January 1936) - located at the Hardin County Court-house, Eldora City IA.

City of Alden, "Historical Facts Regarding Alden's Riverfront Parks," unpublished report.

Alden Times, "Iowa River at Alden" (30 January 1983), "Alden Celebration Plans Completed" (2 July 1936), "Alden's New Bridge Dedicated Saturday" (9 January 1936), "Weldens [sic] Secure Contract for Building New Bridge" (9 January 1936), "Bridge Work Expected to Start About January 1st" (5 December 1935), "New Bridge for Alden is Approved by WPA Heads" (24 October 1935).

Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Resource Enhancement and Protection Fund Grant Application, Alden IA, February 1990.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser and Sheila Bricher-Wade, 10 March 1991.