

Historic Name: Ramsey Park Swayback Bridge

County: <sup>80002144</sup> Redwood

Common Name:

Community: Redwood Falls

Owner's Name and Address: City of Redwood Falls  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Address/Legal Desc.:  
Ramsey Park

Classification:

Acreage:

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

Condition:

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

Verbal Boundary Desc.:

T113 R36 Sec. 36  
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$   
The bridge spans the Redwood River in the above  $\frac{1}{4}$  Section. This nomination comprises the bridge and a 30' area at either end, measured radially from the center of the end of the bridge. (see tel. sheet 10/80)

Open to the Public:

Yes X No

Visible from the road:

Yes X No

Occupied:

Yes X No

Present Use:

Bridge

History:

Date Constructed: 1938

Original Owner: State of Minnesota

UTM Reference:

Redwood Falls Quad., 15 min.

Architect/Builder: WPA Crews designer unknown

Original Use: Bridge

Lat. Long.  
44° 33' 02" 95° 07' 28"

Description:

The Ramsey Park Swayback Bridge is located in the Redwood River Gorge at a point just below the confluence of the Redwood River and Ramsey Creek, and downstream from both Redwood Falls and Ramsey Falls. The area of the gorge was dedicated as Alexander Ramsey State Park in 1912, and remained part of the state park system until it was turned over to the city of Redwood Falls in 1957.

The 183-foot ten-span structure is constructed of concrete and North Redwood granite. Its concrete slab roadbed is supported by nine granite piers which extend the full 20 foot width of the bed at twelve foot intervals (eleven feet between the end piers and the u-abutments). The granite sides of the structure extend upward to form short rails which follow the curve of the roadbed and terminate in u-abutments with a stepped profile.

(see continuation sheet)

Level of Significance:

Local X

State \_\_\_\_\_

Nation \_\_\_\_\_

Status:

Survey Date

Local \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Nat'l. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_

Nat'l. Land. \_\_\_\_\_

HABS/HAER \_\_\_\_\_

Significance:

The Ramsey Park Swayback Bridge is one of scores of structures constructed by WPA crews in state parks during the late 1930s and early 1940s. It is the only known bridge so constructed utilizing the functional swayback design.

The crew of the project quarried the stone in nearby North Redwood under the direction of stonecutter William Hosken (see Honnor-Hosken house nomination). Other WPA Ramsey Park buildings also utilize the North Redwood granite.

The structure is significant as a uniquely designed WPA constructed bridge. Even though it is only forty years old at the time of this nomination, recognition is important to insure retention of its integrity as plans for bridge remodeling and replacement are being considered.

Theme/s:

Primary Engineering

Secondary \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Local Contact/Org.:

Prepared by and date:

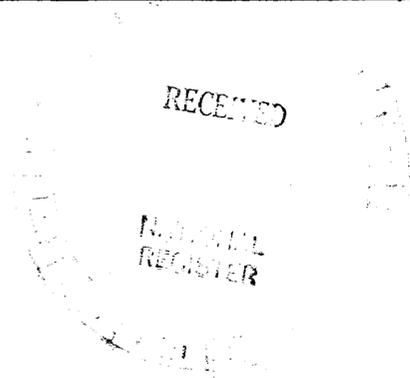
Dennis A. Gimmestad  
September 1978

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Description:

The bridge's design, consistent with its wooded setting, is based primarily on functional requirements. During frequent spring high waters, the dip in the bed permits tree branches and other debris carried by the river to flow across the center section of the structure, avoiding a jam which could force the stream around the end abutments and undermine the bridge approaches.

Significance:



AUG 11 1980