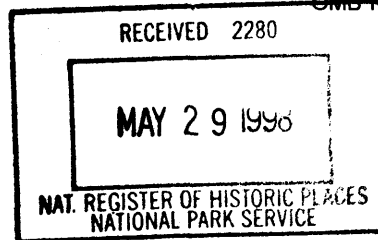


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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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 Otter Creek Bridge

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 40th Street over Otter Creek  not for publication

city or town 1.7 miles northwest of Oelwein  vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Fayette code 065 zip code 50662

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 Churking DSITPO 5-6-98  
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 H. Beall 6-25-98

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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 through girder

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
 walls  
 roof  
 other Concrete

**Narrative Description**

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

Located 1.7 miles northwest of Oelwein, the Otter Creek Bridge spans Otter Creek in a rural Fayette County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 2                      construction date: 1917  
 span length: 40.0'                construction cost: \$5153.88  
 total length: 86.0'                current condition: good  
 roadway wdt.: 18.0'                alterations: none

superstructure: concrete through girder  
 substructure: concrete abutments, wingwalls and pier  
 floor/decking: concrete deck  
 other features: solid concrete guardrails with recessed rectangular panels

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

1917

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

Significant Dates

1917 (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:

county work force

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:



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 8 Page 1 Otter Creek Bridge Fayette County; Iowa

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Located northwest of Oelwein, in Jefferson Township, this medium-span concrete bridge carries a gravel-surfaced county road over Otter Creek. The bridge is comprised of two through girder spans, with reinforced concrete substructure, deck and guardrails that double as the girders. The Otter Creek Bridge dates to 1917. In July of that year the Fayette County Board of Supervisors approved the bridge's design by the state highway commission and solicited competitive bids for its construction. When no bids were received, the county resorted to using day laborers to build the structure for a cost of \$5153.88. Since its completion in 1917, the Otter Creek Bridge has functioned in place, in unaltered condition.

"Fayette County has pinned considerable faith to the day labor system of bridge and culvert building and has made good," the state highway commission reported. "This is contrary to the general experience of Iowa counties with day labor work." Among the structural types that the county employed during this period of intense bridge construction was the concrete through girder. Carrying the roadway deck between the two structural beams, the through girder bridge was one of the first standard designs developed by the state highway commission after its re-organization in 1913. Several of Iowa's counties built through girder bridges in the 1910s. The advantage of this structural type was that it required less clearance between the roadway and the high water mark than did the deck girder. Its disadvantages were that it required slightly more material than the deck girder and it was not as flexible: with the structural members above the deck, the through girder could not be widened later. Ultimately the disadvantages outweighed the advantages, and the through girder was phased out of common use in Iowa by the early 1920s. Most of the state's through girders are relatively short, single-span structures over minor watercourses. A handful of two-span girders remains in Fayette County, however, of which the Otter Creek Bridge is a well-preserved example. It is a typically configured example of ISHC standard concrete through girder design, distinguished somewhat by its two-span configuration.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number   9   Page   2   Otter Creek Bridge Fayette County; Iowa

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Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure Number 149690.

Fayette County Engineer's Annual Report: 1917, located at the Fayette County Engineer's Office, West Union IA.

Fayette County Supervisors' Minutes, Book 9: page 100 (9 July 1917), located at the Fayette County Courthouse, West Union IA.

**Report of the State Highway Commission, 1917, pages 155-56.**

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 11 December 1992.