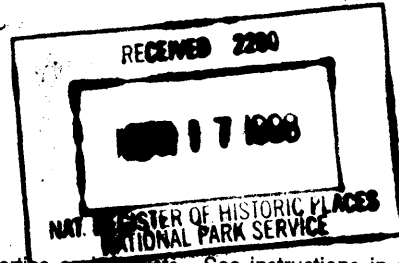


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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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 Bellefountain Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Ashland Avenue over Des Moines River not for publication

city or town 0.5 mile east of Tracy vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Mahaska code 123 zip code 50256

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 Oster King PSMPO 4-7-98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

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 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)

VACATED/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

other: pinned Pratt through truss

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls

roof

other Steel

Narrative Description

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

Located just east of Tracy, the Bellefountain Bridge spans Des Moines River in a rural setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 4 construction date: 1898
 span length: 150.0' construction cost: \$9750.00 (contract amount)
 total length: 600.0' current condition: poor
 roadway wdt.: 15.0' alterations: bridge closed and deck removed

superstructure: steel, 9-panel, pin-connected Pratt through truss
 substructure: concrete abutments with concrete-filled steel cylinder piers
 floor/decking: timber deck (mostly removed)
 other features: upper chord and inclined end post: 2 channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 punched rectangular eyebars; vertical: 2 channels with lacing; diagonal: 2 punched rectangular eyebars; counter: 1 round eyerod with turnbuckle; lateral bracing: round rod with threaded ends; strut: A-frame; floor beam: I-beam, field-bolted to vertical; guardrail: timber

The Bellefountain Bridge has long been closed to vehicular traffic and its deck substantially deteriorated, but the steel superstructure and piers remain essentially unaltered. The 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

1898

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

Significant Dates

1898 (construction date)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

designer:

Clinton Bridge and Iron Works, Clinton IA

fabricator:

Clinton Bridge and Iron Works, Clinton IA

builder:

Clinton Bridge and Iron Works, Clinton IA

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 511250 457550
zone easting northing2 15 511610 457550
zone easting northing**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 17 feet by 600 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 By

name/title Clayton B. Fraser
 organization Fraserdesign date 31 August 1994
 street & number 1269 Cleveland Avenue telephone 303-669-7969
 city 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 Mahaska County
 street & number 2074 Highway 163 telephone 515-672-2897
 city or town Oskaloosa state Iowa zip code 52577

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 Bellefountain Bridge Mahaska County; Iowa

Like many of the bridges across major rivers, the Bellefountain Bridge was preceded for years by a ferry operation. Located at the small town of Bellefountain, along the Des Moines River in western Mahaska County, this multiple-span truss was erected here in 1898. That year, after granting licenses for the Bellefountain ferry for decades, the Mahaska County Board of Supervisors finally agreed to build a permanent bridge at this point. In May the county solicited competitive bids for the bridge's fabrication and erection. Attracted by the sizable profits from such a large-scale project, virtually all of the major bridge firms in the region submitted bids in June. Among the proposers were the George E. King Bridge Company of Des Moines, the King Iron Bridge Company of Cleveland, N.M. Stark and Company, J.R. Sheely, J.B. Marsh, Farnsworth and Blodgett, the Fair-Williams Bridge Company, the Western Bridge Company, the Lafayette Bridge Company, the Dildine Bridge Company, the Kansas City Bridge Company, the Seevers Manufacturing Company, the Canton Bridge Company, the Wrought Iron Bridge Company, the Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Works and the Clinton Bridge and Iron Works. Low bidder at \$9750.00, Clinton B&I received the contract.

The Clinton, Iowa, firm built the four pinned Pratt trusses on large-diameter steel cylinder piers that year. The Bellefountain Bridge carried mainline traffic without alteration for three decades until its replacement in 1930 with another truss a half-mile upstream. The 1898 bridge continued to serve local traffic, but eventually, without maintenance, it was closed. Today most of the timber floor system has rotted away, and the bridge has been allowed to molder in place by the county. The Bellefountain Bridge is distinguished among the remaining pinned Pratt through trusses by relatively early construction date and multiplicity of relatively long spans.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 9 Page 2 Bellefountain Bridge Mahaska County; Iowa

Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. 241050.

Mahaska County Supervisors' Minute Book 6: page 89 (14 June 1898), located at the Mahaska County Courthouse, Oskaloosa IA.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 16 December 1992.