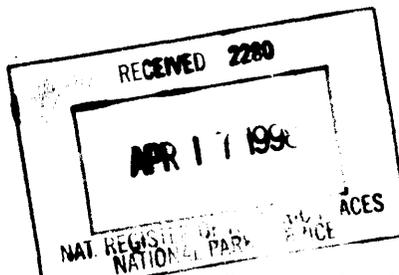


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



503

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 North Skunk River Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number County Road G13 over North Skunk River not for publication

city or town 1.8 mile northeast of New Sharon vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Mahaska code 123 zip code 50207

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 Chertkov DSHPD 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):

E 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: pinned Parker 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 1.8 mile northeast of New Sharon, the North Skunk River Bridge spans the North Skunk River in a rural Mahaska County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 1 construction date: 1920
 span length: 200.0' construction cost: \$50,000.00 (contract amount)
 total length: 202.0' current condition: good
 roadway wdt.: 17.1' alterations: truss moved, c1935

superstructure: steel, 10-panel, pin-connected Parker through truss
 substructure: concrete abutments and wingwalls
 floor/decking: concrete deck over steel stringers
 other features: upper chord / inclined end post: 2 channels with cover plate and double lacing; lower chord: 2 channels with double lacing; vertical: 2 channels with lacing; diagonal: 2 punched rectangular eyebars; lateral bracing: 1 angle; strut: 4 angles with lacing, braced; floor beam: I-beam, field-bolted to vertical; guardrail: 2 angles; portal strut: A-frame; builder's plate: **BUILT BY AMERICAN BRIDGE COMPANY / 1920**

Other than the move and subsequent maintenance-related repairs, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The North Skunk River 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

1920

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

Significant Dates

1920 (construction date)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

designer:

Iowa Highway Comm.; American Bridge Co.

fabricator:

American Bridge Co.; Illinois Steel Company

builder:

Iowa Bridge Company, Des Moines 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 530600 4593520
zone easting northing2 _____
zone easting northing**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 19 feet by 202 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 Clayton B. 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 Mahaska Countystreet & number 2974 Highway 163 telephone 515-672-2897city 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 North Skunk River Bridge Mahaska County; Iowa

"After a personal investigation had been made of the site for the bridge over North Skunk River, between the counties of Poweshiek and Mahaska, the joint meeting was called at the rooms of the New Sharon Savings Bank at New Sharon, Iowa, to further discuss the matter," reported the Mahaska County Clerk in February 1919. The bridge that the two counties were contemplating would span the North Skunk River on the county line. The Iowa State Highway Commission bridge department had delineated a 200-foot-span rigid-connected truss for the crossing late the previous year. Using the ISHC drawings, the two counties let the project out for competitive bids that spring. "The Iowa Bridge Co. of Des Moines was the only bidder," the county clerk reported, "and contract was awarded to said Iowa Bridge Co. for a 200' x 18' pin connected high truss with concrete floor, steel tubular piers, and wood approach spans, complete as per plans, and including 80' wood piling in place of tubular piers. Said bridge to be erected over North Skunk River on line between Mahaska and Poweshiek counties for \$40,000.00 to be paid jointly by Poweshiek and Mahaska counties and the balance of \$10,000.00 to be paid by citizens of New Sharon and vicinity." Iowa Bridge used a superstructure fabricated by the American Bridge Company to build the bridge, completed later in 1919. The truss carried regional traffic in this location until it was replaced by another structure on U.S. 63. The 1920 truss was later dismantled and moved south one mile to its present location, where it was re-erected on concrete abutments. It now carries county-road traffic in unaltered condition.

Why the North Skunk River Bridge was built using pinned connections instead of the riveted connections as drawn by the highway commission is not known, but it probably relates to cheaper costs for the former structural type. Today the bridge is distinguished as the longest example of its type. The subsequent move has diminished its historic significance somewhat, although in truth the new location is only a mile from the original and both cross the North Skunk River. A well-preserved, long-span example of what - through more recent attrition - has become a relatively uncommon bridge type, the North Skunk River Bridge is an important highway-related resource.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 9 Page 2 North Skunk River Bridge Mahaska County; Iowa

Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. 238030.

Mahaska County Supervisors' Minute Book: page 203 (7 February 1919), page 244 (22 June 1920), page 246 (13 August 1920), located at the Mahaska County Courthouse, Oskaloosa IA.

Report of the State Highway Commission, 1920, page 5.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 7 July 1992.