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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 Mill Creek Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Old State 21 over Mill Creek not for publication

city or town 2.2 miles north of Cherokee vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Cherokee code 035 zip code 51012

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 Chinko DSHPO 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: pinned Pratt through truss

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete filled iron

walls

roof

other Wrought Iron

Narrative Description

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

Located 2.2 miles north of Cherokee, the Mill Creek Bridge spans Mill Creek in a rural Cherokee County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 1 construction date: 1891
 span length: 128.0' construction cost: \$17,650.00 (multiple-bridge contract)
 total length: 207.0' current condition: fair
 roadway wdt.: 15.6' alterations: none

superstructure: wrought iron, 7-panel, pin-connected Pratt through truss, with steel stringer approaches
 substructure: concrete-filled iron cylinder piers; timber pile bent abutments
 floor/decking: timber deck over steel stringers
 other features: upper chord / inclined end post: 2 built-up channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 punched rectangular eyebars; vertical: 2 angles with lacing (2 looped square eyebars at hip); diagonal: looped square eyebar with unslotted turnbuckle; lateral bracing: round rod with threaded ends; strut: I-beam; floor beam: plate girder, field-bolted to vertical; portal builder's plate: 1891 / George E. King Bridge Company / Des Moines, Iowa

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENGINEERING

Period of Significance

1891

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

Significant Dates

1891 (construction date)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

designer:

George E. King Bridge Co., Des Moines IA

fabricator:

King Iron Bridge & Mfg. Co., Cleveland OH

builder:

George E. King Bridge Co., Des Moines IA

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.)

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	<u>15</u>	<u>293060</u>	<u>4738970</u>	2	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
	zone	easting	northing		zone	easting	northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 18 feet by 207 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	<u>Clayton B. Fraser</u>		
organization	<u>Fraserdesign</u>	date	<u>31 August 1994</u>
street & number	<u>1269 Cleveland Avenue</u>	telephone	<u>303-669-7969</u>
city or town	<u>Loveland</u>	state	<u>Colorado</u> zip code <u>80537</u>

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	<u>Cherokee County</u>		
street & number	<u>5078 Highway 3</u>	telephone	<u>712-225-4709</u>
city or town	<u>Cherokee</u>	state	<u>Iowa</u> zip code <u>51012</u>

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 Mill Creek Bridge Cherokee County; Iowa

"The most disastrous and harrowing calamity that has befallen this city and, in fact, all the country in the valley of the Little Sioux, occurred June 24, 1891, by reason of a flood which inundated the entire valley, carrying before it houses, barns, stock and property of every kind," reported a 1914 county history. The flood produced widespread damage throughout the county and capital city of Cherokee. "Every bridge in town is swept away," a reporter stated immediately after the flood, "and communication between the main part and the addition is difficult... The waterworks pump house is under water and all the bridges have been swept away. An effort was made to save the iron bridge across the [Little Sioux] river on Second Street by tearing off the planking, but soon after the work was completed the huge structure was seen to totter and fall. A large force of men are at work making a crossing near the planing mill and by tomorrow teams will be crossing. The county bridges spanning the river in this city are all out and communication with the country is only made by transferring people across by a small steamer." Cherokee County was faced with the daunting task of rebuilding virtually every major bridge in the county. On July 6th the Board of Supervisors convened a special session to receive competitive proposals for 11 new iron spans over the Little Sioux River and Mill Creek. The supervisors that day awarded a contract for all of the bridges to the George E. King Bridge Company of Des Moines for \$17,650.00. Using trusses fabricated by the King Iron Bridge and Manufacturing Company, parent to the Des Moines King firm, a King Bridge crew completed this 128-foot-span, pinned Pratt through truss along with the other bridges later that year. This bridge and a truss over Mill Creek northwest of Larrabee are the only two spans left from the extensive 1891 bridge construction. With both superstructure and substructure intact, the Mill Creek Bridge has retained an exceptional degree of physical integrity.

Virtually all of Iowa's in-state bridge contractors relied heavily on pin-connected Pratt construction for roadway trusses in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. So much so, in fact, that Pratts outnumbered all other types of bridges combined in the state during this period. The George King Bridge Company, a western satellite of the gargantuan King Bridge Company of Cleveland, typified this reliance on pin-connected truss construction, and several King-built through trusses have been identified in Iowa by the statewide bridge inventory. The Mill Creek Bridge is noteworthy as an early, well-preserved example of truss construction, erected by one of the state's most important early bridge contractor.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 9 Page 2 Mill Creek Bridge Cherokee County; Iowa

Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. 108950.

Thomas McCulla, *History of Cherokee County, Iowa* (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1914), pages 373-77.

Cherokee County Board of Supervisors Minute Book D, page 211 (6 July 1891), page 231 (8 October 1891), located at Cherokee County Courthouse, Cherokee IA.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 6 February 1992.