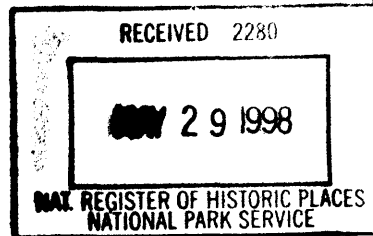


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**



780

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 Vine Street Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number South Vine Street over Otter Creek not for publication

city or town West Union vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Fayette code _____ zip code 52175

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 Orlowski NSHP 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 A. 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 Luten arch

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 in West Union, the Vine Street 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: 1 construction date: 1910
 span length: 66.0' construction cost: \$8475.00 (contract amount)
 total length: 66.0' current condition: good
 roadway wdt.: 40.0' alterations: none

superstructure: concrete Luten arch
 substructure: concrete abutments and wingwalls
 floor/decking: asphalt-covered earth fill over concrete
 other features: concrete guardrails with molded concrete balusters; builder's plate: BUILT BY N.M. STARK & CO. / DES MOINES, IA. / FOR FAYETTE COUNTY, IA..

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

1910

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

Significant Dates

1910 (construction date)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

designer:

N.M. Stark and Company, Des Moines IA

fabricator:

none

builder:

N.M. Stark and Company, 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 15 596320 4756740 2 _____
zone easting northing zone easting northing**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 42 feet by 66 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 City of West Union
street & number P.O. Box 151 telephone 319-422-3908
city or town West Union state Iowa zip code 52175

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 Vine Street Bridge Fayette County; Iowa

In 1910 the Fayette County Board of Supervisors received an urgent citizens' petition, asking for a permanent bridge to carry Vine Street in West Union over Otter Creek. The petitioners requested a 66-foot-wide structure to match the adjacent street width, and they concluded by saying, "This is a dangerous place, being located between two lines of Railroad track close together." Although the bridge was to be located within the corporate limits of West Union, the county agreed to construct it. In late winter of 1910 the supervisors solicited competitive bids to build the Vine Street Bridge. A contract was awarded that March to N.M. Stark and Company of Des Moines for \$8475.00. The award to Stark was hardly surprising. From about the turn of the century until 1913, Stark built almost all of the county's concrete and steel bridges, holding a virtual monopoly on Fayette County bridge construction and even providing the designs for most of the structures. The design that Stark used for the concrete arches was the patented elliptical arch of Indianapolis engineer Daniel Luten. Stark was a licensee for Luten, building Luten arches under a patent royalty agreement. The Vine Street Bridge was built by Stark that year. Since its completion, the structure has carried vehicular traffic, in unaltered condition.

N.M. Stark was vigorous in his promotion of concrete for bridge construction in the early 20th century. Touting the Luten arch as an economical alternative to the steel truss, he was the state's most prolific concrete bridge builder during this time. This was due in large part to counties such as Fayette, Story and Marshall, which built numerous bridges under essentially non-competitive contracts with Stark in the years around 1910. But the Iowa State Highway Commission regarded Stark - with his patented bridges and monopolistic county contracts - as an exemplar of the worst of bridge contracting in the state. Beginning in 1913, the highway commission aggressively attacked Stark and the Luten patent, eventually getting the patent declared non-valid in court and getting Stark indicted for bid-rigging. As a result, Stark's business plummeted, and one of Iowa's most successful bridge builders soon faded into obscurity by the early 1920s. The Vine Street Bridge illustrates Stark's construction of the Luten arch. With its trademark profile, it is a typically configured example of this widespread and controversial structural type. And with its 66-foot span, the Vine Street Bridge is distinguished as one of the longest-span Luten arches remaining in Iowa.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 9 Page 2 Vine Street Bridge Fayette County; Iowa

Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. 012570.

Fayette County Supervisors' Minutes Book 8: page 364 (27 June 1913), located at the Fayette County Courthouse, West Union IA.

Contract for Bridge (16 March 1910), located at the Fayette County Courthouse, West Union IA.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 18 October 1990.