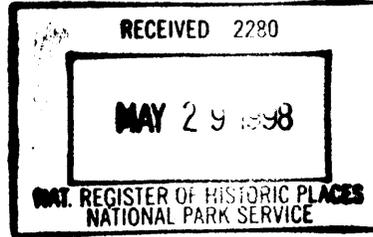


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



742

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 Rock Falls Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Spring Street over Shell Rock River not for publication

city or town Rock Falls vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Cerro Gordo code 033 zip code 50467

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 Oberlin DSHPA 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)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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 open spandrel 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 Rock Falls, the Rock Falls Bridge spans the Shell Rock River in a small-town setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 1, construction date: 1929, span length: 140.0', construction cost: unknown, total length: 142.0', current condition: fair, roadway wdt.: 19.7', alterations: none

superstructure: concrete, two-rib, open spandrel arch
substructure: concrete abutments with flared concrete wingwalls
floor/decking: concrete deck
other features: concrete balustrade railing with flared solid concrete panels at ends; sidewalk on south-west side; 1929 cast into guardrail at mid-span

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

1929

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

Significant Dates

1929 (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: C.A. Holvik, Mason City 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 493140 4783550 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 22 feet by 142 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 Robert Hybben, Charlene Roise and Clayton 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 City of Rock Fallsstreet & number P.O. Box 22 telephone 515-696-3455city or town Rock Falls state Iowa zip code 50467

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 Rock Falls Bridge Cerro Gordo County; Iowa

Dating from 1929, this long-span concrete arch carries Spring Street across the Shell Rock River in Rock Falls, a small community northeast of Mason City. Plans for the bridge, prepared by the Iowa State Highway Commission, were first drafted in September 1928, with revisions made the following February. Competitive bids were solicited by the county that spring, and on April 29th a contract to build this bridge and five others was awarded to C.A. Holvik of Mason City. Holvik began work on the substructure soon thereafter, completing the bridge later in 1929. Since then the Rock Falls Bridge has carried traffic, in unaltered condition.

Although state highway commission engineers typically used riveted steel trusses for medium-span river crossings in rural settings, they used concrete open spandrel arches for a number of urban and small town structures in the 1920s. The Mederville Bridge [CLAT15], built in 1918, was apparently the first of these, designed as an alternate to a steel truss bridge. This was followed by the Adair Viaduct [ADAI01] in 1923, the Iowa Falls Bridge [HARD04] in 1928, and the Cherry Street Bridge in Shell Rock [BUTL14] and the Rock Falls Bridge in 1929. By using open spandrel arches, ISHC could achieve a relatively long span at a reasonable cost, while contributing aesthetically to the urban settings in which the bridges stood. But given the restrictive parameters of the arches' use - urban setting, long-span crossing, sufficient vertical clearance - only a few were built during this period. The Rock Falls Bridge is distinguished as a well-preserved example of this application of urban bridge design. The centerpiece for this small town, it is a local landmark and an important transportation-related resource.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 9 Page 2 **Rock Falls Bridge** Cerro Gordo County; Iowa

Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure Number 009970.

Iowa State Highway Commission, "Design for 140' Reinforced Concrete Arch with 20' Roadway," September 1928, rev. February 1929.

Iowa State Highway Commission, **Weekly Letting Report** 17:16, page 2.

Field inspection by Danielle Johnson, 16 July 1991.