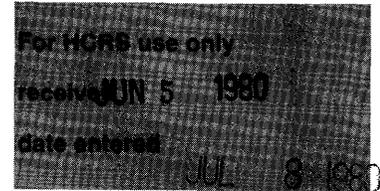


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Frank's Ford Bridge

and/or common Red Bridge (Olmsted Co. #L6322)

2. Location

NW of Rochester

street & number County Road 121 over South Branch of the Zumbro River, Oronoco Township not for publication

city, town Rochester Minn. vicinity of congressional district First

state Minnesota code 22 county Olmsted code 109

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Olmsted County

street & number Courthouse

city, town Rochester vicinity of state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Olmsted County Courthouse

street & number 515 Second St. SW

city, town Rochester state Minnesota 55901

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1979-80 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Frank's Ford Bridge (Olmsted County L6322) carries County Road 121 over the South Fork of the Zumbro River in a rural location approximately two miles downstream from the city of Oronoco. The main span is a metal pin-connected through truss of Pratt design, 72 feet long with a 16-foot wooden deck, mounted on four concrete-filled metal-plate caissons. The portal bracing members are elevated above the portal struts. In 1908 the bridge was washed downstream in a flood, then repaired and elevated, with all work being done by the original builder, Chicago Bridge & Iron. The main span has been connected to the original stone abutments by two timber-pile spans of more recent construction.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1895 **Builder/Architect** Horace E. Horton, Chicago Bridge & Iron

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Frank's Ford Bridge (Olmsted County L6322) is significant for its association with the bridge builder Horace E. Horton. Horton (1843-) was born in New York state but moved to Rochester, Olmsted County, Minnesota, about 1859. In 1867 he became county surveyor and also built his first bridge in the city of Oronoco, not far from the location of Frank's Ford Bridge. In Rochester, Horton formed the H.E. Horton Bridge Company and constructed many bridges in Minnesota and neighboring states. In 1889, in order to expand his business and increase his market area, Horton moved to Chicago where he formed the Chicago Bridge & Iron Company. He continued to build bridges in Minnesota and in 1895 contracted with Oronoco Township to build the bridge at Frank's Ford. Today this bridge is the oldest remaining of six metal through truss highway bridges in the county (the second oldest, 1898, is presently scheduled for demolition) and the only known through truss Horton bridge remaining in the county.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Imberman, Eli Woodruff. "The Formative Years of Chicago Bridge & Iron Company." 2 vols. Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Chicago, 1973.
 Minnesota Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory Sheet, Bridge L6322 (Olmsted County).
 "Summary of the bridge building activities of Horace E. Horton and the Chicago Bridge and Iron Co. in Olmsted County." Information packet prepared by Dr. Thomas B. Tomast

10. Geographical Data

c/o Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN 55901), April 1980.
 Copy in SHPO file

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Zumbro Lake, Minn.

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

A

1	5	5	4	3	0	1	0	4	8	8	6	2	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is bounded on the north and south by the right-of-way limits of Olmsted County Road 121, i.e., lines parallel to and extending 33 feet north and 33 feet south from the bridge center line; on the west, by a line perpendicular to the center line and 50 feet west of the exposed face of the west bridge abutment; and on the east, by a line perpendicular to the center line and 100 feet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries east of the exposed face of the east bridge abutment.

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert M. Frame III, Architectural Historian/Research Historian

organization Minnesota Historical Society date April 1980

street & number 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House telephone 612-296-9074

city or town St. Paul state Minnesota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Russell W. Fridley
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 5/30/80

For HCERS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 date 7/8/80
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: Kristin O'Connell date 6/30/80
 Chief of Registration