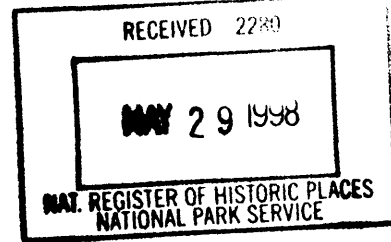


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Stewart Avenue Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number North Carolina Avenue over Winnebago River not for publication

city or town Mason City vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Cerro Gordo code 033 zip code 50401

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 Chalkley DSHPD 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):

Dean 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: concrete filled 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 Mason City, the Stewart Avenue Bridge spans Winnebago River in an urban setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 2	construction date: 1914
span length: 56.0'	construction cost: \$12,775.00 (contract amount)
total length: 116.0'	current condition: excellent
roadway wdt.: 35.0'	alterations: none

superstructure: concrete filled spandrel arch
 substructure: concrete abutments with solid concrete piers
 floor/decking: asphalt over earth fill
 other features: concrete balustrade railings with solid concrete panels at ends; projecting archivolt molding on both arches; projecting triangular panels articulating spandrels; bridge plate: **Designed by Iowa Highway Commission, Built by N.M. Stark and Company, Des Moines, Iowa**

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

1914

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

Significant Dates

1914 (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:

N.M. Stark and 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	<u>15</u>	<u>484530</u>	<u>4778020</u>	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 37 feet by 116 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 Mason Citystreet & number 19 South Delaware Avenue telephone 515-421-3605city or town Mason City state Iowa zip code 50401

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 Stewart Avenue Bridge Cerro Gordo County; Iowa

This concrete filled spandrel arch carries North Carolina Avenue, once known as Stewart Avenue, across the Winnebago River in a residential district in Mason City. Preparation for erecting this structure was well underway by November 1913, the date on plans produced by the Iowa State Highway Commission. For an unknown reason, however, it was not until February 1914 that the city petitioned the county for a new bridge across Lime Creek (now Winnebago River) on Stewart Avenue. The city promised to raise \$1500.00 toward the cost of construction if the county would move the existing bowstring arch-truss at that site to another location. The county opened construction bids for the new concrete arch bridge from nine contractors on March 23, 1914. Low bidder at \$12,775.00, N.M. Stark of Des Moines won the contract, which included an additional \$125.00 for removing the old bridge. Stark began work soon thereafter, and the county supervisors authorized the first payment to the company on June 2nd. The contract for providing fill for the bridge was awarded to Charles Smith on July 24th for \$930.00; in August the structure was opened to traffic. Stark built a number of bridges in Cerro Gordo County during the early 20th century, including another concrete deck arch in Mason City, the State Street Bridge [CERR26], in 1903. The Stewart Avenue Bridge continues to carry regional traffic in unaltered condition.

From its inception, the state highway commission was a strong proponent of the use of concrete for bridge construction. After ISHC's re-organization in 1913, the agency almost immediately began developing standard designs for small-scale concrete slabs and girders. For larger bridges - such as this structure in Mason City - the highway commission engineered special designs. The Stewart Avenue Bridge is one of several such concrete structures designed by the highway commission in the 1910s in urban and small-town settings. (The period in which ISHC used concrete arches was brief, as the agency turned largely to more efficient structures in the early 1920s.) The use of the concrete arch satisfied both ISHC's penchant for concrete and the agency's desire to incorporate an architectural expression into its city and town bridges. The highway commission was well aware of the precedent it was setting with the Mason City structure, featuring a picture of the new Stewart Avenue Bridge and the bowstring it replaced in its annual report for 1913-14. "Treacherous danger in the bow string bridge," the highway commission characterized the older structure in August 1914, "A beautiful concrete arch has just taken its place." With its integral light standards, balustrade railings and wide roadway designed for an interurban rail line, the Stewart Avenue Bridge well represents ISHC urban design of the 1910s.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 9 Page 2 Stewart Avenue Bridge Cerro Gordo County; Iowa

Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. 008140.

Cerro Gordo County Supervisors' Minutes, Book F: page 307 (2 February 1914), page 310 (23 March 1914), page 317 (2 June 1914), page 3280329 (24 July 1914).

Plans for Stewart Avenue bridge at Mason City Engineer's Office, Mason City IA.

First Annual Report of the Iowa State Highway Commission, 1913-14, page 63.

"Treacherous Danger in Bow String Bridge," Iowa State Highway Commission **Service Bulletin** 2:8 (August 1914), pages 7-8.

Field inspection by Danielle Johnson, 17 July 1991.