Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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STATE:	
	Minnesota
COUNTY	:
	Goodhue
	FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY D	ATE
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	FEB 2 0 1975
1. NAME	
Zumbrota Covered Bridge	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	
The Old Bridge	
2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: MOUSE AFF MN 58	
Zumbrota Covered Bridge Park, SEZSEZ Sec. 25, T110N, R	6W. Minneota Township
CITY OR TOWN: CONGRESSIONAL DI	,
Zumbrota First	
STATE CODE COUNTY:	CODE
Minnesota 2 7 Goodhu	9 049
3. CLASSIFICATION /	100550015
CATEGORY (Check One) OWNERSHIP	STATUS ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
	cupied Yes:
	occupied Restricted
	servation work X Unrestricted
	n progress No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)	()
☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☑ Park ☐ Then	ortation
	(Specif RECEIVED)
▼ Educational	
☐ Entertainment ☑ Museum ☐ Scientific	JAN 1 5 1975 A
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	[8]
OWNER'S NAME:	NATIONAL'
Village of Zumbrota	REGISTER Offinnes of
City Hall	les
CITY OR TOWN: STATE:	
Zumbrota Minne	ota 22
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:	Doods Q
Goodhue County Courthouse - Registrar of	Deeds
East Avenue and West Fifth Street	
CITY OR TOWN: STATE	CODE
Red Wing Minne	ota 22
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Building Survey and Statewide Historic	ric Sites Survey
Historic American Building Survey and Statewide Historic Parts of Survey: 1934/1974	County Local County Local County Count
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:	ric Sites Survey
U.S. Library of Congress/Minnesota Historical Society	
Building 25. Fort Snelling	
Building 25, Fort Snelling CITY OR TOWN: Washington/St. Paul D.C./Mini	esota 11/22

7.	DESCRIPTION							
		(Check One)						
	CONDITION	Excellent	🔀 Good	☐ Fair	Dete	riorated	Ruins	Unexposed
CONDITION	(Check One).			(Check One)				
		☐ Alter	red	▼ Unaltered			Moved	Original Site
	DESCRIBE THE PE	RESENT AND OR	GINAL (if kne	own) PHYSICAL	LAPPEAL	RANCE		

Minnesota's last remaining covered bridge, the Zumbrota Covered Bridge, is located in the village of Zumbrota in Goodhue County. In 1869, the Stafford Western Immigration Company contracted a member of their organization to construct the bridge. On its original location the bridge channeled the stage coach traffic between Dubuque, Iowa and St. Paul through the small village of Zumbrota.

The bridge was constructed at a cost of \$5800 by a local carpenter using the town lattice truss design. As initially constructed the bridge was built with white-pine timbers used for the structural supports and the floor, and the planks were pinned together with turned white-oak dowels. The dowels were soaked in linseed oil and coated with a red iron oxide in order to preserve them from the elements.

Shortly after the bridge was constructed, the Stafford Western Immigration Company enclosed it with weatherproof sides and portals and a low gabled roof with cedar shingles. A vertical board-and-batten exterior trim was added to the sides and portals. The enclosure was completed by 1871 and served to lengthen the life of the structural supports beyond their normal projected twenty years of serviceability.

The bridge has a span of one hundred twenty feet and is fifteen feet wide. The exterior was originally painted red, in later years it was painted white.

In 1932, when the covered bridge was replaced by the Minnesota Highway Department with a steel bridge that could handle the increased traffic, it was moved to the nearby Goodhue County Fairgrounds for preservation purposes.

The organization of the Zumbrota Covered Bridge Society began the community's efforts to preserve the last remaining covered bridge in Minnesota. Repainted red and reroofed with cedar shingles the bridge was moved to a permanent location in the Zumbrota Covered Bridge Park.

The bridge now stands approximately one thousand feet from its original location and will serve as the primary feature of the pioneer village which is being established within the park. The footings are still visible where the bridge once spanned the river.

The preservation of the covered bridge is assured not only by the community and the Covered Bridge Society, but also by the Goodhue County Historical Society and the Minnesota Historical Society which has contributed both support and technical assistance.



SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as A	Appropriate)		
☐ Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known) 1869-1	932	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropri	iate)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	▼ Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	Industry	· losophy	
☐ Agriculture	Invention	Science	
★ Architecture	Landscape	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	
☐ Communications	☐ Military	Theater	
☐ Conservation	Music	▼ Transportation	
			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Zumbrota Covered Bridge was erected over the North Branch of the Zumbro River in 1869. This bridge represents the only remaining covered bridge in Minnesota. Records indicate that only three covered bridges were constructed in Minnesota -- at Zumbrota, Waite's Crossing and Hastings.

Zumbrota was settled in 1856 by a group of immigrants from New England, organized as the Stafford Western Immigration Company. Two successive bridges of unseasoned timber served the village's main street until 1869, at which time the Company raised \$5800 for the erection of a more substantial bridge. The bridge was constructed by a local carpenter of white-pine timbers. Soon after the bridge was built the company voted money to roof and weatherboard the new bridge.

The Zumbrota Covered Bridge was maintained as a village bridge for over fifty years; the Zumbro River span on Main Street continued as part of the state highway system for another decade. In 1932, the Minnesota Highway Department constructed a new steel and concrete bridge over the Zumbro River, and the covered bridge was no longer needed for traffic. In order to preserve the unusual structure it was moved to the Goodhue County Fairgrounds and used as an exhibit area. The Zumbrota Covered Bridge Society was organized to preserve and interpret what has now become a Zumbrota landmark.

Considered a form of art by many, and a technical innovation when they were first built, covered bridges, like the Zumbrota Covered Bridge, represent the ideals, skills, and heritage of those New Englanders who were early pioneers in the settlement of the west.

The Historic American Building Survey of 1934 took note of the Zumbrota Covered Bridge in records now on file at the Library of Congress. A citation from Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes stated that "... the bridge is of exceptional historical and architectural interest and worthy of most careful preservation for the future."

JAN 16 1975 NATIONAL REGISTER

* MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL RE								
Allen, Richard Sander	s, Covered	Bridge	es of th	ne Midd	<u>le West</u>	, 1970		
Curtiss-Wedge, Frank1								
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NAME AND TITLE:					" Mary 11 78 Age			
David W. Nystuen,	Director of	f Field	d Servic	es		****		
ORGANIZATION						DATE		
Minnesota Historic	al Society		٠.,	no reconsider	1. 53	10/	10/74	
STREET AND NUMBER:								
Building 25, Fort	Snelling				3	1.		
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE		J 40.17	<u> </u>		CODE
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89-665), I hereby nominate this				-				
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evaluated according to the c-iteria and procedures set								
forth by the National Park Service. The recommended Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation					untion .			
level of significance of this no	mination is:		Director	, Office of .	Archeology	and Histor	ric Freser	4011
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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	Page					
Zumbrota Bridge	Goodhue County, MINNESOTA					
PROPOSED MOVE APPROVAL	Keeper Bell Boland 7/23/90					

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I have reviewed the documentation regarding the relocation of the Zumbrota Covered Bridge, and have determined that if it is moved as proposed, it will continue to meet the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places.

Mua M. Archabal 6/8/90 (date)

Nina Archabal State Historic Preservation Officer

Documentation on the Proposed Relocation of the Zumbrota Covered Bridge, Zumbrota, Goodhue County Minnesota

Prepared by Thomas R. Zahn & Associates, Inc. April, 1990

36CFR 60.15(2) (i) The reasons for the move.

The Zumbrota Covered Bridge in Zumbrota, Minnesota was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on February 20, 1975. In 1934 it was recorded in the Historic American Buildings Survey. The bridge is the only surviving covered bridge structure in the State and is significant for its Town Lattice Construction design and its exceptional workmanship. The architectural form of the covered bridge is a visual reminder of the New England land company that built the bridge and brought Yankee settlers to the town site. Over the years the bridge has become a community icon.

The bridge has survived because of local interest in preservation that dates back to the first move from its original site on the Zumbro River in 1932. Preservation interests in Zumbrota have seen to it that the bridge has been a central part of their community life at each of its new sites on the County Fair Grounds (1932-1970) and in the Covered Bridge City Park (1970-present). The proposed move is perceived by the community as yet another effort in preserving and interpreting the significance of the bridge in Zumbrota's history.

The State Highway Department required the first move of the bridge in 1932 when a new bridge was needed to accommodate the widened highway. At that time, the bridge spanned the River at Minnesota State Highway Number 58, an established route in the area since 1857 that connected Zumbrota's Main Street commercial district to the farming communities to the north. Zumbrota citizens raised half the cost of the 1932 move to the County Fair Grounds (the City Park did not yet exist) and the other half was paid by the State Highway Department. During its thirty-eight years on the fair grounds, the bridge served as an exhibit and storage facility and as a tourist attraction.

In 1963, the Zumbrota Covered Bridge Society was organized and plans were initiated to move the bridge to a location they felt would serve the community year round, as well as give the bridge a higher level of visibility. Plans made between 1964 and 1968 called for moving the bridge to a location over the Zumbro River within the boundaries of the proposed park. The excessive cost of relocating the bridge over the River curtailed the completion of the plan, and the bridge was moved in 1970 to a "dry dock" location within the recently acquired park. Since that time, the bridge has served as a shelter for special events and as a tourist attraction. The bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places at this site.

In June of 1988 the Zumbrota Park Board, as part of a plan to rejuvenate the City Park, again discussed the possibility of relocating the bridge to a location that spans the Zumbro River. Since that time, a landscaping firm has drawn plans for the enhancement of the park with trees and shrubs, bike trails and the relocation of athletic fields. The plan calls for the relocation of the bridge to a site over the Zumbro River that is roughly one block west of the original location on Highway 58/Main Street. The proposed bridge site would allow the bridge to function as a bridge again. The move is largely supported by the Zumbrota community and is perceived by most to be a "homecoming" for the bridge and an improvement on the present, rather artificial, environment.

The City would like to see the Park become more central to the city as a whole, linked to the south side by a pedestrian bridge that accesses West Avenue. A pedestrian bridge is perceived as safer than the other two crossings shared by truck and car traffic. The city pool, located north of the park area, is heavily used during the summer months by Zumbrota's young people, and would be safely accessible from the central town site via the walking bridge The use of the covered bridge as a pedestrian bridge is also highly desirable from an esthetic point of view, and will serve as a visual invitation to the park from the south side of the city and to vehicular passersby on Highway 58.

(ii) The effect on the property's historical integrity

When originally listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the bridge retained integrity of material, workmanship, and design and it was the intent of the nomination to protect that integrity. Since the bridge was listed on a non-original site, it had already lost integrity of location and association as defined by the National Park Service.

The repositioning of the bridge on the river may require additional lateral deck support, new approaches and safety appurtenances, but the move is not expected to alter the integrity of the material, workmanship and design for which it was nominated, because all such work associated with the relocation of the bridge will meet the standards of the Secretary of the Interior.

The Corps of Engineers recommends that the bridge, at the proposed site, be placed at a level above the hundred year flood level. Although not generally threatened at its present site on the flood plain, it has been estimated that the bridge has been exposed to flood level water four or five times in the last fifteen years. It might be expected that the bridge, at the new site, would experience less of an impact from periodic flooding.

Although the move to the new site will have no adverse affect on the integrity of material, design and workmanship of the bridge, it will have a favorable effect on the integrity of feeling and setting. Although the new location cannot duplicate, and does not attempt to duplicate the original setting, it has a similar character of place and esthetic sense since the bridge will again span the Zumbro River and will be visually associated with the same set of buildings that stood in the general area before its move in 1932. In addition to the similarity of setting, the bridge will again be positioned at a north-south orientation and will relate to a commercial street (West Avenue).

The present location, away from the river is rather artificial. The close proximity of residential housing built roughly between 1974 and 1985 has made the setting less sympathetic over the years.

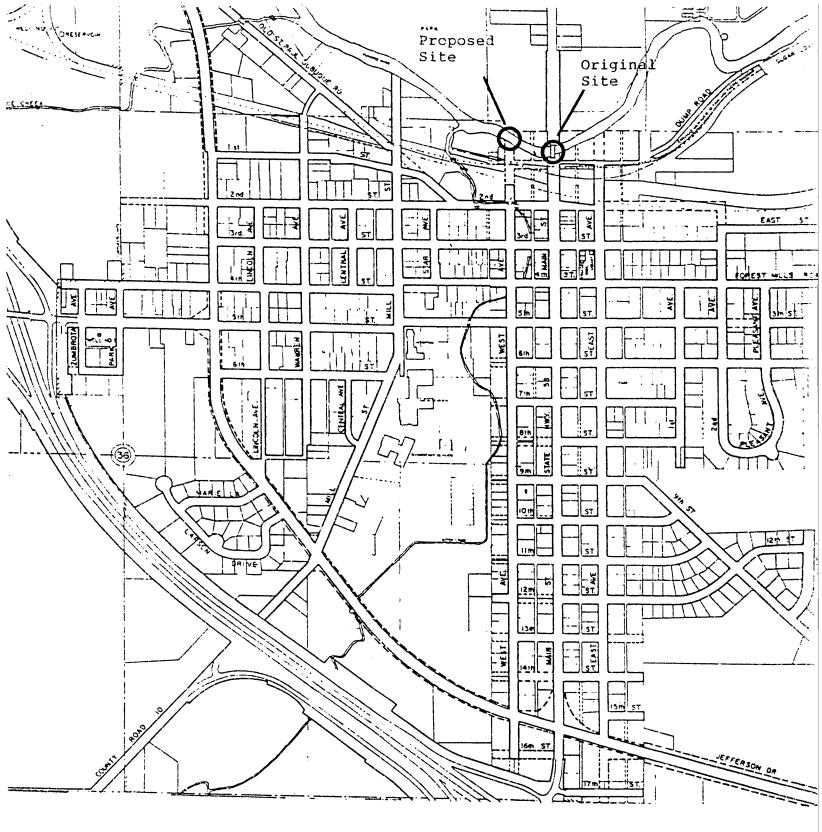
(iii) The new setting and the general environment of the proposed site.

The proposed site for the Zumbrota Covered Bridge is about 250 feet west of its original site on the Zumbro River. The bridge site will connect the City Park on the north bank of the river to the commercial district on the south bank. Natural trees and brush line both banks and care will be taken to preserve the natural environment. The area on the north bank of the river, until purchased by the City as park land, was pasture on the flood plain. The area on the south bank has been the northernmost fringe of the Zumbrota commercial district. The three railroads that traversed this end of town since 1878 (all since removed), served to link Zumbrota and the surrounding farming community to a larger trade area. The bridge, in its original location was an important link to the farming community to the north.

The proposed site is flanked by several buildings related to earlier railroad, milling and commercial activities and are the same buildings associated with the bridge at its original site. The buildings date from about 1880 to 1945, and except for a depot building that has been moved approximately 80 feet west from its original location and turned on it's axis, they are all on their original sites. Together, these buildings comprise a visually appropriate setting for the bridge.

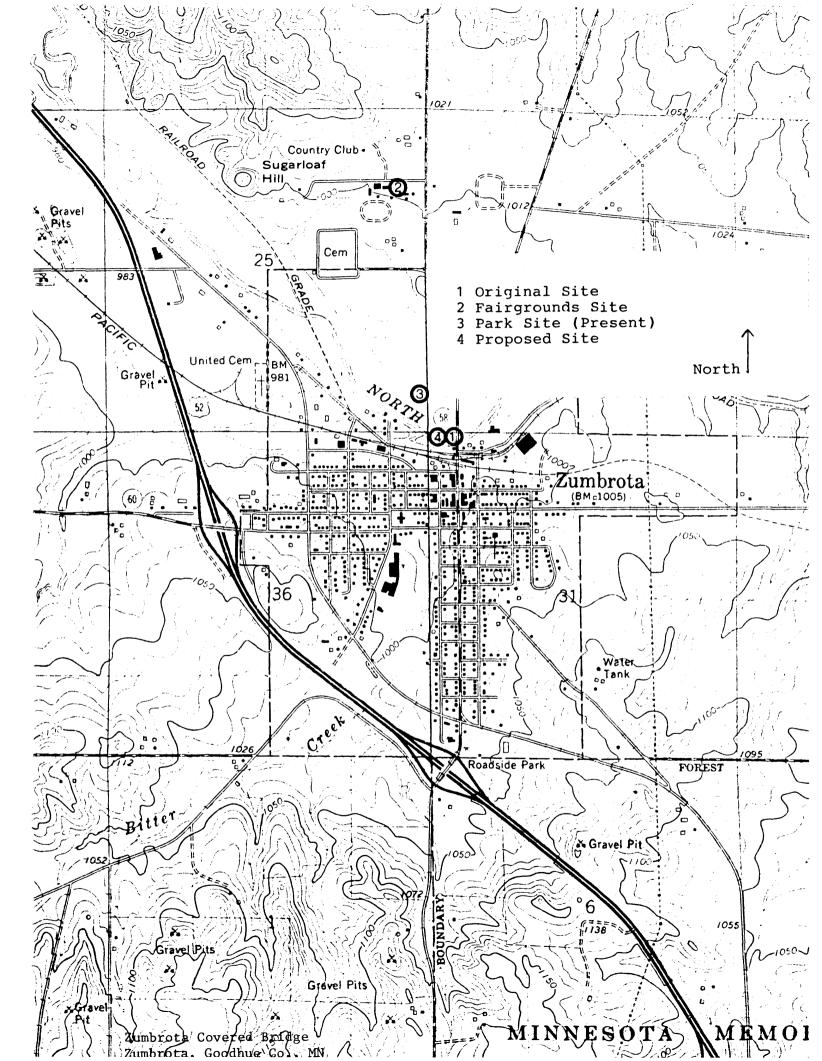
The installation of the new bridge will require some earth disturbance. The historical record indicates that the specific area of installation has been previously disturbed. Shortly after the turn of the century the area was disturbed when an early sewage line was dug to the river. When the Covered Bridge was originally moved in 1932, the area adjacent and east of the proposed site was disturbed to build the temporary bridge. Directly east of the temporary bridge site stood the old Fleischmann's Mill, which was demolished in 1947. More recently, in 1959, the area was disturbed by the installation of a City sewer line that crossed the river beneath the river bed and led to a sewage treatment plant. (See attached archeological assessment.)

iv. Photographs showing the original and proposed location (see attached)



ZUMBROTA, MINNESOTA

Zumbrota Covered Bridge Zumbrota, Goodhue Co., MN



A PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE ZUMBROTA COVERED BRIDGE PROJECT AT ZUMBROTA, MINNESOTA

by Kim C. Breakey Staff Archaeologist

Douglas A. Birk Principal Investigator

April 18, 1990

Institute for Minnesota Archaeology 3300 University Avenue Southeast Suite 202 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

Institute for Minnesota Archaeology Reports of Investigations Number 65



INTRODUCTION

The city of Zumbrota, Minnesota is relocating a covered bridge from its present location to the project area in the NE1/4 of the NW1/4 of the NW1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 31, T110N R16W Goodhue County, Minnesota (Figure 1).

The bridge will span the North Fork of the Zumbro River. River edges are known to be highly sensitive areas from an archaeological point of view and often contain unreported archaeological sites. Because of the proximity of the project area to the North Fork of the Zumbro River, the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office requested that a Phase I archaeological survey be conducted of the property that was to be disturbed.

Ernst Associates are engineering the bridge relocation and in April 1990 contracted with the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology to conduct the Phase I survey for this project. On April 6, 1990, IMA archaeologists conducted the field work for this project. Report prepartion was completed April 18, 1990.

PROJECT AREA AND FIELD METHODS

The project area is 60 by 30 feet on each side of the river for a total of 360 square feet. The entire project area was surface inspected, a total of five 40 x 40 cm shovel tests were excavated and the fill sifted through 1/4" mesh screen, and two cutbank profiles completed. Approximately 1/4 to 1/8 of the eastern edge of the project area had been previously disturbed by the construction of a sewer line.

The project area was divided into four subareas labelled A, B, C, and D (Figure 2). Area A is on the top terrace of the North Fork of the Zumbro. This area has been graded and levelled with fill. There were no intact subsurface deposits.

Area B is a manmade terrace composed of post 1940 garbage fill. One shovel test (ST #1) was excavated. ST#1 produced wire nails, modern food waste and miscellaneous glass and metal.

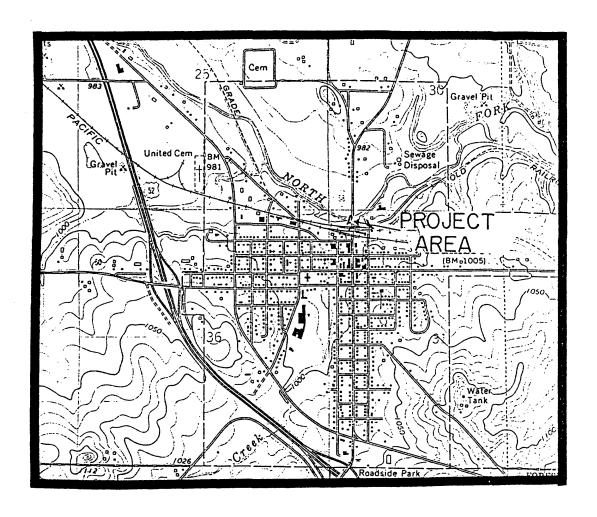
Area C is a sand and gravel terrace. A cutbank profile revealed about 65 cm of post 1940 garbage fill. Below this deposit the soils were silts with sand and gravel to 120 cm. All the fill below 65 cm removed for the profile was screened through 1/4" screen. Shovel Test #2 was excavated in area C. No cultural material was observed that was older than 1940.

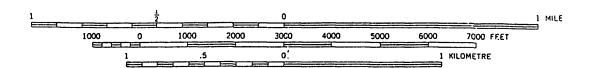
Area D is the present floodplain on the north side of the North Fork of the Zumbro River. Two shovel tests and a survey of the river cutbank were negative.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Although the project area is within an environmental setting that has a high potential for containing unrecorded archaeological properties, no cultural material older than 1940 were found during the course of this survey. We feel that the methods used during the survey were adequate to locate any sites if they were present. We conclude that no archaeological sites are present within the area that will be disturbed by construction and that no further archaeological investigations are required.

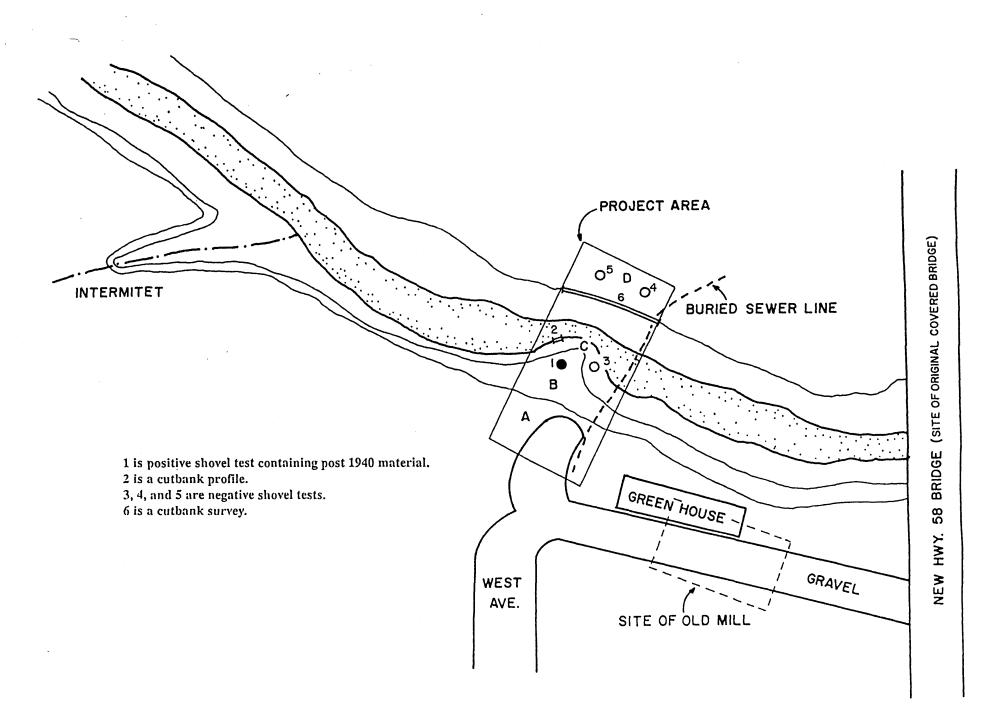
FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF PROJECT AREA

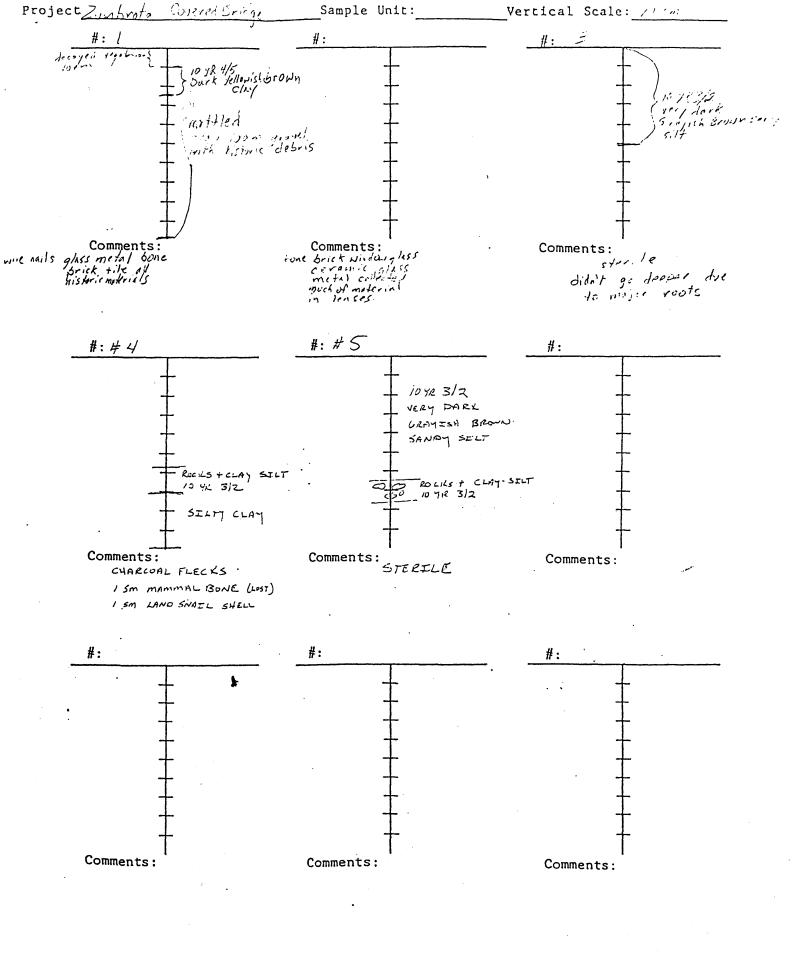




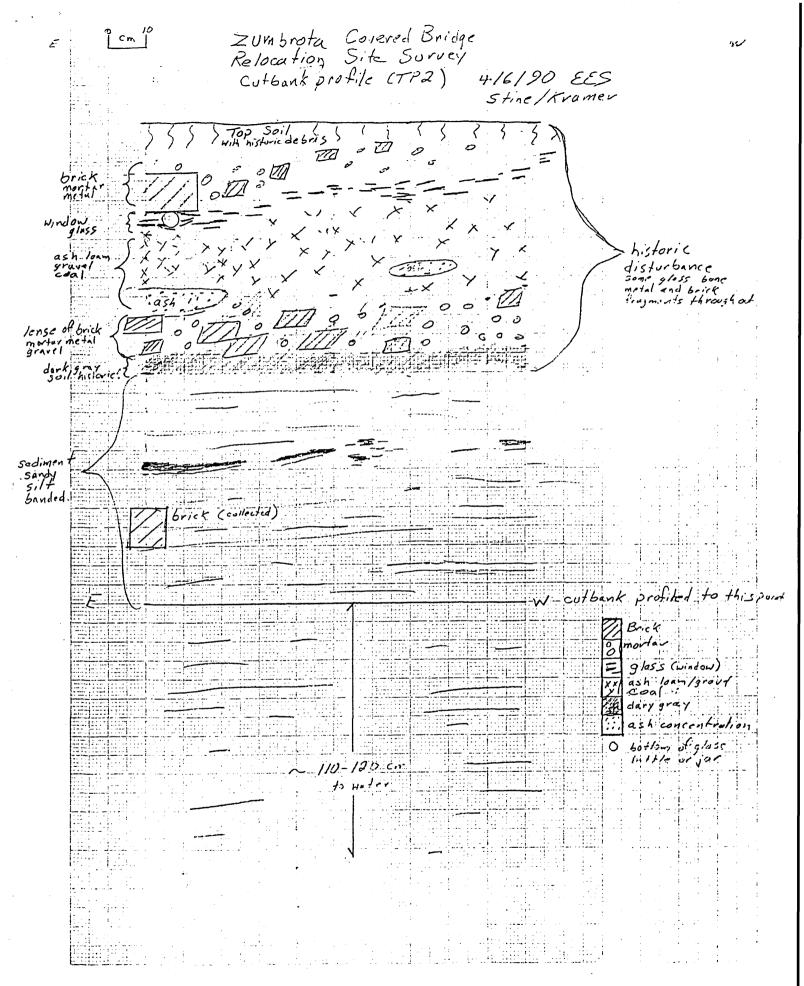








Date 4/6/96 Recorder STINE /KEAMER Page of 1



United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number ____2 Page ____1

Zumbrota Covered Bridge Goodhue County, Minnesota

2. Location

street & number:

West Avenue over the North Fork of the Zumbro River

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	10	Page	1
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Zumbrota Covered Bridge Goodhue County, Minnesota

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: .272 acres

UTM References:

Zone 15

Easting:

526330

Northing:

4904620

Ouad:

Zumbrota, Minn., 1968

Verbal Boundary Description: The general area of the property is a rectangle 16 feet wide and 120 feet long, whose long center axis parallels the centerline of the bridge, this bridge being located in Zumbrota, Goodhue County, Minnesota.

Boundary Justification: Based on measurements of the bridge, the boundaries enclose the entire historic resource.