SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 99001033

Property Name: Savanna-Sabula Bridge

County: Jackson    State: Iowa
          Carroll    Illinois

Highway Bridges of Iowa MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper: [Signature]  Date of Action: August 27, 1999

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 3 Certification

A check is, hereby, entered in the boxes for "nomination," "meets," and "statewide" to indicate the SHPO’s certification.

Section 7 Description

The section for Materials is hereby amended to include "steel" and "concrete" under the item for "other."

Beth Foster of the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)
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 on 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 “NA” or “Not applicable.” If 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 ____________________________
other names/site number ____________________________

2. Location

street & number ____________________________
city or town ____________________________
state / code ____________________________
county / code ____________________________
zip code __________

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.)

[Signature]
[Date]

State or Federal agency and bureau:

[Illinois Historic Preservation Agency]

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):

[Signature]
[Date]
Savanna-Sabula Bridge

Carroll County, Illinois
Jackson County; Iowa

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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)
Highway Bridges of Iowa

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: cantilever through truss

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls N/A
roof N/A
other N/A

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Located near Sabula, the Savanna-Sabula Bridge spans the Mississippi River in a setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 1; 2
span length: 520'; 390'
construction date: 1931-32
construction cost: $750,000.00 (approximate)
total length: 2461'
current condition: good
roadway wdt.: 20.0'
alterations: deck replaced

superstructure: steel, rigid-connected cantilever through truss
substructure: concrete abutments, wingwalls and piers
floor/decking: steel grid decking over steel stringers
other features: upper chord / inclined end post: wide flange; lower chord: 2 channels with batten plates; vertical: 2 channels with lacing (4 angles with lacing at hip); diagonal: 4 angles with lacing; lateral bracing: 2 angles with lacing; strut: 4 angles with lacing; floor beam: I-beam; guardrail: deep steel channel

Other than maintenance-related repairs and alterations, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Savanna-Sabula Bridge today retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.
# Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Criteria Considerations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consideration</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Removed from its original location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>A birthplace or grave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>A cemetery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>A reconstructed building, object, or structure.</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>A commemorative property.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Areas of Significance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENGINEERING</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Period of Significance**

1931-32

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

**Significant Dates**

1931-32 (construction date)

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

- **designer:** G.A. Maney, Evanston IL
- **fabricator:** Minneapolis Bridge Co., Minneapolis MN
- **builder:** Minneapolis Bridge Co., Minneapolis MN

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on continuation sheets.)

**Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- other
  name of repository:
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  less than one acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>734970</td>
<td>4665060</td>
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</table>

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 22 feet by 2,461 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 location
- A 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  Iowa Department of Transportation
street & number  800 Lincoln Way
telephone  515-239-1639
city or town  Ames
state  Iowa
zip code  50010

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
Bridging the Mississippi river between the two riverfront towns of Savannah (Illinois) and Sabula (Iowa), this long-span through truss carries U.S. Highway 52 and State Highway 64. The main section of the Savannah-Sabula Bridge is comprised of a series of three rigid-connected through trusses, with a 520-foot, cantilevered center span flanked on both sides by 390-foot anchor spans. All are supported by spill-through concrete piers. The bridge abuts directly into the cliffs on the east side; on the west side a simply supported, 280-foot through truss and a series of steel stringer spans form the approach. Although local citizens had been promoting the construction of a highway bridge at this location since the completion of the CM&StP Railroad bridge here in 1881, it was not until the early 1930s that the highway bridge finally began to appear feasible. The Savanna-Sabula Bridge Company was organized by local businessmen, stocks were sold in the summer of 1931 to fund the construction, and Evanston, Illinois, consulting engineer G.A. Maney was hired to design the proposed structure. The Minneapolis Bridge Company was hired to fabricate and build the bridge. Work on the substructure began on the Iowa side in 1931. The construction progressed through that year and the next. The bridge was opened to traffic in a dedication ceremony held on December 2, 1932. "Realizing the necessity of providing more adequate transportation facilities to keep up with the ever increasing demands of traffic," a dedication plaque states, "and desiring to stimulate still further commercial intercourse between the states of Iowa and Illinois as well as to provide for the comfort and convenience of the motor-traveling public, the citizens of the communities along this route have banded together in a common effort to turn their dreams into a reality." The Savanna-Sabula Bridge functioned for years as a toll bridge, until the stocks were eventually paid off and the structure was acquired by the states of Iowa and Illinois. Today it carries interstate traffic as a free structure, with the replacement of its deck as the only alteration of note.

"Construction of the Sabula-Savanna bridge across the Mississippi added employment in the first three years of the depression," the Iowa Writers' Project reported in 1942, "besides greatly augmenting the flow of east-west traffic through the county and thereby opening a new source of revenue - the tourist trade." Costing about $750,000, the bridge played a pivotal role in the development of transportation and commerce in the region, and for this it is historically significant. The Savanna-Sabula Bridge is technologically significant as a well-preserved example of large-scale highway truss design. Bridges over the Mississippi River comprise some of America's longest representatives of vehicular steel truss construction, and Iowa possesses a number of notable Mississippi River bridges. Eight of these, including the Savanna-Sabula Bridge, are included in the statewide historic bridge inventory. Although typically configured for a structure of its scale, the Savanna-Sabula Bridge ranks among Iowa's most monumental examples of steel truss construction.
Carroll County, Illinois
Jackson County; Iowa

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Section Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Savanna-Sabula Bridge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. 029940.


Iowa Writers' Project, "Jackson County History, Iowa," typewritten report, 1942.

Field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 10 December 1989.