



Indian Creek Bridge II

**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 Bridge

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Bertram St Indian Creek
—county road over unnamed stream not for publication

city or town 1.5 miles east of Cedar Rapids vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Linn code 113 zip code 45302

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 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): _____

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: pinned Whipple 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 east of Cedar Rapids, the bridge spans unnamed stream in a rural Linn County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 1 construction date: c1880
span length: 115.0' construction cost: unknown
total length: 191.0' current condition: good
roadway wdt.: 15.7' alterations: approach spans replaced, 1987

superstructure: wrought iron, 8-panel, pin-connected Whipple through truss, with four timber stringer approach spans on north end

substructure: main span: stone pier and stone abutment with wingwalls; approach spans: timber pile piers and timber pile bent abutment with timber back and wingwalls

floor/decking: timber deck over timber stringers

other features: upper chord and inclined end post: 2 channels with cover and batten plates; lower chord: 2 punched rectangular eyebars; hip vertical: 2 star irons; vertical: built-up I-beam; diagonal: 2 square eyebars; single-intersection counter: 2 looped square eyebars; double-intersection counter: 1 round eyerod with turnbuckle; timber railing; floor beam: I-beam, U-bolted and bolted to superstructure; top and bottom lateral: round rod; sway bracing: 4 angles with lacing; iron hip blocks and portal cresting; portal builder's plate: Wrought Iron Bridge Co. Canton, O./Builders/Patented Nov. 21st, 1876

Other than maintenance-related repairs and alterations noted above, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The 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)

TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

c1880

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

Significant Dates

c1880 (construction date)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

designer:

Wrought Iron Bridge Company, Canton OH

fabricator:

Wrought Iron Bridge Company, Canton OH

builder:

Wrought Iron Bridge Company, Canton OH

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 Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 15 617580 4646900
zone easting northing

2 _____
zone easting northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 18 feet by 191 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 Charlene Roise, Demian Hess and Clayton 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 Linn County

street & number 1888 County Home Road telephone 319-398-3445

city or town Marion state Iowa zip code 52302

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 Bridge Linn County; Iowa

This short-span through truss extends northwest-southeast across a stream in southern Linn County, about a mile east of Cedar Rapids. A plate located on the bridge's south portal notes that the Wrought Iron Bridge Company (WIBCo) erected the structure, using a design that it had patented in 1876. This bridge was presumably constructed shortly after the patent had been issued. WIBCO's patented design was a variation of a standard Pratt truss configuration, employing double-intersecting counter members which radiated outward from the center of the span. WIBCO used this unusual Whipple truss configuration on another Linn County bridge, the Upper Paris Bridge, which it constructed in 1879, and on other bridges in the state such as the Mead Bridge [BUTL07] in Butler County, built in 1878. The Wrought Iron Bridge Company was established in 1864 and was ultimately absorbed into the American Bridge Company in 1900. It was one of several Ohio companies that provided many of Iowa's early metal bridges. This early wrought-iron truss features four timber stringer spans at its north approach and is supported by a combination stone/timber substructure. With no alterations of note, the bridge continues to carry intermittent vehicular traffic.

In its extensive dealings with the Wrought Iron Bridge Company in the 1870s, Linn County was simply following a regional trend. As this county and hundreds of others in the Midwest contracted with the Ohio-based bridge company in the 1870s, Wrought Iron quickly became one of the largest fabricators in America. In addition, its president, David Hammond, distinguished himself as one of the country's most prolific bridge innovators. The counties and municipalities of Iowa were among WIBCo's best customers. The period of extensive rural road and bridge construction in the state during the 1870s coincided with the firm's ascendance in the industry, combining to create a booming market for WIBCo's regional sales representatives. The Ohio giant was extremely active in the region at this time. By 1885 WIBCo had installed 21,600 feet of bridges in Iowa: almost equaling the total output of WIBCo across America in its first nine years of business. Only New York, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois had purchased more structures from Hammond. That year WIBCo's bridges could be found in 41 of the state's 99 counties. Although these were distributed in all areas of Iowa except the northwest corner, WIBCo's strength clearly lay in the eastern part of the state. The Indian Creek Bridge typifies WIBCo's penchant for the esoteric. Although the company marketed bowstrings and single-intersection Pratt trusses extensively, it also experimented with other forms, such as this double-intersection Pratt. This bridge is significant as a well-preserved example of an uncommon early wagon truss configuration, built by what was perhaps the most influential bridge building in Iowa in the 1870s.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 9 Page 2 Bridge Linn County; Iowa

Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. 220850.

Victor C. Darnell, *Directory of American Bridge-Building Companies, 1840-1900* (Washington, D.C.: Society for Industrial Archaeology, 1984), page 48.

James L. Cooper, *Iron Monuments to Distant Posterity; Indiana's Metal Bridges, 1870-1930* (n.p., 1987), pages 63-4.

Field inspection by Charlene K. Roise, 28 September 1991.