

Freeport Bridge
Spanning Upper Iowa River
Decorah vicinity
Winneshiek County
Iowa

HAER No. IA-19

HAER
IOWA,
96-DECOR.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Engineering Record
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80537

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Freeport Bridge

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Location: Spanning the Upper Iowa River on unnumbered Winneshiek County road, 0.2 mile north of Freeport; NW1/4, NW1/4, SW1/4, Section 14 Township 98 North, Range 08 West. Decorah Township, Winneshiek County, Iowa

UTM: 15.601990.4795240

Quad: Freeport

Date of Construction: 1878

Designer/Fabricator: Wrought Iron Bridge Company, Canton, Ohio

Present Owner: Winneshiek County, Iowa

Present Use: Single-lane roadway bridge

Significance: The Freeport Bridge is one of the few unaltered examples remaining of what had once been the standard rural roadway bridge type of the 1870s in America, the bowstring arch-truss. This patented tubular arch design was marketed extensively throughout the United States and Canada by the Wrought Iron Bridge company, one of America's most important 19th century iron bridge fabricators. Among the bowstrings currently identified in America, the Freeport Bridge is second in span length only to a 183.5-foot structure in Blue Earth County, Minnesota, built by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company in 1873.

Report Assembled by: Clayton B. Fraser
Principal
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January 1986

For more information, see Lower Plymouth Rock Bridge, HAER No. IA-18

ADDENDUM TO
FREEPORT BRIDGE
Spanning Upper Iowa River
Decorah vic.
Winneshiek County
Iowa

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National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

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This appendix is an addendum to a 1-page report previously transmitted to the Library of Congress.

APPENDIX: ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Interested readers may consult the Historical Overview of Iowa Bridges, HAER No. IA-88: "This historical overview of bridges in Iowa was prepared as part of Iowa Historic Bridges Recording Project - I and II, conducted during the summers of 1995 and 1996 by the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER). The purpose of the overview was to provide a unified historical context for the bridges involved in the recording projects."

This bridge was also covered by the Structural Study of Iron Bowstring Bridges, HAER No. IA-90: "Three iron bowstring bridges, built by three Ohio bridge fabricating companies in the 1870s, were selected for engineering analysis and evaluation based on modern structural theory and structural theory as it was known at the time the bridges were constructed."