

**Site Inventory Form**  
**State Historical Society of Iowa**  
 (November 2005)

State Inventory No. 96-00749  **New**  **Supplemental**  
 Part of a district with known boundaries (enter inventory no.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Relationship:  Contributing  Noncontributing  
 Contributes to a potential district with yet unknown boundaries  
 National Register Status: (any that apply)  Listed  De-listed  NHL  DOE  
 9-Digit SHPO Review & Compliance (R&C) Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Non-Extant (enter year) \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Name of Property**

historic name North Bear Creek Bridge  
 other names/site number FHWA #349280; Highland 376

**2. Location**

street & number 360<sup>th</sup> Street over North Bear Creek  
 city or town Decorah  vicinity, county Winneshiek  
 Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name Highland Township No. 100N Range No. 7W Section 23 Quarter SE of Quarter SE  
 (If Urban) Subdivision Highland Block(s) 100N 7W 26 NE Lot(s) NE

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]**

**4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]**

**5. Classification**

Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property		
	If Non-Eligible Property Enter number of:	If Eligible Property, enter number of:	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	<u>1</u>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____	_____
	Total	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter "N/A" if the property is not part of a multiple property examination).  
 Title N/A Historical Architectural Data Base Number N/A

**6. Function or Use**

<b>Historic Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Current Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>14D04: Road-related bridge</u>	<u>14D04: Road-related bridge</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

**7. Description**

<b>Architectural Classification</b> (Enter categories from instructions)	<b>Materials</b> (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>09E01: Pratt through Truss</u>	foundation <u>10B: Poured concrete</u>
_____	walls <u>05A: Iron</u>
_____	roof <u>N/A</u>
_____	other <u>02: Wood</u>

**Narrative Description** ( SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria)

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	A	Property is associated with significant events.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	B	Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	C	Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> More Research Recommended	D	Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.

County Winneshiek  
City Decorah

Address 360<sup>th</sup> Street over North Bear Creek

Site Number 96-00749  
District Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

- 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.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

30: Transportation

**Significant Dates**

Construction date 1909  check if circa or estimated date  
Other dates 1950: Pier repairs

**Significant Person**

(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
Builder Clinton Bridge and Iron Works

**Narrative Statement of Significance** ( SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Bibliography  See continuation sheet for citations of the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form

**10. Geographic Data**

**UTM References** (OPTIONAL)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>610,570</u>	2	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Branden K. Scott  
organization Bear Creek Archeology, Inc. date June 21, 2013  
street & number P.O. Box 347 telephone 563-547-4545  
city or town Cresco state IA zip code 52136

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (Submit the following items with the completed form)**

**FOR ALL PROPERTIES**

- Map:** showing the property's location in a town/city or township.
  - Site plan:** showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
  - Photographs:** representative black and white photos. If the photos are taken as part of a survey for which the Society is to be curator of the negatives or color slides, a photo/catalog sheet needs to be included with the negatives/slides and the following needs to be provided below on this particular inventory site:  
Roll/slide sheet # \_\_\_\_\_ Frame/slot # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Taken \_\_\_\_\_  
Roll/slide sheet # \_\_\_\_\_ Frame/slot # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Taken \_\_\_\_\_  
Roll/slide sheet # \_\_\_\_\_ Frame/slot # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Taken \_\_\_\_\_
- See continuation sheet or attached **photo & slide catalog sheet** for list of photo roll or slide entries.  
 Photos/illustrations without negatives are also in this site inventory file.

**FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF PROPERTIES, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS WELL**

- Farmstead & District:** (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or noncontributing status)
- Barn:**
  - A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
  - A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
  - A sketch floor plan of the interior space arrangements along with the barn's exterior dimensions in feet.

**State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line**

Concur with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility:  Yes  No  More Research Recommended  
 This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluated by (name/title): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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North Bear Creek Bridge	Winneshiek
Name of Property	County
360 <sup>th</sup> Street over North Bear Creek	Decorah
Address	City

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The North Bear Creek Bridge is located northeast of the unincorporated village of Highlandville along 360<sup>th</sup> Street. Because Highlandville is unincorporated, it has a Decorah address. The bridge spans North Bear Creek approximately 3.1 km (1.9 mi) east of the intersection of Highlandville Road and 360<sup>th</sup> Street.

Based on an iron plaque on the top of the structure, the bridge was constructed in 1909 by the Clinton Bridge and Iron Works Company of Clinton, Iowa. This Pratt through Truss was constructed from iron. The bridge has a length of 36.6 m (120 ft). The length of the maximum span is 30.5 m (100 ft). There is only one span. The bridge is 4.9 m (16.1 ft) wide. It has an approximate height of 5.5 m (18 ft). The deck is comprised of two layers of wood atop steel girders. The piers are mixed steel cans and concrete, with the poured concrete occurring above the cans. It seems that the abutments have been repaired or replaced because the west abutment is abutments are mixed wood, stone, and concrete. The bridge elements are held by rivets. This bridge is listed as being structurally deficient.

This bridge was not investigated by Fraserdesign (1993) because the Iowa Structure Inventory and Appraisal sheet listed this bridge as being constructed in 1950. This bridge was also not investigated during the 2003 survey of Iowa bridges. Based on a personal communication with Camella Deiber (2013), the Louis Berger and Associates investigation did not select bridges documented as being from 1950. No field investigations were ever made of this bridge. Records held at the Winneshiek County Engineer's Office indicate that the date of construction was listed as 1950 on a Structure Inventory and Appraisal Sheet in 1973. A slightly later form lists the date of construction as 1909. The 1950 date was transcribed on nearly all subsequent forms. Based on conversations with the Winneshiek County Engineer (Lee Bjerke, personal communication 2013), the 1950 date likely refers to concrete work done on the piers. Additionally, Mr. Bjerke does not believe the bridge has ever been moved. The wood decking was replaced in 1978. It seems that this bridge was not inventoried by past researchers due to a clerical error.

Roberts and Fraser (1995:59) state that "through trusses, both pin-connected and rigid-connected form, constitute the single most technologically significant structural type among Iowa's vehicular bridges." They go on to state that these types of bridges were some of the most substantial bridges erected in a given county and all through trusses were included in the field survey sample (except the North Bear Creek bridge). The authors of the Multiple Property Submission set the period of significance between 1868 and 1945 (50 years ago when the submission was penned). Additionally, Roberts and Fraser (1995:45) state that integrity of the structure's historic materials and design are essential to qualify for the National Register of Historic Places. Location is the most important integrity factor when considering a bridge for Criterion A but metal truss bridge movement might be an important trait when viewing these bridges under Criterion C because they were designed to be moved (Roberts and Fraser 1995:45). As special considerations for eligibility under Criterion C, this bridge was constructed using rivets prior to 1913, a feature of early designs developed by the state engineer's office (Roberts and Fraser 1995:45). Furthermore, the Multiple Property Submission authors state that "since cast and wrought iron bridge members were virtually eliminated by the availability of steel by the 1890s, these bridges are extremely rare and worthy of preservation" (Roberts and Fraser 1995:45). The Clinton Bridge and Iron Works Company is also listed as a significant bridge builder in Iowa (Roberts and Fraser 1995:46).

Using Roberts and Fraser's (1995) scoring method for bridges, the North Bear Creek Bridge scores 64, making it a Category 1 eligible bridge. In Iowa, 34 Pratt through Truss bridges have been listed to the National Register. Of these, only 26 remain extant. Only six listed to the National Register were constructed with rivets and they date between 1910 and 1914 (Upper Iowa Bridge, Boone Bridge, Hawkeye Creek Bridge, Klondike Bridge, Toledo Bridge, and Lower Bluffton Bridge; the Lower Bluffton bridge has been removed). The construction of the North Bear Creek Bridge in 1909 predates the aforementioned significant bridges. Also, four of the riveted Pratt through Truss bridges listed to the National Register of Historic Places were constructed by the Clinton Bridge and Iron Works Company. There is precedent for listing this type of bridge to the National Register and historic contexts have already been developed for this bridge type in Iowa (Roberts and Fraser 1995).

# Iowa Site Inventory Form Continuation Sheet

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North Bear Creek Bridge	Winneshiek
Name of Property	County
360 <sup>th</sup> Street over North Bear Creek	Decorah
Address	City

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References:

Fraserdesign

1993 *Statewide Historic Engineering Survey of Road Bridges (Built Prior to 1945)*. Completed for the Iowa Department of Transportation, Ames.

Roberts, John J., and Clayton B. Fraser

1995 Multiple Property Documentation Form: Highway Bridges In Iowa 1868–1945. Fraserdesign, Loveland, Colorado.

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
 State Historical Society of Iowa  
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Site Number 96-00749

Related District Number \_\_\_\_\_

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North Bear Creek Bridge

Winneshiak

Name of Property

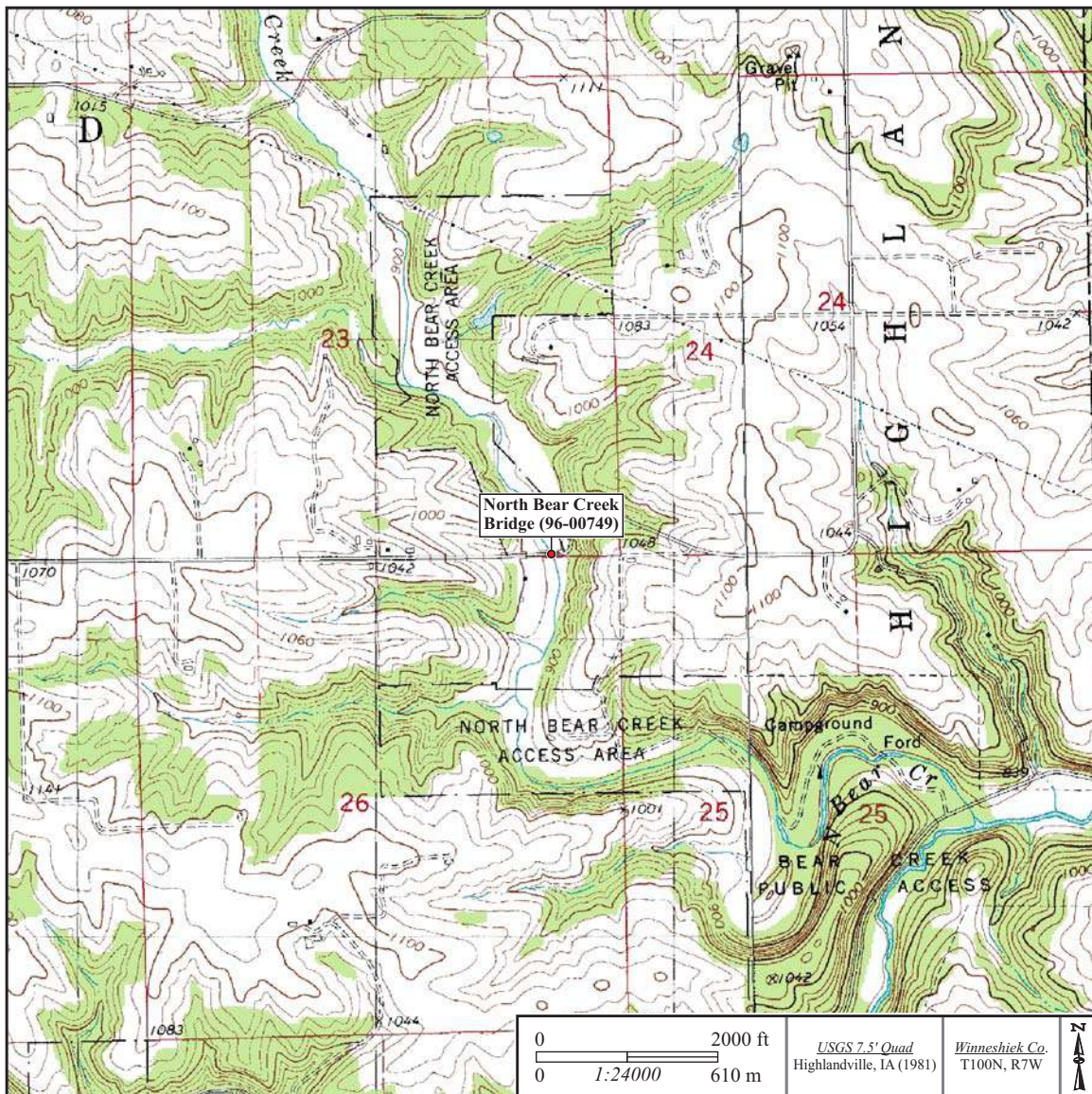
County

360<sup>th</sup> Street over North Bear Creek

Decorah

Address

City



**Topographic coverage of the bridge.**

Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
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North Bear Creek Bridge	Winneshiek
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Scale map of the bridge.

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**Profile of the bridge. View to the north (6/20/13).**



**Eastern approach to the bridge. View to the west (6/20/13).**

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North Bear Creek Bridge  
Name of Property  
360<sup>th</sup> Street over North Bear Creek  
Address

Winneshiek  
County  
Decorah  
City



**Western approach to the bridge. View to the east (6/20/13).**



**Coverage of the bridge substructure. View to the east (6/20/13).**