

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



529

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 Chain Lakes Bridge

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number pedestrian trail over Cedar River ☐ not for publication

city or town 4.0 miles west of Hiawatha ☒ vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Linn code 113 zip code 52233

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.)

Patricia Osterking DSHPO 4-7-98  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

**STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA**  
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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Ball 5.15.98

**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/pedestrian-related

**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

other: pinned Pratt through trusses

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls

roof

other Wrought iron

**Narrative Description**

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

Located west of Hiawatha, the Chain Lakes Bridge spans the Cedar River in a rural setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 2 construction date: 1884  
span length: 165.0' construction cost: unknown  
total length: 370.0' current condition: good  
roadway wdt.: 15.0' alterations: chain link fence railings added

superstructure: wrought iron, 9-panel, pin-connected Pratt through trusses, with 2 timber stringer approach spans to the north

substructure: stone (south) and timber (north) abutments and wingwalls with stone and timber pile bent piers

floor/decking: timber deck over timber stringers

other features: upper chord and inclined end post: 2 channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 punched rectangular eyebars; vertical: 2 channels with lacing; diagonal: 2 punched rectangular eyebars; center panel counter: 2 looped round eyerods with turnbuckles; adjacent panel counter: 1 looped round rod with turnbuckle; floor beam: tapered "fish-tail" plate girder, U-bolted to superstructure; top and bottom lateral bracing: round rod; portal bracing: 2 angles with bar lattice and diagonals; sway bracing: 2 channels/lacing

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

ENGINEERING

**Period of Significance**

1884

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

**Significant Dates**

1884 (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:

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 8 Page 1 Chain Lakes Bridge Linn County; Iowa

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The Chain Lakes Bridge is a substantial two-span structure over the Cedar River northwest of Cedar Rapids, just south of the small community of Palo. The bridge now serves pedestrians visiting a nature area maintained by the Linn County Conservation Board. A picnic area and boat landing are near the bridge's south approach; the northern bank is heavily wooded. County board minutes are somewhat unclear about the history of this bridge, but planning for it apparently began in the early 1880s. In June 1880 the Board of Supervisors appropriated \$20,000.00 for this two-span, pinned Pratt truss on massive stone abutments and piers. Information regarding bridge construction is not included in subsequent board minutes. Recent file notations, apparently made by the county engineer's office, record the contractor as the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, and the date of erection as 1884. This information came from a now-removed bridge plate. The Wrought Iron Bridge Company was organized by David Hammond in 1864, and incorporated in 1871. It was active in Linn County from at least 1879, receiving contracts for a number of bridges. In 1900, the company was absorbed by the American Bridge Company.

With virtually all of the in-state and national bridge companies promoting it, the pin-connected Pratt through truss was the steel bridge of choice for medium- and large-scale crossings in Iowa in the late 19th century. Thousands of such spans were erected on the state's road system during this period of intense bridge construction activity, and today they remain the most populous structural type remaining from the 19th century. The Chain Lakes Bridge is distinguished among these for its two-span configuration, its early erection date and its outstanding state of preservation.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section Number 9 Page 2 Chain Lakes Bridge Linn County; Iowa

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Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. 221850.

Linn County Bridges, Supervisors' Proceedings, 1843-1900: page 149 (July 1879), page 152 (June 1880), and page 164 (June 1881), located at the Linn County Engineer's Office, Cedar Rapids IA.

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

Field inspection by Charlene K. Roise, 27 September 1991.

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property less than one acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 15 601340 4655800  
zone easting northing2 15 601340 4655910  
zone easting northing**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 17 feet by 370 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 Robert Hybben, Charlene Roise and Michelle Crow-Dolby  
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 locationA **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 Conservation Commission  
street & number 1890 County Home Road telephone 319-398-3505  
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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Chain Lakes Bridge  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Highway Bridges of Iowa MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Linn

DATE RECEIVED: 4/17/98 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/28/98  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/14/98 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/01/98  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000529

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 5.15.98 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

## CLG NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW

CLG Name Linn County Date of Public Meeting 1/22/96Property Name Chain Lakes Bridge Address pedestrian trail over Cedar River  
4 mi west of Hiawatha, IA

1. For Historic Preservation Commission:

- ☒ Recommendation of National Register eligibility  
☐ Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature *Anne Arnold* Date 1-24-96

Reason(s) for recommendation:

2. For Chief Elected Local Official:

- ☒ Recommendation of National Register eligibility  
☐ Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature *Lynn E. Dost* Date 1/31/96

Reason(s) for recommendation:

3. Professional Evaluation Name *Leah D. Rogers*

- ☒ Recommendation of National Register eligibility  
☐ Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature *Leah D. Rogers* Date 1-22-96

Reason(s) for recommendation:

*Concur with nomination*

RETURN TO:

KERRY C MCGRATH, STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA, NEW HISTORICAL BUILDING,  
600 EAST LOCUST, DES MOINES IA 50319-0290



CHAIN LAKES BRIDGE

(FHWA No. 221850)

LINN COUNTY, IOWA

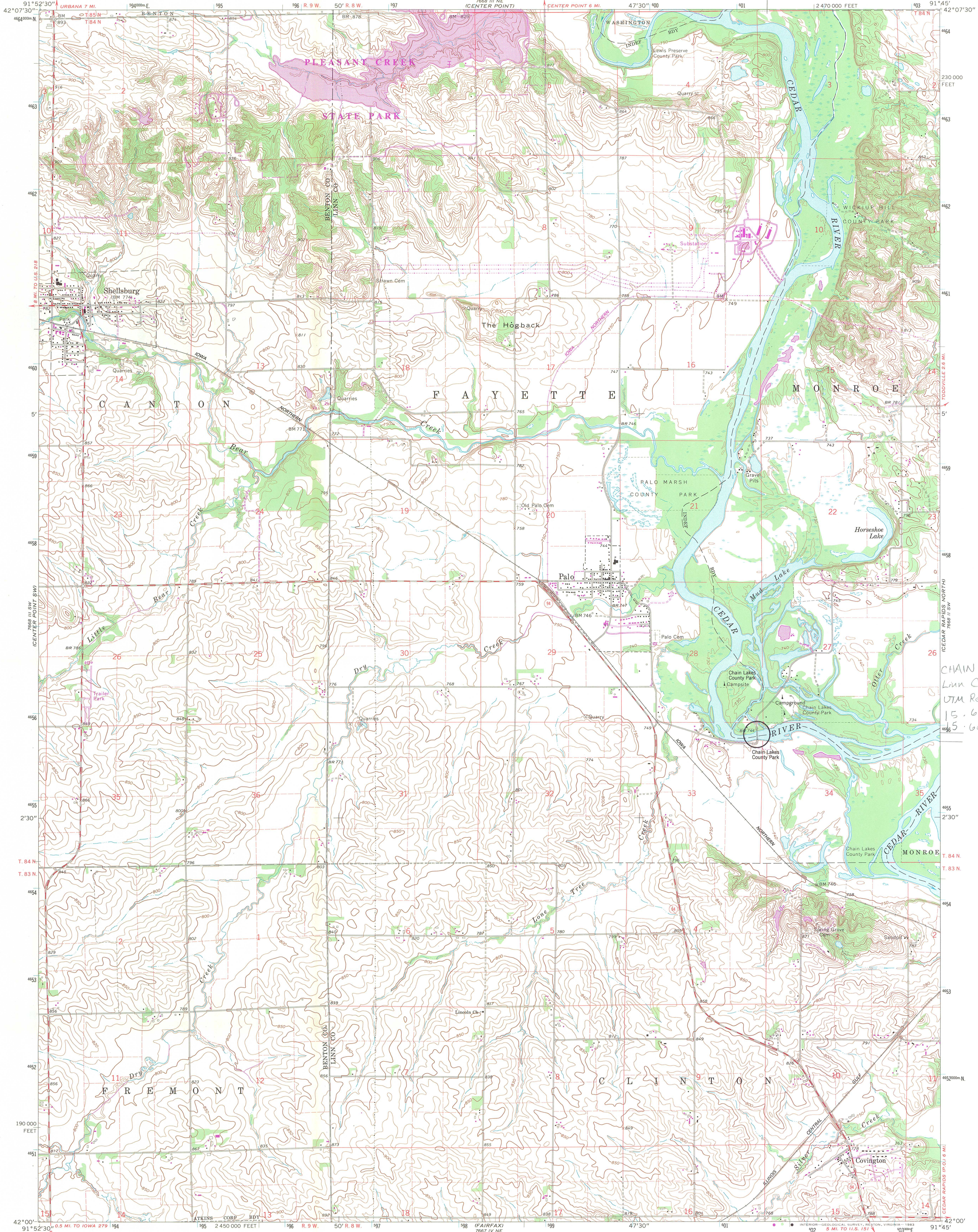
CHARLENE K. ROISE, FRASERDESIGN

27 SEPTEMBER 1991

7/14/02

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SHELLSBURG QUADRANGLE  
IOWA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



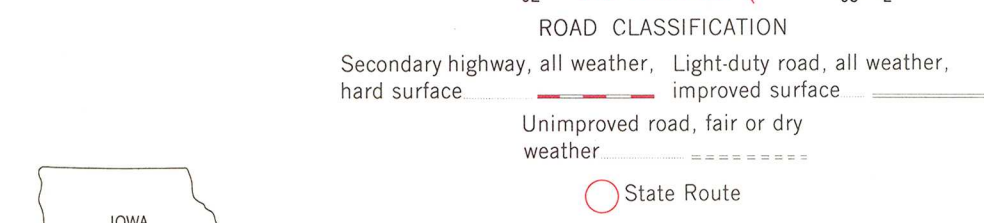
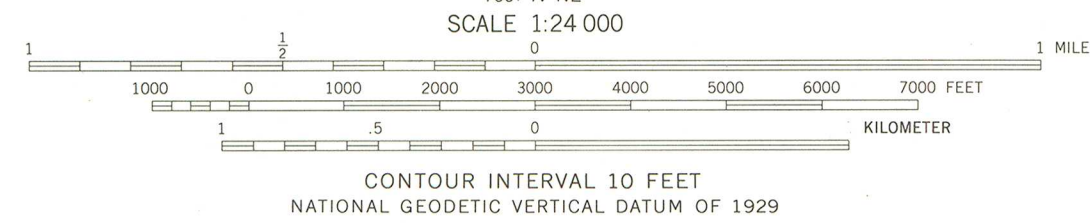
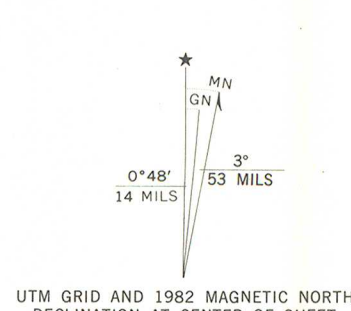
CHAIN LAKES BRIDGE  
Linn County, IA  
UTM References:  
15 601390.4655800  
46 5 601390.4655910

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1965. Field checked 1968

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Iowa coordinate  
system, north zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid  
ticks, zone 15, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum. To  
place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection  
lines 4 meters north and 14 meters east as shown by  
dashed corner ticks

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND BY THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from  
aerial photographs taken 1980 and other sources. This  
information not field checked. Map edited 1982

SHELLSBURG, IOWA  
N4200-W9145/7.5  
1968  
PHOTOREVISED 1982  
DMA 7668 III SE-SERIES V876