United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Frank's Ford Bridge
and/or common Red Bridge (Olmsted Co. #L6322)

2. Location

County Road 121 over South Branch of the Zumbro River, Oronoco Township

3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>X public</td>
<td>occupied</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>in process</td>
<td>yes: restricted</td>
<td>government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>being considered</td>
<td>X yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>industrial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>no</td>
<td>military</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Owner of Property

name Olmsted County

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Olmsted County Courthouse

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes X no
date 1979-80 federal X state county local
depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society -- 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota 55102
Frank's Ford Bridge (Olmsted County L6322) carries County Road 121 over the South Fork of the Zumbro River in a rural location approximately two miles downstream from the city of Oronoco. The main span is a metal pin-connected through truss of Pratt design, 72 feet long with a 16-foot wooden deck, mounted on four concrete-filled metal-plate caissons. The portal bracing members are elevated above the portal struts. In 1908 the bridge was washed downstream in a flood, then repaired and elevated, with all work being done by the original builder, Chicago Bridge & Iron. The main span has been connected to the original stone abutments by two timber-pile spans of more recent construction.
8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>__ prehistoric __</td>
<td>__ archeology-prehistoric __</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__ 1400-1499 __</td>
<td>__ archeology-historic __</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__ 1500-1599 __</td>
<td>__ agriculture __</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__ 1600-1699 __</td>
<td>__ architecture __</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__ 1700-1799 __</td>
<td>__ art __</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__ X 1800-1899 __</td>
<td>__ commerce __</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__ 1900- __</td>
<td>__ communications __</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specific dates 1895  
Builder/Architect Horace E. Horton, Chicago Bridge & Iron

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Frank's Ford Bridge (Olmsted County L6322) is significant for its association with the bridge builder Horace E. Horton. Horton (1843- ) was born in New York state but moved to Rochester, Olmsted County, Minnesota, about 1859. In 1867 he became county surveyor and also built his first bridge in the city or Oronoco, not far from the location of Frank's Ford Bridge. In Rochester, Horton formed the H.E. Horton Bridge Company and constructed many bridges in Minnesota and neighboring states. In 1889, in order to expand his business and increase his market area, Horton moved to Chicago where he formed the Chicago Bridge & Iron Company. He continued to build bridges in Minnesota and in 1895 contracted with Oronoco Township to build the bridge at Frank's Ford. Today this bridge is the oldest remaining of six metal through truss highway bridges in the county (the second oldest, 1898, is presently scheduled for demolition) and the only known through truss Horton bridge remaining in the county.
9. Major Bibliographical References

Minnesota Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory Sheet, Bridge L6322 (Olmsted County).
"Summary of the bridge building activities of Horace E. Horton and the Chicago Bridge and Iron Co. in Olmsted County." Information packet prepared by Dr. Thomas B. Tomasik

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: less than one

Quadrangle name: Zumbro Lake, Minn.

UMT References:

A | B
---|---
1,5 | 5

Zone Easting Northing

C | D
---|---
3,0 | 4

Zone Easting Northing

E | F
---|---
1,0 | 8

Zone Easting Northing

G | H
---|---
2,0 | 6

Zone Easting Northing

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Verbal boundary description and justification: The nominated property is bounded on the north and south by the right-of-way limits of Olmsted County Road 121, i.e., lines parallel to and extending 33 feet north and 33 feet south from the bridge center line; on the west, by a line perpendicular to the center line and 50 feet west of the exposed face of the west bridge abutment; and on the east, by a line perpendicular to the center line and 100 feet east of the exposed face of the east bridge abutment.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries:

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By
name/title: Robert M. Frame III, Architectural Historian/Research Historian
organization: Minnesota Historical Society
date: April 1980
street & number: 240 Summit Avenue-Hill House
telephone: 612-296-9074
city or town: St. Paul
state: Minnesota

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature: Russell W. Fridley
title: State Historic Preservation Officer
date: 5/30/80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register:

Keeper of the National Register
Attorney:

Certified of Registration