

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic The Arches

and/or common The Arches

2. Location

street & number County Road 120 N/A not for publication

city, town Lewiston X vicinity of congressional district N/A

state Minnesota code 22 county Winona code 169

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: Bridge

4. Owner of Property

name Chicago & North Western Transportation Company

street & number 165 North Canal Street

city, town Chicago N/A vicinity of state Illinois

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Winona County Courthouse - Recorder's Office

street & number West 3rd Street

city, town Winona state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society - Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul state Minnesota

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The twin vaulted limestone railroad bridge, known as The Arches, spans County Road 120 and Garvin Brook in Farmers Community Park. The park is located approximately two and one-half miles east of Lewiston, in Winona County, Minnesota.

The Arches were built in 1882 by the Winona and St. Peter Railroad Company (now the Chicago North Western Railroad) under the direction of Alex Doig. Doig, a Dundee, Scotland native, arrived in Winona in 1865 where he channeled his skills as a housebuilder into those of bridge builder, eventually becoming foreman for the Bridge and Builders Department of the Winona and St. Peter Railroad. Using native dolomite limestone quarried from a nearby site owned by the railroad, skilled stone-masons hand cut the stone which form the paired, barrel vault bridge. The Arches are approximately 40 feet high and 70 feet long, terminating on the east by a curved stone abutment. A limestone retaining wall, visible on the northerly bank, stretches several hundred yards beyond the west abutment. The span of each arch is approximately 30 feet with a vault depth of 72 feet. A dated keystone is at the apex of the westerly arch. The Arches are in fair condition and are unaltered from their original design.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1882 **Builder/Architect** attributed to Alex Doig

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The century-old stone railroad bridge known as The Arches is significant as a unique example of nineteenth century engineering and as an important element in the development of Winona County's transportation system. Constructed by the Winona and St. Peter Railroad Company, the stone bridge replaced an earlier wooden trestle which had carried the first passenger train from Winona to Stockton in 1862. By 1867, the railroad had come under the control of the Chicago and North Western Railroad Company and had expanded the line from Chicago west to Lake Kampeska. The rolling hills of Winona County create the steepest incline along the Chicago and North Western line approaching The Arches. Along the seven mile stretch of tracks, the grade averages a four percent incline, rising in places to as much as seven percent. The arches were constructed in 1882 using native dolomite limestone quarried from a nearby site owned by the railroad. Skilled stonemasons, under the direction of Alex Doig, hand cut each stone. The unique twin vaulted bridge spans a quiet road and Garvin Brook within Farmer's Community Park near Lewiston, Minnesota. Long recognized as a community landmark, the integrity and originality of the bridge's design make The Arches a significant and distinctive feature of the natural landscape.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Century Old: The Arches." Winona Daily News, 29 November 1982.

History of Winona County. Chicago: H. H. Hill & Co., 1883.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Rollingstone

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A

1	1	5
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5	9	1	5	1	1	4	1	0
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4	1	8	7	1	2	5	1	0	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet - page 1

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Camille Kudzia, Preservation Consultant

organization N/A date January 1984

street & number 2110 - 24th Avenue South telephone 612/338-6123

city or town Minneapolis 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

title Russell W. Fridley, State Historic Preservation Officer date

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

IV. NEWSPAPERS

The following newspapers were searched for the dates listed.

St. Charles Times, May 19, - June 23, 1882. (E)

St. Charles Union, August 15, 1890 - February 10, 1893; Jan. 1, -
March 29, 1895, intermittently. (E)

The following issues yielded especially significant data:

"The Fire Fiend" St. Charles Times, May 1, 1891. (E)

"St. Charles Scorched." Winona Daily Republican, April 27, 1891. (H)

"Local News." St. Charles Union, May 8, 1891. (E)

"Century Old: The Arches." Winona Daily News, November 29, 1982. (H)

"Holy Trinity Church to Note 100th Anniversary." Winona Daily News,
November 23, 1964. (H)

"State to Preserve Old Stone House." Winona Daily News, March 13, 1959 (H)

"History of Utica Township." Lewiston Journal, August 1, 1958. (H)

V. DEEDS AND TAX RECORDS

St. Charles City Assessor, Tax Records. St. Charles City Hall, St.
Charles, Minnesota (G)

Winona County Recorders Office, Deeds. Winona County Courthouse,
Winona, Minnesota. (I)

VI. MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

Frame, Robert M. III. Minnesota Flour Milling Research Files. "Winona
County File." MHS., Archives and Manuscript Division, (A)

Letter from Mr. Frank Searchy. March 28, 1984.

Minnesota Federal Census Records. "1880 Manufacturing Census, Winona
County." MHS., Archives and Manuscripts Division (A)

Personal Reminiscences of Florence Bird Tracy. Nichols Farmstead,
Saratoga Township, Winona County. MHS., SHPO Files. (C)

WPA Historical Records Survey. Extracts, Proceedings of the Board of
County Commissioners, Winona County. MHS., Archives and Manuscripts. (A)

VII. INTERVIEWS

Telephone interview with Mr. Myrton Stoos. February 18, 1984.

Telephone interview with Mr. Frank Searchy. March 15, 1984.

Telephone interview with Mrs. Barbara Larson. December 6, 1983.

Personal interview with Miss. Gladys Nichols. October 18, 1983.

VIII. PHOTOGRAPHS

The following collections in the Minnesota Historical Society's audio visual library were examined for relevant photographs.

Winona County, Minnesota (B)

Winona County, Minnesota - St. Charles (B)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

The Arches

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

Verbal Boundary Description

Commencing at the junction of County Road 120 and U.S. Highway 14; thence northeasterly approximately 500 feet along the center of said County Road 120 to the point of true beginning of parcel described therein; thence northeasterly 60 feet; thence southeasterly 120 feet; thence southwesterly 120 feet; thence northwesterly 120 feet; thence northeasterly 60 feet to point of beginning.