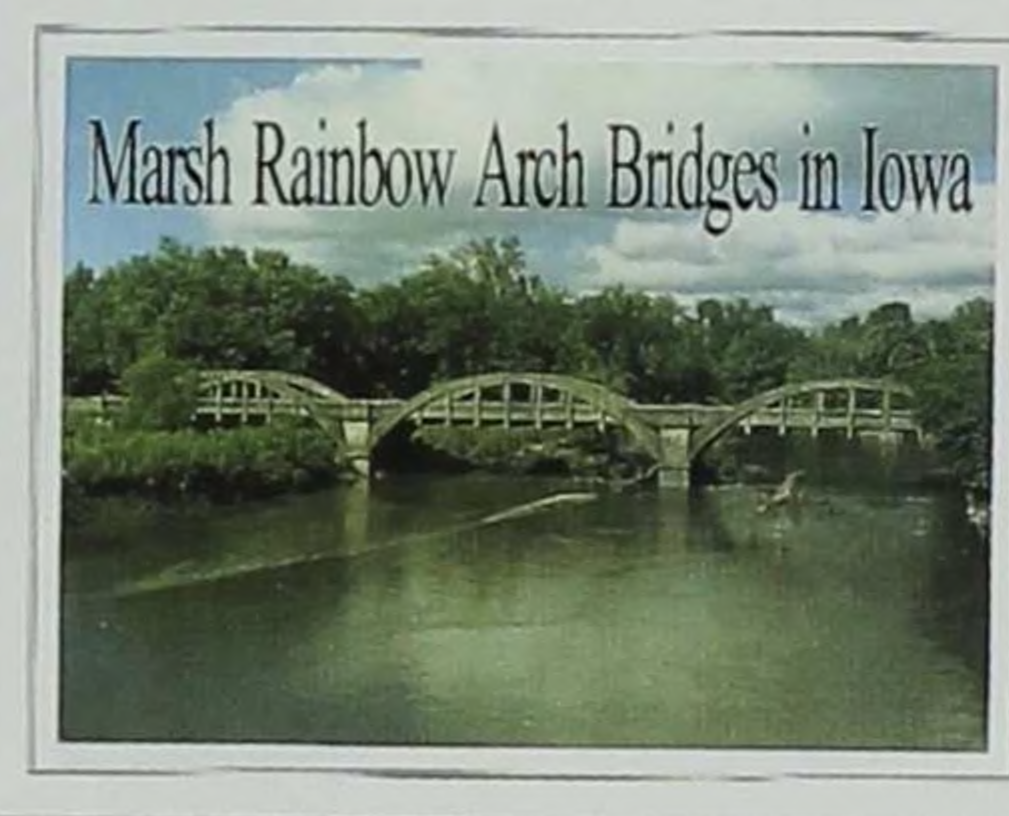


Chasing Rainbows—a guide for Iowa

A more complete look at these bridges appears in *Marsh Rainbow Arch Bridges in Iowa* (see right). This 23-page booklet by James C. Hippen includes photographs of Iowa's eleven Rainbow Arch bridges as of mid-1996; township maps showing their location; a detailed essay; and an extensive bibliography. To order, send \$2.50 (to cover shipping and handling) to: Office of the Boone County Engineer, Boone County Courthouse, 201 State Street, Boone, Iowa 50036.

The booklet, as well as the preceding article, developed out of a larger project in recent years to inventory and document historically important bridges in Iowa. Participating agencies included the State Historical Society of Iowa, through its State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO); the Iowa Department of Transportation; and the Historic American Engineering Record. As a result,

some 200 Iowa bridges were declared eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, including eleven Marsh Rainbow Arch bridges (seven of them in Boone County). SHPO and the Federal Highway Administration reached an understanding, to which Boone County and the Iowa Department of Transportation agreed, that the unavoidable loss of some bridges would be lessened by testing the structural soundness of one bridge, by preserving at least one bridge, and by publishing the booklet.



Saving Bridges—from graffiti

Graffiti on concrete bridges in a rural setting presents challenges for historic preservationists. Most removal methods also reduce the lifespan of the material. Clear sealants can trap moisture and promote mildew and fungal growth beneath them but are important for easily keeping the bridges free of graffiti.

The following illustrated publications provide more information. (Note: Visit the National Park Service's web site at <http://www2.crnp.gov/> to view or purchase the *Preservation Briefs*.)

Preservation Brief 38: Removing Graffiti from Historic Masonry by Martin E. Weaver (1995). Cleaning methods for removing surface-applied graffiti without damaging historic masonry. Discusses barrier coatings and advance maintenance. Emphasizes prompt removal as the key to preventing recurrence of graffiti. (GPO

#024-005-00158-7. \$1.75. To order, call (202) 512-1800.

Preservation Brief 39: Holding the Line: Controlling Unwanted Moisture in Historic Buildings by Sharon C. Park, AIA (1996). How to diagnose moisture problems and choose remedial treatments, manage moisture deterioration; repair and maintain materials; correct problem areas; plus recommended treatments and those to avoid. GPO #024-005-01168-4. \$1.25. To order, call (202) 512-1800.

Keeping it Clean: Removing Dirt, Paint, Stains, and Graffiti from Historic Exterior Masonry, by Anne E. Grimmer (1987). How to identify what building materials might be affected by cleaning; write "specs"; schedule cleaning; test procedures. \$5.50 (+\$5 shipping). PRG, Inc., P.O. Box 1768, Rockville, MD 20849-1768. (301) 309-2222

Celebrating a Local Landmark—in Lake City

Graffiti, vandalism, and general disrepair had taken their toll on the three-span Marsh Rainbow Arch bridge (right) just south of Lake City, in Calhoun County. Although the bridge had been closed to traffic since 1985, local citizens still valued it. Raising more than \$30,000, the Lake City Women's Monday Club supervised repairs to the concrete and removal of mildew, fungi, and graffiti, and then celebrated with a ribbon-cutting and rededication in September 1997. The Iowa Historic Preservation Alliance named the bridge project a rural winner in its "Iowa's Best Preservation Awards" for 1998.



PHOTO BY JAMES C. HIPPEN



PHOTO COURTESY OF IOWA HISTORIC PRESERVATION ALLIANCE