

**Addendum  
to the  
*Bowstring Arch Bridges of Iowa*  
**Turkey River Bridge****

Since the printing of the *Bowstring Arch Bridges of Iowa*, new information has been uncovered which supports the idea that the Turkey River Bridge in Winneshiek County had originally been constructed at a different location and moved to the current location. In 2008, the Winneshiek County Engineers' Office scanned old bridge plans and identified two sets in particular which provided new information about the origination of the Turkey River Bridge.

The first set of bridge plans called for the replacement of a 159'x16' arch truss with a 292'x 22' continuous steel I-beam bridge. This bridge replacement occurred along Pole Line Road (County Road W20) over the Upper Iowa River, approximately one mile west of the City of Decorah, and was completed in 1939. The replaced Pole Line Road bridge is the same length as the current Turkey River Bridge.

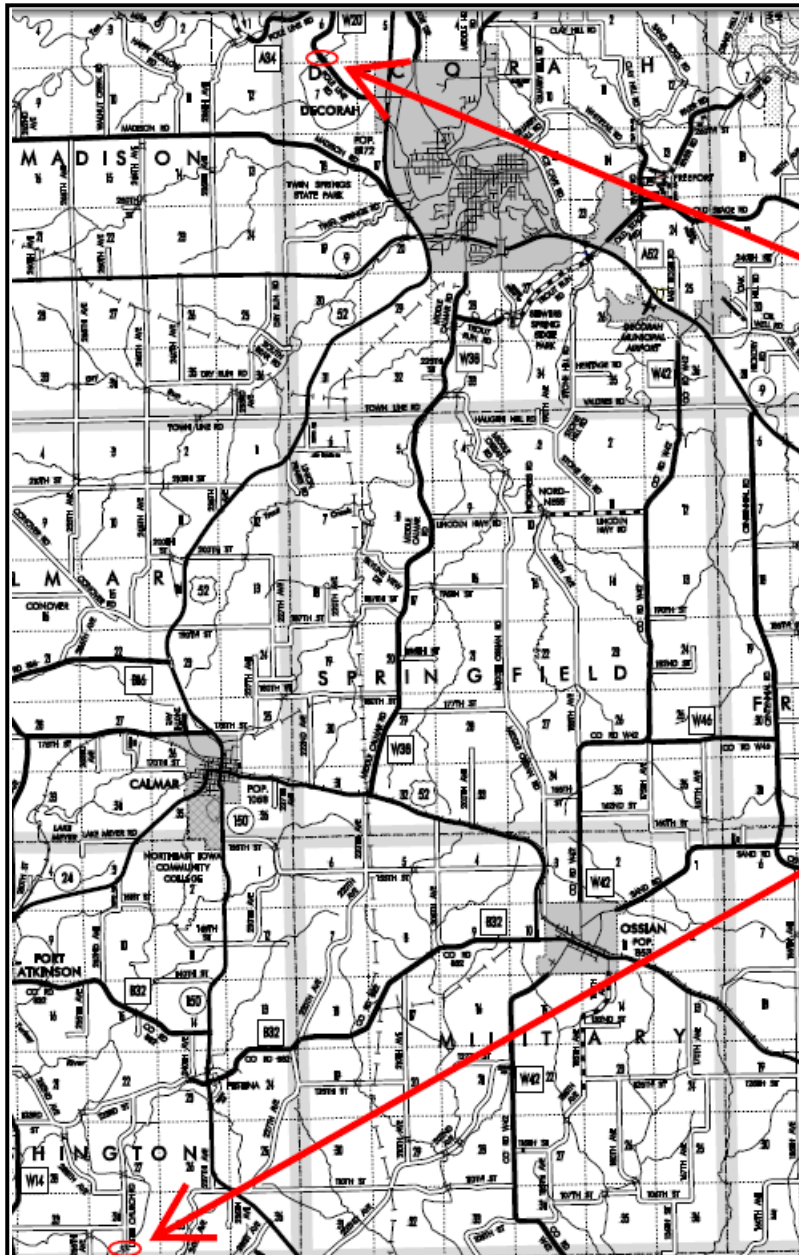
The second set of bridge plans, dated 1941, called for the construction of a bridge substructure along Little Church Road over the Turkey River, 2.5 miles south of the City of Festina. These plans also called for an existing "truss" bridge in Winneshiek County to be used as the superstructure for this bridge. Although the plans do not specify which existing superstructure would be used, the known Turkey River Bridge is currently sitting on this planned substructure.

As the Upper Iowa River moves downstream, the width and drainage area increases. Therefore, the bridges that span this river also need to increase downstream. Prior to 1939, the Gilliece Bridge, Pole Line Road bridge, and the Freeport Bridge were located in this order along the Upper Iowa River, with each bridge increasingly longer. The Pole Line Road bridge that was removed has the same length as the current Turkey River Bridge, which matches the hydraulic needs of the Upper Iowa River.

Based on these plans, the evidence is strong enough to make the argument that the known Turkey River Bridge was originally constructed over the Upper Iowa River along Pole Line Road, then replaced, moved to its current location along Little Church Road and called the Turkey River Bridge.

Both sets of plans are available at the Winneshiek County Engineers' Office, Decorah, Iowa.

**Addendum  
to the  
*Bowstring Arch Bridges of Iowa*  
Locations of the Turkey River Bridge**



Original Location of  
the Turkey River  
Bridge along Pole Line  
Road

Current Location of  
the Turkey River  
Bridge along Little  
Church Road