

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service734
SEARCHED
INDEXED
MAY 15 1982**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Clear Creek Bridge
other name/site number NEHBS Number BU00-83

2. Location

street & number	township road over Clear Creek	<u>N/A</u>	not for publication
city, town	5.8 miles northwest of Bellwood	<u>X</u>	vicinity
state NE	county Butler	code 023	zip code 68624

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Butler County	Number of Resources within Property
Category of Property	structure	Contributing Noncontributing
		0 0 buildings
		0 0 sites
		1 0 structures
		0 0 objects
		1 0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: **Highway Bridges in Nebraska, 1870-1942**

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination X 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 X meets X does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Bob Parker, DSHPS
Signature of certifying official

5/6/92
Date

Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets X does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:)

Alecia Sykes

6/29/92

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Function (enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Current Function (enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

OTHER /pin-connected Warren through truss

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation	N/A
walls	N/A
roof	N/A
other	N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located 5.8 miles northwest of Bellwood, the Clear Creek Bridge spans Clear Creek in a rural Butler County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. Although the bridge's integrity has been diminished by later alterations, this fact is mitigated by the structure's extreme rarity and age. Among Nebraska's oldest vehicular spans, the crossing continues to carry vehicular traffic. A description of the structure follows:

span number:	1	construction date:	1891; moved 1928
span length:	73.0'	construction cost:	unknown
total length:	73.0'	current condition:	fair
roadway wdt.:	16.1'	alterations:	one hip vertical replaced with cable; cable added at other points; shows signs of overloading

superstructure: wrought iron or steel, 4-panel, pin-connected Warren through truss

substructure: concrete abutments and wingwalls

floor decking: timber deck over wood stringers

other features: upper chord: paired angles with batten plates along upper flanges and channel plates riveted to lower flanges; lower chord: 2 looped rectangular eyebars; vertical: none; diagonal: 2 angles with batten plates, 2 looped round eyerods with turnbuckles; floor beam: tapered "fishtail" plate girder, U-bolted to lower chord pins; lateral bracing: round rod with threaded ends; guardrail: 2 channels; ornamental cast iron portal braces; portal-mounted builder's plate: 1891, King Bridge Company, Cleveland, O.; endpost-mounted builder's plate: Built by King Bridge Company, Cleveland, Ohio, 1891

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Applicable National Register Criteria	statewide
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	C
Areas of Significance	B
Period of Significance	Engineering 1891 - 1928 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date and extends through significant later alterations, as noted in the text below.)
Significant Dates	1891; 1928
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer) (Fabricator) (Builder)	King Bridge Company, Cleveland OH CRM Co King Bridge Company, Cleveland OH

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations and areas of significance noted above.

This small-scale truss carries a secondary county road across Clear Creek about six miles northwest of Bellwood in Butler County's northwest corner. The structure is a pin-connected Warren through truss, resting on concrete abutments and wingwalls. Two bridge plates reveal that the structure was built by the King Iron Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio, in 1891. Minutes of the Butler County Commissioners indicate that the bridge was completed and accepted by the county on August 18, 1891. King originally built the span at the small town of Ulysses near the southern edge of Butler County, where it stood for some 38 years. Then, in 1928, the truss was moved to its present location. Here it has carried relatively light, local traffic. As a final alteration, timber and steel piles have been placed under the floor beams, effectively converting the truss into a series of simply supported stringers.

These alterations have substantially compromised the historical integrity of the Clear Creek Bridge. They are mitigated, though, by the extreme rarity of this bridge type in Nebraska and the western United States. Moreover, although the structure has been moved from its original location, it has functioned in place at its current site for more than 50 years, and has developed a sense of time and place. Although the Warren truss configuration was first patented in 1848, it did not receive widespread acceptance as a vehicular truss type until the development of rigid-connected technology after the turn of the century. Pin-connected Warren trusses are therefore rare. Only two examples are known to exist in Nebraska, this structure and the Honey Creek Bridge in Nemaha County. The Clear Creek Bridge is thus technologically significant as one of the last representatives in the state of this exceptional structural type. It is also significant as one of the oldest vehicular trusses in Nebraska. Less than a dozen all-metal spans - all but two fabricated by the King Iron Bridge Company - have been documented as older than this truss. The Clear Creek Bridge thus functions as an important resource in the interpretation of early Nebraska bridge technology.

Because this bridge has been moved since its period of significance, Criteria Consideration B has been applied. Significant under Criterion C for its engineering value, the structure still retains the essential technological features that make it a good representative example of its type, period and method of construction.

For further contextual information regarding bridge building in Nebraska, registration requirements, and property types, see related multiple property listing "Highway Bridges in Nebraska, 1870 - 1942."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Nebraska Department of Roads, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure Number C001200305P; Interview with George Koenig (a long-time area resident), 18 July 1989. The date he recalled for moving the bridge corresponds with the date of construction of the replacement bridge; Butler County Supervisors Proceedings, 3 February 1891, located at the Butler County Courthouse, David City, Nebraska; field inspection by Lon Johnson, 18 July 1989.

 See continuation sheet

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 (specify repository:) _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre
Cadastral Reference S5, T16N, R1E
USGS Quadrangle Columbus (7.5 Minute Series, 1958; photorevised 1976)
UTM References zone 14 easting 639220 northing 4582540

 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 73 feet by 18.1 feet, which is centered on the UTM point listed above. Included within this rectangular parcel are the bridge's superstructure, substructure and floor system.

 See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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 this bridge.

 See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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