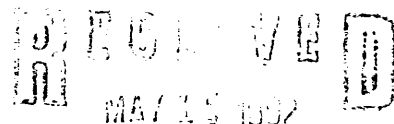


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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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).

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 city, town 5.8 miles northwest of Bellwood state NE county Butler code 023 zip code 68624

N/A not for publication X vicinity

3. Classification

Table with 4 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, Number of Resources within Property (Contributing, Noncontributing), and counts for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and 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 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.

Signature of certifying official: Bob Puscher, DSHPS Date: 5/6/92 State or Federal agency and bureau: Nebraska State Historical Society

In my opinion, the property meets 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:)

Signature of the Keeper: Selma Byers Date of Action: 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:

	statewide
Applicable National Register Criteria	C
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	B
Areas of Significance	Engineering
Period of Significance	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)	King Bridge Company, Cleveland OH
(Fabricator)	CRM Co
(Builder)	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

name/title	Clayton B. Fraser, Principal	date	30 June 1991
organization	Fraserdesign and Hess, Roise and Company	telephone	303-669-7969
street & number	1269 Cleveland Avenue	state	Colorado
city or town	Loveland	zip code	80537
