

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Adamson Bridge
other name/site number Niobrara River Bridge; NEHBS Number CE00-227

2. Location

street & number State Highway 97 over the Niobrara River N/A not for publication
city, town 7.8 miles southwest of Valentine vicinity
state NE county Cherry code 031 zip code 69201

3. Classification

Ownership of Property Nebraska Department of Roads
Category of Property structure
Number of Resources within Property
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 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Bob Rischenberg DSHPO
Signature of certifying official Date 5/6/92
Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

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:)

Delores Byas
Entered in the National Register Date 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 /timber stringer trestle

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

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

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located 7.8 miles southwest of Valentine, the Adamson Bridge spans the Niobrara River in a rural Cherry County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. Other than maintenance-related repairs, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Adamson Bridge today retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. A description of the structure follows:

span number:	6	construction date:	1916
span length:	31.0'	construction cost:	unknown
total length:	188.0'	current condition:	good
roadway wdt.:	23.6'	alterations:	deck widened, timber piles added and guardrails replaced

superstructure: timber stringer trestle

substructure: timber pile back- and wingwalls with timber pile piers

floor/decking: timber deck over timber stringers

other features: Armco guardrail

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)	N/A
Areas of Significance	Engineering
Period of Significance	1916 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1916
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder	Canton Bridge Company, Canton OH

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

After the moving winter ice pack destroyed or damaged some 21 Niobrara River bridges in Cherry County in February 1916, the county commissioners declared an emergency and established a special fund to pay for the extensive repair and reconstruction. One of the bridges wrecked by the flood was the Adamson Bridge, a 100-foot steel truss erected in 1910-11 by the Canton Bridge Company. Located near the Tioga Post Office southwest of Valentine, this structure was the first visited by the commissioners on February 29th. After conferring with a representative from the Canton Bridge Company, they ordered the contractor to build a new timber structure approximately 200 feet downriver from the previous span here. The timber stringer structure that stands today is apparently the same bridge that Canton built that year. Although it seems improbable that the existing structure dates from 1916 (wood construction typically falls prey to deterioration from a variety of sources), neither county nor state records give any indication that a new bridge was ever built to replace the 1916 span. The roadway has been widened by adding steel piles and timber stringers on the west side, the guardrails have been replaced with Armco and the timber deck has been thinly coated with asphalt, but the Adamson Bridge remains otherwise intact, with a high degree of physical integrity.

Although Nebraska's counties used timber extensively for bridge construction in the early 1900s, nearly all of these simple pile bridges have since been replaced, due in large part to the impermanent nature of wood. The Adamson Bridge is a notable exception. Because of the relatively light traffic it carries, it has apparently survived with only minor structural alterations. The Adamson Bridge is technologically significant as one of the few remaining examples in the state of early timber bridge 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 S097 13350; Cherry County Commissioners' Record, Book C: 26 March 1910 (page 490), 26 April 1910 (page 495), 3 January 1911 (page 540), 7 March 1911 (page 577), 23 February 1916 (page 209), 29 February 1916 (page 210), 3 March 1916 (page 211), 24 March 1916 (page 213), 25 March 1916 (page 213), 4 January 1917 (page 323), 10 September 1918 (page 404), located at Cherry County Courthouse, Valentine, Nebraska; field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 25 April 1990.

___ 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 S25, T33N, R29W
USGS Quadrangle Valentine Southwest (7.5 Minute Series, 1983)
UTM References zone 14 easting 363270 northing 4740560

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 188 feet by 25.6 feet, which is centered on the UTM point listed above. Included within this rectangular parcel are the bridge's superstructure, substructure, floor system, and approach spans.

___ 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		
organization	Fraserdesign and Hess, Roise and Company	date	30 June 1991
street & number	1269 Cleveland Avenue	telephone	303-669-7969
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