

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 Bridge
other name/site number NEHBS Number OT00-90

2. Location

street & number county road over unnamed stream N/A not for publication
city, town 4.1 miles southwest of Lorton X vicinity
state NE county Otoe code 131 zip code 68382

3. Classification

Ownership of Property Otoe County Number of Resources within Property
Category of Property structure Contributing Noncontributing
0 buildings
0 sites
1 structures
0 objects
1 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 X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Bos Kuschendorf DSHPO
Signature of certifying official
Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

5/6/92
Date

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:)

Arlene Byers
Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the
National Register

6/29/92
Date of Action

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)

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

OTHER /bowstring pony arch-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 4.1 miles southwest of Lorton, this bowstring pony arch-truss spans an unnamed stream in a rural Otoe County setting. Although now closed to vehicular traffic, the bridge remains essentially unaltered. Today, this distinctive structure retains a high degree of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. A description follows:

span number:	1	construction date:	1876
span length:	40.0'	construction cost:	unknown
total length:	78.0'	current condition:	good
roadway wdt.:	15.6'	alterations:	I-beam floor beam is a replacement; moved to this location

superstructure: wrought iron, 2-panel, bowstring pony arch-truss

substructure: steel pile bent pier

floor/decking: timber over steel stringers

other features: upper chord: 2 channels with side plates; lower chord: 2 rectangular punched eyebars (continuous at panel point); vertical: 1 star iron (with 2 angles added); lateral bracing: 1 angle (welded); floor beam: I-beam; guardrail: 1 angle; bridge plate: Z. KING PAT SEP 25 1866 KING BRIDGE CO IOLA KAN

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	1876 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1876
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	King Iron Bridge and Manufacturing Company, Cleveland OH
(Fabricator)	King Iron Bridge and Manufacturing Company, Cleveland OH
(Builder)	King Iron Bridge and Manufacturing Company, Cleveland OH

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

Located four miles southwest of Lorton, this iron bowstring spans a tributary of the Little Nemaha River on a vacated section of county road. The structure consists of two-panel, bowstring arch-truss fabricated from a patented design by the King Iron Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio (with a western plant in Iola, Kansas). This bridge has evidently been moved to this site, and its original location is unknown. The most likely source was a site over Goose Creek between Sections 7 and 18, T9N, R13E, where another bridge now stands. The King Iron Bridge Company contracted to build a 40-foot iron span at that crossing in June 1876, along with a 45-foot span over the Little Nemaha River 2 ½ miles west of Palmyra and a 60-foot span over South Table Creek. A month later, in July 1876, King received contracts to erect two more Otoe County bridges including one at Unadilla. None of these can be confirmed as this truss, however. Now abandoned, this bridge retains a high degree of physical integrity.

Marketed widely throughout the Midwest by such industry giants as the King Iron Bridge Company and the Wrought Iron Bridge Company, bowstring arch-trusses were the mainstay bridge type for medium-span roadway crossings in the 1870s, 1880s and early 1890s. Several bowstrings were erected in eastern Nebraska during that period, but through subsequent attrition only a handful remain today. Most of these were erected by King. This diminutive bridge in southern Otoe County is significant as a well-preserved, early example of a King bowstring: one of the last surviving trusses of its type remaining in Nebraska. 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.

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 C006633215; Proceedings of the Otoe County Commissioners, on file in the Otoe County Courthouse, Nebraska City, Nebraska, refer to the following entries: 19 June 1876, book 2, (page 487); 3 July 1876, book 2, (page 493-494); 1 July 1878, book 3, (page 19); builder's plate on bridge; field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 14 November 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 S17, T7N, R12E
USGS Quadrangle Talmage (7.5 Minute Series, 1966)
UTM References zone 14 easting 746300 northing 4494560

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 78 feet by 17.6 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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