

731

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). 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 Interstate Canal Bridge
other name/site number NEHBS Number SF00-41

2. Location

street & number county road over Interstate Canal
city, town 9.3 miles north of Scottsbluff
state NE county Scotts Bluff code 157 zip code 69361

3. Classification

Ownership of Property Scotts Bluff County
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.

Signature of certifying official: Bob Pascher, 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
determined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register
other (explain:)

Entered in the National Register
Signature of the Keeper: Alloua Byrnes
Date of Action: 6/29/92

---

**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 /rigid-connected Pratt pony 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 9.3 miles north of Scottsbluff, the Interstate Canal Bridge spans the Interstate Canal in a rural Scotts Bluff 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 Interstate Canal 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: 1                      construction date: ca.1915  
span length: 53.0'                  construction cost: unknown  
total length: 55.0'                current condition: good  
roadway wdt.: 15.0'                alterations: none  
superstructure: steel, 6-panel, rigid-connected Pratt pony truss with upright endposts  
substructure: concrete spread footings  
floor/decking: timber deck over timber stringers  
other features: upper chord: 2 angles with continuous plates; lower chord: 2 angles; vertical: 2 angles;  
diagonal: 1 angle; floor beam: I-beam field bolted to vertical; guardrail: timber.

---

## 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	1915 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	ca.1915
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	unknown
(Fabricator)	Inland Steel Company
(Builder)	unknown

---

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

This bridge carries a gravel-surfaced county road across the Interstate Canal north of Scottsbluff. Although the structure's history is largely undocumented, it was probably built as a result of a resolution by the Scotts Bluff County Commissioners. Dated April 20, 1915, the resolution required canal owners to construct bridges where county roads intersected their ditches and canals. Subject to the approval of the road overseer or the county commissioners, these structures were to have been built within thirty days of the resolution. It is not clear whether this bridge was erected in 1915 as a direct result of this edict or at a subsequent date. Detailed and configured similarly to three other canal bridges in Scotts Bluff County, this truss bears the earmarks of a circa 1915 structure. The bridge's non-standard design reflects its builder. Although Nebraska's counties were required by the state legislature in 1913 to use standard 20-ton capacity designs, the canal companies were not. Most such companies built timber pile bridges. Typically poorly constructed, these small-scale structures either collapsed or were later replaced by the counties with more substantial spans. The Interstate Canal Bridge and the three other trusses in Scotts Bluff County are the only known examples in the state of steel truss erection by the canal companies. (Even the three other bridges have been subsequently bolstered by the addition of timber piles beneath the floor beams.) This span is thus technologically significant for its representation of this regional transportation trend. It is also significant for its structural configuration. Resembling a truss leg bedstead with its upright ends, the bridge is actually a simply supported pony truss - the only one of its type identified in the statewide bridge inventory.

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 C007914525; Commissioners' Record for Scotts Bluff County, 20 April 1915, located at Scotts Bluff County Courthouse, Gering, Nebraska; field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 3 May 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    S6, T23N, R54W  
USGS Quadrangle        Scottsbluff North (7.5 Minute Series, 1963; photorevised 1976)  
UTM References        zone 13    easting 612770    northing 4650150

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

---

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 55 feet by 17 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		
organization	Fraserdesign and Hess, Roise and Company	date	30 June 1991
street & number	1269 Cleveland Avenue	telephone	303-669-7969
city or town	Loveland	state	Colorado    zip code 80537

---