

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received MAY 30 1985  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Middle Creek Tributary Bridge *(Masonry Arch Bridge of 1888)*  
and/or common Middle Creek Tributary Bridge

**2. Location**

street & number 5.8 miles west of Princeton n/a not for publication  
city, town Princeton  vicinity of  
state Kansas code 20 county Franklin code 59

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Franklin County  
street & number Franklin County Courthouse  
city, town Ottawa  vicinity of Kansas

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds  
street & number Franklin County Courthouse  
city, town Ottawa state Kansas

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Survey of Historic Bridges--  
title Kansas Department of Transportation has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1980-83  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society  
city, town Topeka state Kansas

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Middle Creek Tributary bridge is 24 feet long and 25 feet wide curb to curb. The roadway lies 11.5 feet above the water level.

The corrugated metal multiplate arch springs from and is disposed between concrete and stone abutments. The stone spandrel walls project upward to the crown of the arch. They are capped by a course of vertically set stones upon which rests a stone guard railing. The guard rail features a concrete cap. A dressed keystone sits at the crown of the ring stones and extends through the spandrel wall cap stones. Short stone wing walls are located at each approach.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** [1930] **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Middle Creek Tributary bridge retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling and association. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and method of construction no longer being used and may yield information important to the history of engineering.

Research has failed to reveal details about the construction of the Brush Creek bridge. Metal multiplate bridges were being built before World War II and after the metal sections again became available after the war they were widely advocated by companies such as Armco whose Missouri-Kansas division was located in Topeka.

The bridge represents the combination of two materials, steel and stone, that at one time were in serious competition as a bridge building medium. It had become faster and more economical to build the arch out of steel and then the spandrel walls from the readily available stone. The final result was a strong and economical bridge that still harmonized with the natural environment.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Steel is Honorably Discharged," Kansas Engineering Society Bulletin 6  
(October, 1945): 6.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Williamsburg, Kansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

That property on and over which the bridge is built including bridge structure and abutments. SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$  S12 - T18S - R18E

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Larry Jochims, Research Historian and Michael Snell

organization Kansas State Historical Society

date 2/20/85

street & number 120 W. Tenth

telephone (913) 296-2973

city or town Topeka

state Kansas

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

date 3/4/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

See continuation sheet for listing date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration