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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Stewart Bridge  
other name/site number NEHBS Number NU00-729

2. Location

street & number county road over Big Sandy Creek N/A not for publication  
city, town 1 mile east, 8 miles north of Oak X vicinity  
state NE county Nuckolls code 129 zip code 68964

3. Classification

Ownership of Property Nuckolls 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 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

*Paul Visser-Doy 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):

Entered in the  
National Register

*Helene Byers*

6/29/92

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Function (enter categories from instructions)  
TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Current Function (enter categories from instructions)  
TRANSPORTATION/road-related

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)  
OTHER /concrete filled spandrel arch

Materials (enter categories from instructions)  
foundation N/A  
walls N/A  
roof N/A  
other N/A

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located one mile east and eight miles north of Oak, the Stewart Bridge spans Big Sandy Creek in a rural Nuckolls 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 Stewart 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:	1915
span length:	45.0'	construction cost:	\$1,890.00
total length:	47.0'	current condition:	good
roadway wdt.:	16.1'	alterations:	none

superstructure: concrete filled spandrel arch  
substructure: concrete abutments and wingwalls  
floor/decking: gravel over earth fill  
other features: solid concrete parapet with recessed panels

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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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	1915
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	Nebraska Highway Department
(Builder)	Lincoln Construction Company, Lincoln NE

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

In June 1915 the Clay County Road and Bridge Committee recommended building a "45 ft steel or concrete bridge, wood or concrete floor, with cement abutments and wings, between section 34 Clay, and section 3 Nuckolls," and apparently requested the State Engineer to prepare plans for the structure. The Clay County Board opened bids for this and several other bridges the following month, opted for concrete construction on all, and awarded the contract to the Lincoln Construction Company of Lincoln NE. The contractor's bid for the Stewart Bridge was \$1,890, the cost to be evenly divided between Nuckolls and Clay counties. In December 1915, the Clay County Board requested that the State Engineer dispatch a member of his office to inspect the newly completed structure. The engineer reported: "The Stewart Bridge, being a 45 foot concrete arch on the line between Nuckolls and Clay County was found to be in good condition. The pavement and wings were slightly soft but the arch ring appeared to be thoroughly set and hard. The general appearance was good. The rails were straight with the exception of the north rail which leans slightly to the north at the top. The Nuckolls County Board were [sic] present at the time the inspection was made and were satisfied with the work. I recommend that the bridge be accepted and paid for." The structure has carried traffic since, in essentially unaltered condition.

With its filled spandrel design and modestly paneled guardrails, the Stewart Bridge is typical of the many concrete arch bridges built in Nebraska from highway department standard plans during the 1910s. It is technologically significant as one of the best-preserved and -documented examples remaining in the state of this important early structural type.

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."

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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Nebraska Department of Roads, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure Number C006510245; Proceedings of the Clay County Commissioners, located in the Clay County Courthouse, Clay Center, Nebraska, refer to the following entries in Volume 7: 9 June 1915 (page 415), 13 July 1915 (pp. 423-25), 1 December 1915 (p. 442), 22 December 1915 (p. 445); Proceedings of the Nuckolls County Commissioners, Nuckolls County Courthouse, Nelson, Nebraska, 1915; see plans for a 45-foot pin-connected truss with wood floor, and a 45-foot riveted truss with concrete floor, entitled: "Foundation Plan for 45 ft Span, Steward [sic] Bridge, South Line, 34-T5N-R5W," 25 May 1915, Microfiche Bridge Plan Number 537, located in the Bridge Division, Nebraska Department of Roads; field inspection by Jeffrey A. Hess, 23 April 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:)

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property less than one acre  
Cadastral Reference S3, T4N, R5W  
USGS Quadrangle Edgar (7.5 Minute Series, 1960)  
UTM References zone 14 easting 595360 northing 4467050

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 47 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

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title	Demian Hess, Research Historian		
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		zip code	80537

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