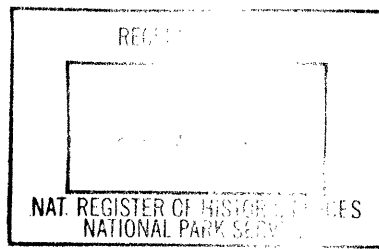


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Nesheim Bridge

Other names/site number: Sheyenne River Bridge; 32NE49

2. Location

Street & number: unnamed county road not for publication

City or town: McVillage vicinity

State: North Dakota Code: ND County: Nelson Code: 063 Zip code: 58254

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
James E. Sperry January 8, 1997
Signature and title of certifying official James E. Sperry Date
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)
Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper 2/27/97 Date of Action

Nesheim Bridge
Name of Property

Nelson, North Dakota
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public - local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
<u>1</u>	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Roadway Bridges of N.D.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION: Road-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

TRANSPORTATION: Road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Pratt through truss bridge

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation steel
walls _____
roof _____
other steel
wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Nesheim Bridge
Name of Property

Nelson, North Dakota
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 Name of repository: # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION
ENGINEERING

Period of Significance

1904-1946

Significant Dates

1904

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builder: Fargo Bridge & Iron Co.

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Nesheim Bridge
Name of Property

Nelson, North Dakota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 4	5 5 8 6 1 0	5 2 8 7 1 9 0	2	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing					
3	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	4	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _	_ _

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared by

Name/Title: Mark Hufstetler / Historian
Organization: Renewable Technologies, Incorporated Date: December 10, 1996
Street & Number: 511 Metals Bank Building Telephone: (406) 782-0494
City or Town: Butte State: Montana Zip code: 59701

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Nelson County
Street & Number: Courthouse; P.O. Box 565 Telephone: (701) 247-2433
City or Town: Lakota State: North Dakota Zip code: 58344

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

NESHEIM BRIDGE
NELSON COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

Narrative Description:

The Nesheim Bridge is located on an unpaved county road in rural Nelson County, North Dakota. The site is located approximately two miles west and two miles south of McVille, North Dakota. The bridge is constructed on an approximate southwest-northeast alignment; it carries a rural road across the Sheyenne River valley as part of the county's overall "section-line" road network. The surrounding land is largely cultivated, and scattered groups of farmstead buildings exist in the vicinity. The Sheyenne River, a major watercourse in the area, meanders through a wide and relatively deep valley dotted with wetlands and with heavily forested banks.

The bridge itself is a pin-connected Pratt through truss, with a steel superstructure. The Pratt design, which saw widespread use nationally and in North Dakota during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, is characterized by the presence of relatively-heavy vertical members designed to handle the compressive stress of a bridge load. The use of pinned rather than riveted connections dates the Romness Bridge as a relatively early Pratt design. The bridge contains a single truss span, five panels in length; there are no approach spans. Overall, the bridge is approximately 77 feet long, with a vehicle deck 18 feet wide.

Design details of the bridge's substructure and superstructure are outlined below:

Substructure: steel tubular piers incorporated into abutments with wood plank back walls and (on the west end only) wing walls

Superstructure:

upper chords: two channel sections with continuous cover plate along the upper flanges and batten plates along the lower flanges

lower chords: paired punched eyebars

verticals: two channel sections with lacing bars along both sets of flanges

diagonals: paired punched eyebars

counters: looped square rods

bracing (portal): paired angle sections

top lateral struts: paired angle sections

laterals (bottom): round rods

moveable end: plate

floor system: wood stringers, resting on I-beam floor beams, connected to the superstructure with U-bolts

decking: a single layer of wood

railing: two angle sections

steelmaker's marks: Carnegie Steel Co. (U.S. Steel), Pittsburgh, Pa.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

NESHEIM BRIDGE
NELSON COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

Metal plaques above both bridge portals display the following lettering:
"FARGO BRIDGE & IRON CO. / 1904 / BUILDERS — FARGO N.D."

The bridge retains a very high level of integrity; it remains in its original location, and all major structural components appear to retain their as-built appearance. The survival of the historic steel tubular support piers is particularly noteworthy.

The Nesheim Bridge is owned and maintained by Nelson County. It carries the state numerical designation 32-115-32.0.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

NESHEIM BRIDGE
NELSON COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

Narrative Statement of Significance:

In accordance with the guidelines established in the Multiple Property Documentation form for "Historic Roadway Bridges in North Dakota," the Nesheim Bridge is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criteria "A" and "C." The bridge is significant under Criterion A for its association with an important pattern of bridge construction in a number of counties in the state, in which one or two bridge companies received most of the contracts over a successive period of years, even with, or under the pretense of, competitive bidding. This pattern emerged in the late nineteenth century and, in some counties, continued into the 1930s. This is the oldest documented bridge in Nelson County constructed by a long-term county bridge builder, the Fargo Bridge and Iron Company. Fargo held contracts for bridge construction in the county between 1902 and 1920.

Also under Criterion A, the bridge is eligible for its association with attempts by North Dakota counties to expand and improve transportation networks prior to 1926 by construction of through truss bridges, relatively costly structures. Through truss bridges with documented construction dates and builders, such as this one, best illustrate this important trend in North Dakota bridge construction.

Finally, the bridge is National Register eligible under Criterion C as the oldest documented metal truss bridge in Nelson County.

Historical information: This bridge was erected in 1904 by the Fargo Bridge & Iron Co. A previous span existed at this river crossing, called Sampson Crossing in a contemporary account; by 1904 it was in poor condition. Twenty-two residents of the locality signed a petition for a new bridge, which was accepted in May by the county commissioners. The commissioners decided to visit the site to "decide on kind and size of bridge." The report of this trip was presented in early July--the existing span was "entirely useless," and advertisements for a replacement would be published. A week later, bids were opened and out of ten bids, Fargo Bridge & Iron Co. (which dominated bridge work in the county at this time) got the job, for a price of \$2,318.

Fargo Bridge & Iron was the largest in-state builder of bridges in North Dakota during the first two decades of the twentieth century, with a particularly strong presence in eastern and southern North Dakota. At least fifty historic bridges constructed by this firm are believed to survive in North Dakota today.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 4

NESHEIM BRIDGE
NELSON COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

Bibliography:

Johnson, Lon, et.al. "Historic Bridges in North Dakota." Bismarck: North Dakota Department of Transportation, 1992.

Nelson County Commission: Record Book 3, pp. 165, 169, 172.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 5

NESHEIM BRIDGE
NELSON COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

Verbal Boundary Description:

The bridge is located in the Southwest quarter of Section 9, Township 149 North, Range 59 West. The boundary consists of a rectangle, measuring 127 feet north-south and 68 feet east-west, and centered on the bridge superstructure.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary is constructed to include the area occupied by the bridge superstructure and substructure, as well as a 25-foot buffer of land immediately surrounding the structure.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 6

NESHEIM BRIDGE
NELSON COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

Index to Photographs

Photographer: Mark Hufstetler

Date: April 1996

Location of original negatives: State Historical Society of North Dakota,
Bismarck.

Photograph Number	Description	Direction of View
1	northeastern elevation	S
2	southeastern portal	NW