

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 Esch's Spur Bridge (*Murray Arch Bridges of Kansas*)<sup>TR</sup>  
and/or common Esch's Spur Bridge

2. Location

street & number Three miles south and three miles west of Dexter n/a not for publication  
city, town Dexter  vicinity of  
state Kansas code 20 county Cowley code 35

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Cowley County  
street & number Cowley County Courthouse  
city, town Winfield  vicinity of state Kansas

5. Location of Legal Description

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

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Bridges--  
Kansas Dept. 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

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Esch's Spur bridge crosses Grouse Creek three miles south and three miles west of Dexter, Kansas. The triple span stone arch bridge has a total length of 182 feet and is 13 feet wide curb to curb. The deck lies 17 feet above the water level.

The stone arches spring from and are disposed between two abutments and stone piers. Stone spandrel walls retain the earthen fill and are capped with concrete. This concrete cap forms the roadway curbing. The spandrel walls do not extend above the crown of the elliptical arches and the roadway rests directly on the arch ring.

THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED BY THE KANSAS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
DESIGNED BY THE KANSAS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

# 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** [1910-1920] **Builder/Architect** Unknown

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

The Esch's Spur 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 namely the construction of a roadway supported by a stone arch which is loaded by an earthen fill, which, in turn, is retained by stone spandrel walls. This bridge may yield information important to the history of engineering.

The stone arch bridge was popular in Kansas because the stone and construction expertise was locally available. Although somewhat more expensive, initially, to construct they were very strong and long lived. Cowley county was blessed with exceptionally good building stone. The county commission, at the turn of the century, created a special bridge fund and began a concerted effort to bridge the numerous streams they had. This bridge is a result of that effort. The use of local stone and labor makes this bridge unique and particularly suited to its environment.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"To Bid on Stone Bridges," Kansas City Star, March 25, 1906

"Our Building Stone," Dexter Advocate, November 17, 1904.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Eaton, Kansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	4	6	9	7	1	0	0	4	1	1	1	9	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

That property over which the bridge is built including bridge structure and abutments. SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S33 T33S R6E

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 West 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