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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 Prairie Dog Creek Bridge  
other name/site number NEHBS Number HN00-53

2. Location

street & number township road over Prairie Dog Creek N/A not for publication  
city, town 8.5 miles south and 1 mile west of Orleans X vicinity  
state NE county Harlan code 083 zip code 68966

3. Classification

Ownership of Property Harlan County Number of Resources within Property  
Category of Property structure 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of certifying official: *Bob Fischer DSHPO* 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 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  
*Alvina 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 /rigid-connected Camelback pony truss

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 8.5 miles south and 1 mile west of Orleans, the Prairie Dog Creek Bridge spans Prairie Dog Creek in a rural Harlan 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 Prairie Dog Creek 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:	1913
span length:	80.0'	construction cost:	unknown
total length:	82.0'	current condition:	good
roadway wdt.:	16.4'	alterations:	none

superstructure: steel, 5-panel, rigid-connected Camelback pony truss

substructure: bolted, steel pile bent abutments

floor/decking: double-layer wood deck over I-beam stringers

other features: upper chord: back-to-back channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: back-to-back channels with battens; vertical: 4 angles with lacing; diagonal: 2 angles; floor beam: I-beam riveted to angle which is bolted to hanger plate - hanger plate riveted to lower chord and bolted to bottom of vertical; bottom lateral: cross-braced circular-section eyerods; railing: double angle rail bolted to angle posts.

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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	1913 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1913
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	Monarch Engineering Company, Falls City NE
(Fabricator)	Jones and Laughlin Steel Company, Pittsburgh PA
(Builder)	Monarch Engineering Company, Falls City NE

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

Residents petitioned for a bridge over Prairie Dog Creek between Sections 32 and 33 of Eldorado Township on February 8, 1910. The county board initially laid over the petition, but finally selected a location for the crossing in April 1911. In June 1913, the county board ordered that an 80-foot span on "12-inch, 30-foot legs" be built on this site. Construction was conditional on whether an east-west road was opened just below Prairie Dog Creek. The road (which is still in use) was apparently opened shortly thereafter, and the Prairie Dog Creek Bridge was then subsequently constructed by the Monarch Engineering Company of Falls City, Nebraska, which had won the county bridge contract for the year. Monarch built the bridge according to its own plans, which the county board had adopted in April. Consisting of a single rigid-connected Camelback pony truss, the bridge has carried vehicular traffic since, in essentially unaltered condition.

The Monarch Engineering Company was known throughout the Midwest for its Camelback pony trusses. All the traceable Camelbacks in Wyoming and most of the county-built Camelbacks in Colorado, for instance, were erected by Monarch between 1912 and 1930. Two such trusses have been identified in Harlan County, this bridge and the Sappa Creek Bridge, also in Harlan County. The Sappa Creek Bridge is largely undocumentable due to a probable later move, but the construction history of the Prairie Dog Creek Bridge is documentable. As the earliest of some twenty Camelback pony trusses found in the statewide inventory, it is technologically significant as a well-preserved example of this Pratt truss subtype.

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 C004201705; field inspection by Demian Hess, 22 January 1990; Proceedings of the Harlan County Commissioners, located in Harlan County Courthouse, Alma, Nebraska, Book 4: 8 February 1910 (page 465), 3 May 1910 (page 476), 11 April 1911 (page 553), 1 April 1913 (page 50), 6 May 1913 (page 54), 17 June 1913 (page 64); field inspection by Demian Hess, 21 January 1990.

\_\_\_ 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    S32/33, T1N, R19W  
USGS Quadrangle        Alma Southwest, Nebr. - Kans. (7.5 Minute Series, 1974)  
UTM References         zone 14    easting 459040    northing 4428150

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 82 feet by 18.4 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	date	30 June 1991
organization	Fraserdesign and Hess, Roise and Company	telephone	303-669-7969
street & number	1269 Cleveland Avenue	state	Colorado
city or town	Loveland	zip code	80537

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