



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 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 Neligh Mill Bridge  
other name/site number Elm Street Bridge; Elkhorn River Bridge; NEHBS Number AP04-204

### 2. Location

street & number Elm Street over the Elkhorn River N/A not for publication  
city, town Neligh N/A vicinity  
state NE county Antelope code 003 zip code 68756

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	<u>Antelope County</u>	Number of Resources within Property	
Category of Property	<u>structure</u>	Contributing	Noncontributing
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> 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  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.

[Signature] DSHPS 5/6/92  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Nebraska State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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 [Signature] 6/29/92  
 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:)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 /pin-connected Pratt through 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.

The Neligh Mill Bridge spans the Elkhorn River in the town of Neligh, and has changed little since its period of significance. Other than maintenance-related repairs, noted below, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Neligh Mill 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:	1910
span length:	140.0'	construction cost:	unknown
total length:	145.0'	current condition:	good
roadway wdt.:	17.3'	alterations:	3 verticals spliced

superstructure: steel, 8-panel, pin-connected Pratt through truss  
substructure: concrete-filled steel cylinder piers with plank backwalls  
floor/decking: timber deck over I-beam stringers  
other features: upper chord: 2 channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: forged eyebars, except at the first two panels either end, paired channel sections with lacing bars; vertical: paired angle sections with lacing bars; diagonal: rectangular bars; counters: rods; portal bracing and struts: paired angles; floor beam: I-beam; top and bottom lateral bracing: rods; guardrails: 2 channels; endpost-mounted builder's plate: **Built by the Western Bridge & Construction Company Omaha, Neb.**

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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	1910 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1910
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	Western Bridge & Construction Company, Omaha NE
(Fabricator)	Cambria/Lackawanna Steel Companies, Pittsburgh PA
(Builder)	Western Bridge & Construction Company, Omaha NE

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

John Neligh began construction of his water-powered merchant mill on the north bank of the Elkhorn River in 1873, shortly after platting the town of Neligh. He sold the unfinished millworks to William Gallaway the next year, and Gallaway completed the operation soon thereafter. As it expanded operations steadily in the 1870s and early 1880s, the mill formed a focal point for the town and Antelope County. Early in 1884 the Antelope County Commissioners acted to replace the existing wagon bridge across the Elkhorn River at the foot of Elm Street near the mill. They first advertised for a timber/iron combination span, then changed to an all-iron span, then in February awarded a contract for the bridge to B.F. Parks, and then cancelled the contract when Parks failed to perform adequately. Finally, in March 1884, the county contracted with the King Iron Bridge Company of Cleveland to erect a 112-foot iron Pratt through truss at the Neligh Mill crossing. The 1884 truss carried traffic for 26 years before the county moved to replace it early in 1910. The commissioners at that time ordered a 140-foot, pinned Pratt through truss from the Western Bridge and Construction Company of Omaha, which held the county's annual contract for 1910. Western Bridge built the steel cylinder piers and completed the truss by May 1910. The Neligh Mill Bridge has carried traffic since, in essentially unaltered condition.

Now owned by the Nebraska Historical Society, the restored Neligh Mill is one of the state's more interesting historical sites, and the Neligh Mill Bridge accrues a degree of significance and site integrity for its association with and proximity to the mill complex. Located at the southern periphery of Neligh, the county seat, this crossing has proved to be regionally important - the first bridge in the county over the Elkhorn River and reportedly the first bridge over the river west of Norfolk - that served to link the north and south halves of Antelope County. The Neligh Mill Bridge is technologically significant as an early, well-preserved example of the pinned Pratt through truss: a mainstay structural type for wagon bridges built throughout Nebraska between the 1880s and the 1920s.

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 C000202710P; Antelope County Commissioners' Record, Book A: 18 January 1884 (page 429); Book B: 27 February 1884 (page 1), 14 March 1884 (page 5), 17 June 1884 (page 20); Book E: 17 May 1910 (page 28), located at the Antelope County Courthouse, Neligh, Nebraska; "Bridge No. 2, Neligh Township," Bridge Record, located at the Antelope County Courthouse, Neligh, Nebraska; Thomas R. Buecker, **Water Powered Flour Mills in Nebraska**, (Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1983), p. 65; Antelope County Historical Society, **The History of Antelope County Nebraska: 1865-1985**, (no place: Curtis Media Corporation, 1986), n.p.; A.J. Leach, **A History of Antelope County, Nebraska**, (Chicago: The Lakeside Press), pp. 138-139; field inspection by Lon Johnson, 27 July 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    S20, T25N, R6W  
USGS Quadrangle       Neligh (7.5 Minute Series, 1963; photorevised 1986)  
UTM References        zone 14    easting 580110    northing 4663970

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 145 feet by 19.3 feet, which is centered on the UTM point listed above. Included within this rectangular parcel are the bridge's superstructure, substructure, floor system, and approach spans.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

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**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

sheet

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title	Clayton B. Fraser, Principal	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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