

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 Loosveldt Bridge
other name/site number Budd Bridge; Niobrara River Bridge; NEHBS Number SH00-43

2. Location

street & number private ranch road over the Niobrara River N/A not for publication
city, town 9.1 miles southeast of Rushville X vicinity
state NE county Sheridan code 161 zip code 69360

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	<u>Kurt Budd, Rushville NE</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 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.

Bob Fischer 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 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
Neilson Peyer 6/29/92
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Function (enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Current Function (enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

OTHER /wrought iron, pinned Baltimore through truss

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located nine miles southeast of Rushville, the Loosveldt Bridge spans the Niobrara River in a rural Sheridan County setting. Originally part of the Columbus Loop River Bridge in Platte County, (erected in 1888) the truss was moved to its current site in 1933-34. Now in private ownership, the bridge remains essentially unaltered since its 1934 re-erection, having had only maintenance-related repairs. The Loosveldt Bridge today retains a high degree of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. A description of the structure follows:

span number:	1	construction date:	1888; moved 1933-34
span length:	248.0'	construction cost:	\$38,000 (original cost); \$7887.66 (reconstruction)
total length:	260.0'	current condition:	good
roadway wdt.:	15.8'	alterations:	new stringers and deck in 1986

superstructure: wrought iron, 12-panel, pin-connected Baltimore through truss

substructure: steel pile bent abutments with timber wingwalls

floor/decking: timber deck over timber stringers

other features: upper chord: 2 built-up channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 punched rectangular eyebars; vertical: 4 angles with lacing; 2 punched rectangular eyebars; diagonal: 2 punched rectangular eyebars; 2 round eyebars with turnbuckles; lateral bracing: round bar with threaded ends; strut: 4 angles with lacing; floor beam: tapered, "fishtail" plate girder, field bolted to vertical above lower chord; guardrail: 2 angles; endpost stiffener: 2 channels with lacing; portal bracing: lattice.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

	statewide
Applicable National Register Criteria	C
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	B
Areas of Significance	Engineering
Period of Significance	1888 - 1934 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date and extends through significant later alterations, as noted in the text below.)
Significant Dates	1888; moved 1933-34
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	King Iron Bridge and Manufacturing Company, Cleveland OH
(Fabricator)	King Iron Bridge and Manufacturing Company, Cleveland OH
(Builder)	George E. King Bridge Company, Des Moines IA

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

On August 25, 1933, heavy rains flooded the Niobrara River, washing out all bridges over the river in Sheridan County. The Sheridan County Commissioners declared an emergency and quickly acted to replace the bridges. In November the county solicited bids for reconstruction of the Colclesser and Loosveldt Bridges south of Rushville and applied for Federal Emergency Relief money to defray a portion of the cost for replacement bridges. (The Federal Emergency Relief Administration of the PWA awarded a \$5,000 grant in April 1934.) The only proposal received was from the General Construction Company, which submitted bids for both new and used bridges. The county contracted with General Construction to provide a used span and erect it at the Loosveldt [Looseveldt; Loosefeldt] crossing for \$7887.66. The 248-foot span was to come from the Columbus Loup River Bridge, built in 1888 by the King Iron Bridge Company and replaced earlier in 1933 by another structure. General Construction moved the truss to the Looseveldt site and re-assembled it on steel pile bent piers in 1934. The county maintained the Loosveldt Bridge as a county road until 1984, at which time it was sold to the adjacent landowner. Now called the Budd Bridge, it carries traffic at the headquarters for the Budd family ranch.

In its present location in the Sand Hills region, far removed from the Loup River of eastern Nebraska, the Loosveldt Bridge has lost the considerable historical significance accrued by the original Columbus Loup River Bridge. But this structure has retained a high degree of technological significance, even in its new location. Although moved, the structure has functioned in place at its current site for more than 50 years, and has developed a sense of time and place. Numerous wrought iron bridges were erected in eastern Nebraska in the 1880s, but only a handful remain today. None are on the scale of the Colclesser or Loosveldt trusses. Built in 1888 by a nationally prominent bridge erector, both structures are significant to the history of bridge building in Nebraska for their representation of the state's earliest iron truss construction.

Because this bridge has been moved since its period of significance, Criteria Consideration B has been applied. Significant under Criterion C for its engineering value, the structure still retains the essential technological features that make it a good representative example of its type, period and method of construction.

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."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Sheridan County, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure Number C008104305; Platte County Supervisors' Record, located at Platte County Courthouse, Columbus, Nebraska, Book 2: 2 December 1886 (pages 52-53), 14 December 1886 (pages 56-57), 21 January 1887 (page 96), 16 September 1887 (pages 176-78), 12 December 1887 (pages 193-95), 13 December 1887 (pages 195-96, 208), 7 March 1888 (page 259), 13 June 1888 (page 270), 15 June 1888 (page 278), 2 October 1888 (page 313), 3 October 1888 (page 317); Sheridan County Commissioners' Record, located at the Sheridan County Courthouse, Rushville NE, Book E: 31 August 1933 (page 560), 16 October 1933 (page 571), 20 November 1933 (pages 578-79), 7 December 1933 (page 579), 16 April 1934 (page 607), 3 January 1935 (page 658); Myron Schievelbein, Sheridan County Engineer, oral interview with Clayton Fraser, 23 April 1990; field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 23 April 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:)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre
Cadastral Reference S17, T30N, R43W
USGS Quadrangle Rushville Southwest (7.5 Minute Series, 1966)
UTM References zone 13 easting 714700 northing 4717430

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 260 feet by 17.8 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

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

11. Form Prepared By

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
