

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

1/24/84

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Shawnee Drive Overpass

and/or common Shawnee Drive Overpass

2. Location

NW of U.S. 35

street & number .1 mile northwest of I-35 over Seventh St. Trafficway — not for publication

city, town Kansas City — vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Wyandotte code 209

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 City of Kansas City, Kansas

street & number City Hall, 701 N. 7th

city, town Kansas City N/A vicinity of state Kansas 66101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Wyandotte County Courthouse

city, town Kansas City state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Bridges
Kansas Department of Transportation has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980-1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society

city, town Topeka state Kansas

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Shawnee Drive Overpass .1 mile northwest of I-35 crossing Seventh Street Trafficway is a steel open spandrel arch measuring 94 feet in length. It has a width of 23.6 feet since it was widened in 1976. The bridge consists of four essential parts; a roadway deck, the deck supports or spandrel framing and two arch rings which spring from reinforced concrete abutements.

The structure was rebuilt in 1976 by Continental Steel and Conveyor, Inc. at a cost of \$149,792. A new wider deck was placed on the bridge, the substructure was painted and new walls and parapets were put in place.

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 (1932-1934)

Builder/Architect Kansas City Structural Steel (designer)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Shawnee Drive Overpass .1 mile northwest of I-35 crossing Seventh Street Trafficway in Kansas City, Kansas retains a high degree of 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 a reinforced concrete deck supported by a riveted steel arch ring and spandrel posts and may yield information important to the history of engineering.

In use, the steel open spandrel arch or stiffened arch rib bridge acts much as a stiffened suspension bridge would if it were reversed in position. The redesigned former tension members now act in compression.

The design in its crude form began gradually to be introduced soon after the construction of metallic arches in the late 18th century but it was not until the late 19th century that the style became prominent in the United States.

The Shawnee Overpass represents later reinforcements of metal arch bridge construction and its combination with reinforced concrete elements. It is the only known example in Kansas.

Construction plans for the Shawnee Drive Overpass show a date of 1932-1934 which corresponds to the time of the building of the Seventh Street Trafficway. These plans also indicate that Concrete Engineering Company and Kansas City Structural Steel were involved in building the bridge for the city.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

9. Major Bibliographical References

William Burr and Myron S. Falk, The Design and Construction of Metallic Bridges, Third Edition, New York: John Wiley and Sons Inc., 1916.

Henry Tyrrell, Artistic Bridge Design, Chicago: Myron C. Clark Publishing Company, N.d. Plans on File, Office of the City Engineer, Kansas City, Kansas.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Kansas City, MO-KS

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	3	5	9	7	9	10	4	13	2	5	7	9	10
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET # 10

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Larry Jochims, Research Historian and Michael Snell

organization Kansas State Historical Society

date August 2, 1983

street & number 10th and Jackson Street

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 *Michael Snell*

title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

date January 10, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Beth Grosvenor

date 3/8/84

Keeper of the National Register

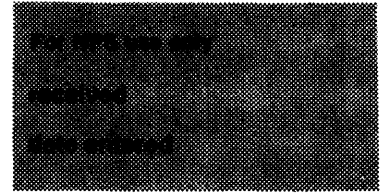
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

The nominated property shall consist of a rectangle created by the 23½ foot width and 94 foot length of the structure crossing Seventh Street Trafficway on Shawnee Drive in Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas. That portion of Seventh Street Trafficway passing underneath the bridge is not included. The bridge is located in the SW¼, NW¼, NW¼, NE¼, T11S, S27, R25E.