



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 Bridge
other name/site number NEHBS Number CC00-214

2. Location

street & number county road over unnamed stream N/A not for publication
city, town 4.7 miles southeast of Louisville X vicinity
state NE county Cass code 025 zip code 68037

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	<u>Cass 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 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 Husken DSHPO 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:)

Andrew Byas 6/29/92
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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 /rigid-connected Warren truss leg bedstead

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls N/A
roof N/A
other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located 4.7 miles southeast of Louisville, this modest span crosses over an unnamed stream in a rural Cass 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 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:	ca.1900
span length:	50.0'	construction cost:	unknown
total length:	51.0'	current condition:	good
roadway wdt.:	15.0'	alterations:	none

superstructure: steel, 4-panel, rigid-connected Warren truss leg bedstead

substructure: truss legs with concrete backwalls

floor/decking: gravel-covered corrugated steel over steel stringers

other features: upper chord: 2 channels with cover and batten plates; lower chord: 2 angles with batten plates; vertical: 2 angles with batten plates; diagonal: 2 angles with batten plates; floor beam: I-beam, field-bolted to vertical; guardrail: 2 gas pipes.

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)	N/A
Areas of Significance	Engineering
Period of Significance	ca. 1900 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	ca.1900
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	unknown
(Fabricator)	unknown
(Builder)	J.R. Sheeley and Company, Lincoln NE [probably]

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

This riveted bedstead carries a gravel-surfaced county road over a small tributary of Weeping Water Creek in central Cass County. Contemporary county records generally fail to list specific bridges in their discussion of bridge work, making definitive identification of this small structure impossible. Physical evidence on the truss itself suggests an erection date around 1900. Lincoln-based J.R. Sheeley and Company, which held Cass County's annual contracts between 1894 and 1906, is the most likely contractor.

Though never as popular as the pony truss, the truss leg bedstead was a standard bridge type marketed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by several midwestern bridge firms. The structure acts as a rigid frame, with its endposts extended below the truss itself to form the supports. This was both the strength and the weakness of the bedstead. The combined super- and substructure reduced erection costs somewhat, but they were prey to flood and collision damage and suffered from inherent structural weaknesses relating to compression stress in the lower chords. Between about 1896, when they were first built in Nebraska, and the first decade of the 20th century, a number of bedsteads were built in the state. Through attrition, however, all but a dozen have since been demolished. (Of these, half employ rigid Warren configurations.) This bridge is a well-preserved and technologically significant resource: the longest example in the state of its now-rare structural type.

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

Nebraska Department of Roads, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure Number C001314125; Cass County Commissioners' Record, refer to the following entries in Book 6: 8 March 1894 (page 309), 2 April 1895 (page 375), 16 February 1897 (page 501), 4 January 1898 (page 560), and the following entries in Book 7: 3 January 1899 (page 2), 5 December 1899 (page 70), 4 December 1900 (page 145), 3 December 1901 (page 214), located at Cass County Courthouse, Plattsmouth, Nebraska; field inspection by Clayton Fraser and Sheila Bricher-Wade, 15 November 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:)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre
Cadastral Reference S28, T12N, R12E
USGS Quadrangle Weeping Water Northeast (7.5 Minute Series, 1956)
UTM References zone 14 easting 745540 northing 4539630

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 51 feet by 17 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

11. Form Prepared By

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