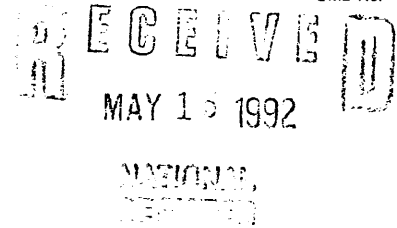


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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



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).

1. Name of Property

historic name Rattlesnake Creek Bridge other name/site number NEHBS Number CM00-58

2. Location

street & number county road over Rattlesnake Creek city, town 2.8 miles northwest of Bancroft state NE county Cuming code 039 N/A not for publication X vicinity zip code 68004

3. Classification

Table with 4 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, Number of Resources within Property (Contributing, Noncontributing), and specific counts for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and 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.

Signature of certifying official: Bob Rischendorf DSHPS 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:)

Signature of the Keeper: Nelson Byrum Date of Action: 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 /pin-connected Pratt half-hip pony 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 2.8 miles northwest of Bancroft, the Rattlesnake Creek Bridge spans Rattlesnake Creek in a rural Cuming 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 Rattlesnake 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:	1903
span length:	60.0'	construction cost:	unknown
total length:	92.0'	current condition:	good
roadway wdt.:	15.7'	alterations:	none

superstructure: steel, 4-panel, pin-connected Pratt half-hip pony truss
substructure: steel I-beam pile abutments with timber back- and wingwalls and I-beam piers
floor/decking: timber deck over transverse I-beam stringers
other features: upper chord: 2 channels with cover and batten plates; bottom chord: 2 looped eyebars; vertical: 2 pair angles with lacing; diagonal: eyebars; counter: eyerod with turnbuckle; stringer: transverse I-beam stringers are bolted to the flanges of larger, longitudinal I-beam stringers and rest on a continuous angle iron bracket, stringers are continuous across approach spans; floor beam: I-beam, field bolted to vertical below lower chord; lateral bracing: rod with threaded ends; guardrail: lattice; endpost-mounted builder's plate: Standard Bridge Company (broken)

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	1903 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1903
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	Standard Bridge Company, Omaha NE
(Fabricator)	Carnegie Steel Company, Pittsburgh PA
(Builder)	Standard Bridge Company, Omaha NE

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

On January 13, 1903, the Cuming County Supervisors awarded an annual bridge construction contract to the Standard Bridge Company of Omaha, a practice they would continue to do each subsequent year until the early 1920s. In 1903 the county undertook an ambitious bridge building program, ordering 60 new or rebuilt bridges. Among the structures erected that year by Standard Bridge was this pinned Pratt half-hip pony truss. Located northwest of Bancroft, the bridge carries a gravel-surfaced county road over Rattlesnake Creek in northeastern Cuming County. With a documented erection date of 1903, it appears to be the oldest remaining truss from among the dozens built in the county by Standard Bridge during the century's first two decades.

The Standard Bridge Company developed its own designs for the pinned Pratt half-hip pony truss and marketed it extensively during the early 1900s. With annual contracts for eastern Nebraska counties such as Cuming, Wayne, Thurston, Stanton, Dodge and Burt, the firm erected hundreds of half-hip trusses between 1900 and 1920. Many remain in place today. The Rattlesnake Creek Bridge is distinguished as the oldest documentable example among these.

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 C002024320; Bridge plate; Cuming County Supervisor's Record, 13 January 1903, located at the Cuming County Courthouse, West Point, Nebraska; field inspection by Lon Johnson, 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:)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre
Cadastral Reference S21/22, T24N, R7E
USGS Quadrangle Bancroft (7.5 Minute Series, 1966)
UTM References zone 14 easting 697540 northing 4657240

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 92 feet by 17.7 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	Carl W. McWilliams, 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
