

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 17 1986

date entered OCT 22 1986

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

1. Name

historic Vermillion Creek Tributary Stone Arch Bridge (Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR)

and/or common Vermillion Creek Tributary Stone Arch Bridge

2. Location

street & number Five miles south and one mile east of Onaga n/a— not for publication

city, town Onaga —x vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Pottawatomie code 149

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Pottawatomie County

street & number Pottawatomie County Courthouse

city, town Wamego n/a vicinity of state Kansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Pottawatomie County Courthouse

city, town Wamego state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Bridges-- Kansas Dept. of Transportation has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980-83  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 Vermillion Creek Tributary bridge is located five miles south and one mile east of Onaga. The single span stone arch is 44 feet long and 15 feet wide curb to curb. The deck lies 17 feet above the water level.

The stone arch springs from and is disposed between two stone abutments of native limestone. The stone spandrel walls project above the roadway to serve as roadway curbing as well as retain the earthen fill which loads the arch. This fill allows for even distribution of the live loads and helps to strengthen the arch.

# 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** [ca. 1915] **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Vermillion Creek Tributary bridge southeast of Onaga retains 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 the construction of a roadway supported by a stone arch which is loaded by an earthen fill, which, in turn, is retained by stone spandrel walls.

The stone arch bridge was popular in Kansas from the beginning of settlement through the 1930s. A major reason for this was the fact that limestone was usually locally available. A larger amount of the money expended for the construction could be retained within the area to be served than would be possible with the metal structures. There was also a certain amount of popular feeling against what was referred to as the "Bridge Trusts." It was also possible to use local workers and expertise on the project. The use of local stone and labor makes each example unique and particularly well suited to its environment. No stone arch bridges are currently being built in the state.

A search of county and archival records has failed to reveal the actual construction date of the bridge. Its rather simple design and the use of large, undressed, limestone blocks suggests that it was constructed during the second decade of the 20th century.

The structure is a good example of small (under 50 foot) stone arch bridges. It is one of the few still remaining in the area.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Charles S. Whitney, Bridges: Their Art, Science and Evolution, New York: Greenwich House, 1983.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Onaga, Kansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	4	7	4	5	7	0	0	4	3	6	7	0	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property shall consist of a rectangle created by the 15 foot wide and 44 foot long structure.

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

state n/a code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Larry Jochims, Research Historian and Michael Snell

organization Kansas State Historical Society

date 2/20/85

street & number 120 West Tenth

telephone (913) 296-2973

city or town Topeka

state Kansas

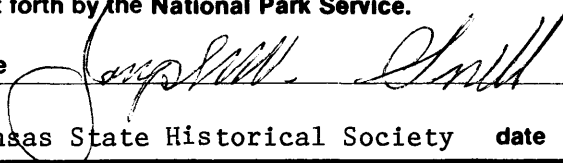
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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



title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

date 9-8-86

### For NPS use only

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

See Contribution sheet for listing date date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Vermillion Creek Tributary Stone Arch Bridge  
(Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR)  
Pottawatomie County  
KANSAS

Substantive Review\*

Working No. 30 1905  
Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Due: 6/27/85 - 7/14/85  
Action: ACCEPT  
 RETURN 7/2/85  
REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Brief, but OK w/ context - except for dates*

Recom./Criteria Return (C)  
Reviewer Assistant  
Discipline Historic  
Date 7/2/85  
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use  
Public Acquisition Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition Check one Check one  
 excellent  deteriorated  unaltered  original site  
 good  ruins  altered  moved date \_\_\_\_\_  
 fair  unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates *see comment under number 8.*
- boundary selection

X 8. Significance *Please fill in blank*  
 X Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect  
 Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

There must be some educated opinion concerning the approximate date of this bridge, or the date range within which it was constructed (how was it identified as historic?). Although you may wish to leave the word "unknown" under "Specific dates," the text of the statement should include an explanation of the lack of evidence allowing an exact pinpointing of the date, and the existing documentary or physical evidence allowing you to determine that it is a significant representation of the type and period of bridges covered by the theme ~~of the National Historic Register~~ (as you have with some of the other bridges)

9. Major Bibliographical References

An explanation of the period of significance for masonry arch bridges in the cover explanation of the thematic would have been helpful with this and should have been include in the cover form for these nominations.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
 Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_  
 UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national    \_\_\_\_ state    \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed Beth Andersen Date 7/2/85 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_