



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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Colton's Crossing Bridge

Other names/site number: Sheyenne River Bridge; 32RM84

2. Location

Street & number: unnamed county road not for publication

City or town: Lisbon vicinity

State: North Dakota Code: ND County: Ransom Code: 073 Zip code: 58054

3. 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. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James E. Sperry January 8, 1997
Signature and title of certifying official James E. Sperry Date
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Edson H. Beall 2/27/97
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Colton's Crossing Bridge

Name of Property

Ransom, North Dakota

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public - local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
<u>1</u>	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Roadway Bridges of N.D.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION: Road-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

TRANSPORTATION: Road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Pratt through truss bridge

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation concrete
walls _____
roof _____
other steel
wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Colton's Crossing Bridge
Name of Property

Ransom, North Dakota
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 Name of repository: # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION
ENGINEERING

Period of Significance

1907-1946

Significant Dates

1907

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builder: Hewett Bridge Company

Colton's Crossing Bridge
Name of Property

Ransom, North Dakota
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 4	6 0 5 1 3 0	5 1 3 7 4 0 0	2	_ _	_ _ _ _ _	_ _ _ _ _
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	_ _	_ _ _ _ _	_ _ _ _ _	4	_ _	_ _ _ _ _	_ _ _ _ _

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared by

Name/Title: Mark Hufstetler / Historian
Organization: Renewable Technologies, Incorporated Date: December 10, 1996
Street & Number: 511 Metals Bank Building Telephone: (406) 782-0494
City or Town: Butte State: Montana Zip code: 59701

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Ransom County
Street & Number: Courthouse; P.O. Box 666 Telephone: (701) 683-5823
City or Town: Lisbon State: North Dakota Zip code: 58054

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

COLTON'S CROSSING BRIDGE
RANSOM COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

Narrative Description:

The Colton's Crossing Bridge is located on an unpaved county road in rural Ransom County, North Dakota. The site is located approximately two miles south and two miles east of Lisbon, North Dakota. The bridge, constructed on an approximate east-west axis, carries a gravel "section-line" road through a rural portion of the county. The surrounding land is largely cultivated, and scattered groups of farmstead buildings exist in the vicinity; buildings are visible on both sides of the river near the bridge. The bridge crosses the Sheyenne River, a major watercourse in the area. Here, the River meanders through a wide and relatively deep valley with numerous trees.

The bridge itself is a pin-connected Pratt through truss, with a steel superstructure. The Pratt design, which saw widespread use nationally and in North Dakota during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, is characterized by the presence of relatively-heavy vertical members designed to handle the compressive stress of a bridge load. The use of pinned rather than riveted connections dates the Colton's Crossing Bridge as a relatively early Pratt design. The bridge contains a single truss span, six panels in length; there are steel stringer approach spans at both ends of the truss. Overall, the bridge is approximately 128 feet long, with a vehicle deck 16 feet wide.

Design details of the bridge's substructure and superstructure are outlined below:

Substructure: concrete abutments, back and wing walls; steel cylinder piers

Superstructure:

upper chords: two back-to-back channels with continuous cover plate along upper flanges and V-lacing along lower flanges

lower chords: pair of punched rectangular section eyebars

verticals: double, looped square eyebars on end verticals; two back-to-back channels joined with V-lacing for all other verticals

diagonals: pairs of punched rectangular section eyebars and pairs of looped square eyebars

counters: looped square eyebars

laterals: eyerods on top and bottom

bracing: portal: pairs of back-to-back angles in "A" formation; sway: pairs of back-to-back angles joined with V-lacing

moveable end: anchor bolt and roller bearings

floor system: I-beams stringers with outside channels bolted to I-beam floor beams bolted to superstructure

decking: single-layer wood

railing: double angles

steelmaker's marks: "Lackawanna"

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COLTON'S CROSSING BRIDGE
RANSOM COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

Metal plaques are mounted to end chords on both bridge portals display the lettering "BUILT BY / HEWETT BRIDGE CO. / MINNEAPOLIS / 1907 MINN."

The bridge retains a very high level of integrity; it remains in its original location, and all major structural components appear to retain an historic appearance. The stringer approach spans may be non-original in-kind replacements.

The Colton's Crossing Bridge is owned and maintained by Ransom County. It carries the state numerical designation 37-120-17.0.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

COLTON'S CROSSING BRIDGE
RANSOM COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

Narrative Statement of Significance:

In accordance with the guidelines established in the Multiple Property Documentation form for "Historic Roadway Bridges in North Dakota," the Colton's Crossing Bridge is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criteria "A" and "C." The bridge is significant under Criterion A for its association with an important pattern of bridge construction in a number of counties in the state, in which one or two bridge companies received most of the contracts over a successive period of years, even with, or under the pretense of, competitive bidding. This pattern emerged in the late nineteenth century and, in some counties, continued into the 1930s. This bridge serves as a representative example of the pattern; it is the oldest documented bridge in County constructed by a long-term county bridge builder, the Hewett Bridge Company. The bridge is also significant under Criterion A for its association with attempts by North Dakota counties to expand and improve transportation networks prior to 1926 by construction of through truss bridges, relatively costly structures. Through truss bridges with documented construction dates and builders, such as this one, best illustrate this important trend in North Dakota bridge construction. The bridge has local significance under Criterion C because it is the oldest documented metal truss to survive in Ransom county.

Historical information: The builder's plaque affixed to this bridge states that the structure was built in 1907 by the Hewett Bridge Company of Minneapolis, Minnesota. This is supported by period county records, which show that Hewett was awarded a contract to construct bridges at Colton's Crossing and three other locations on June 18, 1907. The contract price of this bridge was \$3,890. Hewett was one of eleven firms which had bid on the project.

The Hewett Bridge Company was the primary bridge builder in Ransom county until about 1910-11, when the firm became the Great Northern Bridge Company. Great Northern Bridge then continued to receive county contracts.

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COLTON'S CROSSING BRIDGE
RANSOM COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

Bibliography:

Builder's plates, mounted on bridge endposts.

Frame, Robert M., "Historic Bridge Project Report" (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 1985), p. 78-79.

Johnson, Lon, et.al. "Historic Bridges in North Dakota." Bismarck: North Dakota Department of Transportation, 1992.

Ransom County Commissioners' Records, May 8, June 18, 1907; Vol. E, pp. 27, 88.

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Section number 10 Page 5

COLTON'S CROSSING BRIDGE
RANSOM COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

Verbal Boundary Description:

The bridge is located in the Southwest quarter of Section 29 and the Northwest quarter of Section 32, Township 134 North, Range 55 West. The boundary consists of a rectangle, measuring 178 feet northeast-southwest and 66 feet southeast-northwest, and centered on the bridge superstructure.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary is constructed to include the area occupied by the bridge superstructure and substructure, as well as a 25-foot buffer of land immediately surrounding the structure.

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Section number Photographs Page 6

COLTON'S CROSSING BRIDGE
RANSOM COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

Index to Photographs

Photographer: Mark Hufstetler

Date: April 1996

Location of original negatives: State Historical Society of North Dakota,
Bismarck.

Photograph Number	Description	Direction of View
1	western elevation	E
2	southern portal	NNE
3	bridge plaque	