

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

For NPS use only

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

received **MAY 30 1985**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Brush Creek Bridge (*Murray Arch Bridge in Kansas TR*)

and/or common Brush Creek Bridge

**2. Location**

street & number .5 miles south of Coyville  not for publication

city, town Coyville  vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Wilson code 205

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Wilson County

street & number Wilson County Courthouse

city, town Fredonia  vicinity of state Kansas

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Wilson County Courthouse

city, town Fredonia state Kansas

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Survey of Historic Bridges--  
title 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

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Brush Creek bridge is 42 feet long and 19.5 feet wide curb to curb. The roadway lies 15.5 feet above the water level.

Two corrugated metal multiplate arches spring from and are disposed between a central stone pier and abutments. The stone spandrel walls rest upon projecting ring stones and the metal arch. They are capped with a projecting stone shelf and a stone guard rail is built upon this shelf. This rail is capped with an additional layer of flat stones. Portions of the guard rail cap stones are missing.

## 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** [1930] **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Brush Creek bridge 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 and may yield information important to the history of engineering.

Research has failed to reveal details about the construction of the Brush Creek bridge. Metal multiplate bridges were being built before World War II and after the metal sections again became available, they were widely advocated by companies such as Armco whose Missouri-Kansas division was located in Topeka.

The bridge represents the combination of two materials, steel and stone, that at one time were in serious competition as a bridge building medium. It had become faster and more economical to build the arch out of steel and then the spandrel walls from the readily available stone. The final result was a strong and economical bridge that still harmonized with the natural environment.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Steel is Honorably Discharged," Kansas Engineering Society Bulletin 6 (October 1945): 6

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Coyville, Kansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	1 5	2 4 4 5 5 0	4 1 7 3 8 6 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

That property on and over which the bridge is built including bridge structure and abutments. SW $\frac{1}{4}$  SE $\frac{1}{4}$  S20 - T27S - R14E

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 3/4/85

For NPS use only

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

See Continuation Sheet for listing date \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration