

**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 Pennsylvania Avenue Rock Creek Bridge

and/or common Pennsylvania Avenue Rock Creek Bridge

**2. Location**

street & number Pennsylvania Avenue over Rock Creek n/a not for publication

city, town Independence n/a vicinity of

state Kansas code 15 county Montgomery code 125

**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"/> 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 Montgomery County

street & number Montgomery County Courthouse

city, town Independence n/a vicinity of state Kansas

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Montgomery County Courthouse

city, town Independence state Kansas

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Survey of Historic Bridges--  
title Kansas Department 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**

This reinforced concrete arch bridge spans Rock Creek on Pennsylvania Avenue just outside the southern city limits of Independence, Kansas. It is 62 feet long, 16 feet wide and its deck lies 15 feet above the low water level. The structure is unique due to the railings which are merely upward extensions of the spandrel walls decorated with incised rectangles.

Structurally, the bridge consists of a concrete arch reinforced by steel ribs which spring from and are disposed between reinforced concrete abutments.

# 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** 1911 **Builder/Architect** Western Bridge Co.

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

The Pennsylvania Avenue Rock Creek Bridge located on the south edge of Independence, Kansas 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.

On May 10, 1911 the South Kansas Tribune reported the opening of bids for four bridges. The Western Bridge Company of Harrisonville, Missouri was low bidder and was awarded all four contracts among which was the contract for a 50 foot concrete bridge over Rock Creek at Independence to be constructed at a cost of \$2,900. Within three weeks work had begun on the bridge. A Tribune article in the June 7, 1911 issue stated, "The Commissioners visited the new cement bridge being built across Rock Creek south of this city and are well pleased with the way the work is being done." The Tribune on June 28, 1911 reported that the crushed rock used in the concrete for the Rock Creek Bridge was supplied from the Rock River Bluffs along the Verdigris east of Independence.

The bridge had been completed by August 23, 1911 as on that date the Tribune wrote, "Everybody who has driven over the concrete bridge at the foot of Pennsylvania Avenue, over Rock Creek . . . are enthusiastic over it."

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Independence, Kansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	5	2	5	9	8	1	0	4	1	2	1	8	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

That property on and over which the bridge is built including bridge structure and abutments S31-T32S-R16E

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 10th Street

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 listings date

Keeper of the National Register

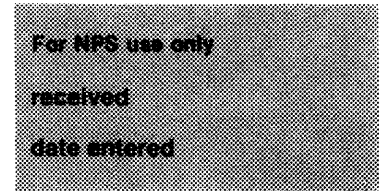
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

"Commissioner's Meeting," South Kansas Tribune, May 10, 1911, p. 4, c. 5.

"New Bridges Wanted," South Kansas Tribune, May 10, 1911, p. 8, c. 3.

"Bridge Contracts Let," Coffeyville Weekly Journal, May 12, 1911, p. 8, c. 6.

"Montgomery County Courthouse," South Kansas Tribune, May 31, 1911, p. 8, c. 4.

"Charles Webber . . .," South Kansas Tribune, June 7, 1911, p. 3, c. 3.

"Montgomery County Courthouse," South Kansas Tribune, June 21, 1911, p. 5, c. 3.

"Crushing Rock," South Kansas Tribune, June 28, 1911, p. 4, c. 4.

"Building Concrete Culverts," South Kansas Tribune, June 28, 1911, p. 7, c. 2.

"A Good Road and Bridge," South Kansas Tribune, August 23, 1911, p. 1, c. 4.

Rachel Pugh, About Independence, (By the author, 1961), p. 132.