

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
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DATE ENTERED MAY 23 1980

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Morrison Suspension Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Off IIS 64 c. 4 miles East of

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Morrison

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 6

STATE

Oklahoma

CODE

40

COUNTY

Noble

CODE

103

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Noble County

STREET & NUMBER

Noble County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Ferry

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Oklahoma

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the County Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Noble County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Ferry

STATE

Oklahoma

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Oklahoma Comprehensive Survey

DATE

1978

—FEDERAL STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Oklahoma Historical Society, Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma

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 Morrison Suspension Bridge on Black Bear Creek is a one-lane affair, 150 feet long. Its flooring consists of wooden planking on a light steel superstructure suspended from twin steel cables by hanger and spacing rods. The builder's plate is still in place over the roadway between the two south towers.

Though the bridge with its bent railings and rattling floor boards appears somewhat dilapidated and perhaps even a bit too fragile by today's motoring standards, it carries moderately heavy local traffic and is apparently still structurally sound ... provided one observes the carefully posted two-ton limit!

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 1917 to present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Nelson H. Sturgis

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Morrison Suspension Bridge, were it able to talk, might well echo the words of the Parisian after the French Revolution. Asked what he had done during those tumultuous years, he replied, not without a certain pride, "I survived." The cable span across Black Bear Creek has witnessed many changes over the past sixty years. It has taken them in stride and, while admittedly looking a bit the worse for wear, survived. In this tag end of a century that has witnessed more technological change than man has known in all his previous millenia on this planet, that in itself would seem to be no mean feat.

*

In the early years of the 20th century the suspension principle was widely applied in bridging small streams. The cable allowed use of lighter weight steel, which was not only less expensive, but also easier to handle - an important factor when heavy construction equipment was either non-existent or hard to come by, especially in rural areas.

This particular suspension design was patented by Nelson H. Sturgis of Guthrie, Oklahoma, in 1913. The bridge itself was built by the Noble County commissioners around 1917. Spanning Black Bear Creek on a half-section line road, it provided access from the south to the old Lela School and a pioneer cemetery. It still serves area farmers - a local landmark and one of the last surviving suspension bridges in northern Oklahoma.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY under one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Pawnee, OK

QUADRANGLE SCALE 15 min.

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 681500 4019000

B

C 14 683925

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u>N/A</u>			

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent Ruth, Deputy

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

DATE

December 1978

TELEPHONE

405/884-5456

STATE

Oklahoma

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

Kerry L. Dempree M.D.

DATE

7-13-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/23/80

ATTEST:

[Signature]
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

5/19/80

