

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 Rush County Line Bridge (Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas TR)

and or common Rush County Line Bridge

2. Location

street & number 11 miles north of Otis n/a not for publication

city, town Otis XX vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Rush code 165

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Rush County

street & number Rush County Courthouse

city, town LaCrosse vicinity of state Kansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Rush County Courthouse

city, town LaCrosse 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

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The triple span stone arch bridge is located 11 miles north of Otis, Kansas. The total length of the structure is 99 feet and it is 22 feet wide curb to curb. The roadway lies 17 feet above the bed of the unnamed stream.

The stone arches spring from and are disposed between stone abutments and piers. Stone spandrel walls project above the roadway to serve as guard rails as well as retain the earthen fill which loads the arch. This fill allows for even distribution of the line loads and helps to strengthen the arch.

The voussoirs and spandrel walls, abutments and piers are made from local post rock limestone. The guard rails are capped with dressed limestone slabs. Drains are located in the haunches of each arch. The large central arch is flanked by smaller arches on each side. The keystone of each arch is longer than the neighboring ringstones.

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 1936 **Builder/Architect** W.P.A.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rush County Bridge retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling and association. It embodies 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. 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.

Its significance as a stone arch bridge is supplemented by the fact it also represents the operations of the Works Progress Administration and one of its "make work" projects. As one of the main objects of such construction was to provide employment for as many men as possible, the projects were labor intensive. The result was a bridge that is more highly finished and more monumental in appearance than the rubble type structures.

Built as a joint effort between Rush, Ellis, and Russell counties, it is a good example of cooperation between the governmental entities. Due to the fact it was erected near the end of stone arch bridge popularity, it represents the evolution of the style.

In addition to its significance as a type of bridge no longer being constructed it is a memorial to the beneficial aspects of the New Deal Program. As such it is indicative of a period of time which formed the society in which we now live.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- "Three W.P..A. Projects Complete," LaCrosse Chieftan, April 16, 1936, p. 1.
"W.P.A. Worker Hurt," LaCrosse Chieftan, June 4, 1936, p. 1.
"W.P.A. Projects Closed," LaCrosse Chieftan, July 2, 1936, p. 1.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Otis NE, Kansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	4	5	7	6	0	0	4	2	5	9	0	2	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

the nominated property shall consist of a rectangle created by the 22 footwide and 99 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 10th 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 Continuation Sheet for listing date date
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date

Chief of Registration