

**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 McCauley Bridge *(McCauley Bridge, 1850)*

and/or common McCauley Bridge

2. Location

street & number .5 miles south of Auburn ___ not for publication

city, town Auburn _x_ vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Shawnee code 177

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: None

4. Owner of Property

name Fred Kresie

street & number Fairlawn Heights Nursing Center, 5400 West 7th Street

city, town Topeka ___ vicinity of state Kansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Shawnee County Courthouse

city, town Topeka state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Bridges
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

The McCauley Bridge once spanned a branch of the Wakarusa river .5 miles south of Auburn just east of present FAS-514. This double reinforced concrete filled spandrel arch is 100 feet long and 16 feet 4 inches wide curb to curb. The deck grade is situated 14 feet above the former river bed. In 1948 plans were approved and subsequent work rerouted traffic away from the bridge and altered the creek channel so that water no longer flowed under the bridge. The bridge is in good condition although several of the balusters are missing from the railing. Due to the fact it is abandoned, preservation possibilities seem good.

The bridge consists of two reinforced concrete arch rings springing from and disposed between two abutments and a pier. Reinforced concrete spandrel walls rise from each side of the arch rings and are used to retain the earthen fill which loads the arches. This earthen fill or "loading" facilitates the even distribution of the live loads and helps to strengthen the arch. The turned balusters of the railings are located on both sides of the floor line. The roadway is cantilevered by the use of brackets over the 8 foot wide arch ring.

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 1915 **Builder/Architect** Topeka Bridge & Iron

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The McCauley Bridge .5 miles south of Auburn, 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, namely the construction of a roadway supported by a reinforced concrete arch ring which is loaded by earthen fill which, in turn, is retained by reinforced concrete spandrel walls. This particular structure was built by the Topeka Bridge and Iron Company which was the area's agent for the Lutten design of reinforced concrete bridges and may yield information important to the history of engineering.

In the spring of 1914 the Shawnee Chief ran several articles pleading for a new bridge over the Wakarusa just south of Auburn. According to an April 10, 1914 Shawnee Chief article, tentative action for such a structure had been taken several times and the commissioners had even advertised for bids, twice in 1914, but they had always shelved the proposition. "Meanwhile," stated the article, "the old, weak condemned structure stands without railings or underpinning, a menace to life and property."

Two weeks later, the old bridge had been closed for repairs in response to which, on April 24, 1914, the Chief wrote, "Thanks, awfully."

By September 3, 1915 the town had finally gotten its way as the Chief was reporting the movement of the Topeka Bridge and Iron Company onto the premises. Work was underway within two weeks but in a Chief article run on September 24, 1915 it was stated that the bridge would be moved 150 feet to the south wasting several hundreds of dollars worth of work already done at the original location. Subsequent work went along smoothly and the bridge became the focus of considerable interest. A steady stream of townspeople visited the site. October brought more troubles as the Chief reported on the 8th that the Topeka Bridge and Iron Company was fined for working the crew 10 hours a day. Then on October 22, 1915 another problem was reported. The Wakarusa rose suddenly and overflowed the coffer dam holding up that part of the bridge work for the rest of the day. By December 12, 1915, the pier and abutments were all in place as was the west arch and forms were being built for the east arch. Another delay was reported by the Chief on December 10th when the bridge gang ran 90 yards short of crushed rock. Work soon resumed and by December 17th all that remained were finishing touches when weather called a halt to operations on December 31, 1915. Finally, on January 21, 1916 the Chief was able to report the completion of the bridge. Will Snyder had the fill and grading contract and began work the following week.

Even after completion, the bridge remained controversial. The Chief stated on February 11, 1916 that the county engineer had condemned certain parts of the bridge including part of the wing work and was recommending accepting the structure only after deducting six percent from the contract price.

According to the Shawnee Chief the bridge was in use on March 24, 1916. It was named after the land owner, M. McCauley.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet, item #9.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Auburn, Kans.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	2	5	15	8	8	0	4	3	0	8	9	0	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 .5 miles south of Auburn, Kansas, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S25, T13S, R14E. Includes bridge superstructure plus supporting piers and abutments.

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 10th and Jackson Streets

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

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

Beth Grosvenor
Keeper of the National Register

date 7/2/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

9. Bibliography

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- "The Old Bridge . . .," The Shawnee Chief, May 15, 1914, p. 3, c. 3.
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- "Auburn Dept.," The Shawnee Chief, January 21, 1916, p. 6, c. 1, 2.
- "Auburn Dept.," The Shawnee Chief, January 28, 1916, p. 6, c. 2.
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- Shawnee County Commission Journal, Volume 0, November 14, 1913 - March 19, 1914, pages 302-324, located at Shawnee County Courthouse, Topeka, Kansas.
- Shawnee County Commission Journal, Volume P, August 16, 1915 - January 14, 1916, pages 108-138, located at Shawnee County Courthouse, Topeka, Kansas.
- Plans and files. Design Department, Kansas Department of Transportation, Topeka, Kansas, Microfilm Roll #218, frame 113+.