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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Berry State Aid Bridge
other name/site number Niobrara River Bridge; NEHBS Number CE00-225

2. Location

street & number county road over the Niobrara River
city, town 10.0 miles northeast of Valentine
state NE county Cherry code 031 N/A not for publication
x vicinity
zip code 69201

3. Classification

Ownership of Property Cherry County
Category of Property structure
Number of Resources within Property
Contributing Noncontributing
0 0 buildings
0 0 sites
1 0 structures
0 0 objects
1 0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0
Name of related multiple property listing: Highway Bridges in Nebraska, 1870-1942

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Bob Puschendorf DSHPO 5/6/92
Signature of certifying official Date
Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
see continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Andrew Byers 6/29/92
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Function (enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Current Function (enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

OTHER /rigid-connected Pratt through truss

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located 10.0 miles northeast of Valentine, the Berry State Aid Bridge spans the Niobrara River in a rural Cherry County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. Other than maintenance-related repairs, noted below, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Berry Bridge today retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. A description of the structure follows:

span number:	1	construction date:	1920-21
span length:	152.0'	construction cost:	approximately \$7590.00
total length:	153.0'	current condition:	good
roadway wdt.:	15.7'	alterations:	moderate substructural alteration on south side

superstructure: steel, 8-panel, rigid-connected Pratt through truss

substructure: concrete abutments and wingwalls

floor/decking: asphalt and timber deck over steel stringers

other features: upper chord: 2 channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 channels with batten plates; vertical: 2 angles with batten plates; 4 angles with lacing; diagonal: 2 angles with batten plates; 4 angles with batten plates; lateral bracing: 1 angle; strut: 2 angles, braced; floor beam: I-beam field bolted to vertical; guardrail: 2 angles

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

	statewide
Applicable National Register Criteria	C
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	N/A
Areas of Significance	Engineering
Period of Significance	1920-21 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1920-21
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/BUILDER (Designer)	Nebraska Bureau of Roads and Bridges
(Fabricator)	Inland Steel Company, East Chicago IL
(Builder)	Pioneer Construction Company, Omaha, NE

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations and areas of significance noted above.

Built in 1899, the original Berry Bridge was one of four spans left intact over the Niobrara River after the disastrous 1916 flood. After Cherry County rebuilt the last of the damaged spans in 1917, the commissioners approached the Nebraska State Engineer regarding state or federal aid to replace this existing truss. State aid was approved the following year, and at the end of December 1919, the county advertised for bids for a new 20-ton-capacity bridge - either a 120-foot or a 150-foot span - at this location. "The Berry Bridge is to be removed for the reason that the government will not accept it on a federal state aid road," the county clerk reported. Proposals were received in January from Allied Contractors, the Elkhart Bridge and Iron Company and the Pioneer Construction Company. Pioneer was the only bidder to submit bids for both spans lengths, and the Omaha-based company was awarded the construction contract for the 150-foot span for \$50.60 per lineal foot. Despite damaging the truss during erection by a misplaced dynamite blast, Pioneer completed the Berry Bridge by June 1921. The 1899 truss (NEHBS No. CE00-226), meanwhile, was moved some five miles east, and is still in service. The Berry Bridge has had some recent substructural and bank protection work, but the truss remains structurally intact. One of the few remaining trusses in Nebraska built under the state aid bridge system, the Berry State Aid Bridge is technologically significant as a well-preserved, long-span example of the riveted Pratt through truss: a mainstay structural type in the state in the 1910s and 1920s.

For further contextual information regarding bridge building in Nebraska, registration requirements, and property types, see related multiple property listing "Highway Bridges in Nebraska, 1870 - 1942."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Nebraska Department of Roads, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure Number COE1637705P; Cherry County Commissioners' Record, Book B: 9 November 1898 (page 268), 10 January 1899 (page 289), 21 March 1899 (page 297), 3 October 1899 (page 332); Book C: 25 July 1915 (page 162), 18 February 1916 (page 209), 23 February 1916 (page 209), 29 February 1916 (page 210), 29 December 1919 (page 495), 30 January 1920 (page 504), 18 June 1920 (page 522), 17 August 1920 (page 525), 17 September 1920 (page 531), 15 January 1921 (page 558), 18 January 1921 (page 558), 15 February 1921 (page 562), 30 March 1921 (page 573), 17 June 1921 (page 581), 20 June 1921 (page 581), 21 June 1921 (page 582) located at Cherry County Courthouse, Valentine, Nebraska; M.F. Black Nebraska Bureau of Roads and Bridges Division #2 Engineer, to Cherry County, correspondence, January 1920, located at Cherry County Courthouse, Valentine, Nebraska; field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 25 April 1990.

___ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ___ preliminary determination of individual listing
(36 CFR 67) has been requested
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # ___
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # ___

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other (specify repository:)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre
Cadastral Reference S22, T34N, R26W
USGS Quadrangle Sparks, Nebraska - South Dakota (7.5 Minute Series, 1983)
UTM References zone 14 easting 388790 northing 4750610

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 153 feet by 17.7 feet, which is centered on the UTM point listed above. Included within this rectangular parcel are the bridge's superstructure, substructure and floor system.

___ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated structure includes the bridge's superstructure, substructure, floor system, any approach spans and the property on which they rest. These boundaries encompass, but do not exceed, all of the property that has been historically associated with this bridge.

___ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Clayton B. Fraser, Principal	date	30 June 1991
organization	Fraserdesign and Hess, Roise and Company	telephone	303-669-7969
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