

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 Old Maids Fork Bridge

and/or common Old Maids Fork Bridge

2. Location

street & number .5 mile north and 2.5 miles west of Nekoma n/a not for publication

city, town Nekoma 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 La Crosse n/a vicinity of state Kansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Rush County Courthouse

city, town La Crosse state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The bridge spans Old Maids Fork of Walnut Creek 2 miles west and .5 miles north of Nekoma, Kansas. It is 22 feet long and 20 feet wide curb to curb. The deck lies 11 feet above the bed of the stream.

Structurally the bridge consists of two reinforced concrete arches springing from and disposed between the abutment and pier. The spandrel walls extend above the roadway to form a railing. The railing on the north side has been broken off.

The arch reinforcement visible in the photograph consists of woven wire reminiscent of the Monier system. Impressions of the type of formwork are quite visible. A cylindrical opening, going completely through the bridge is located above the central pier and near the haunches of each arch.

The date 1934 is inscribed on the top of the south railing and construction data was initially inscribed on the north pier. Unfortunately the outer layer of concrete has spalled. All that remains is the engineers name and indications that the county commissioners names were once present.

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 1934 **Builder/Architect** H. M. Miller, Engineer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old Maids Fork bridge 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. It is the only remaining example of this style in Kansas.

Hays Miller was born December 11, 1896 in Rush Center, Kansas. He attended local schools and eventually graduated from the University of Indiana. He served as Rush county engineer from 1921 until 1932 and moved to Topeka in 1934 as chief engineer of the State Planning Board. From 1938 until 1941 he was director of that agency. In 1942 he accepted the position as research engineer for the Kansas Industrial Development Commission and served there until 1950 when he moved to the state architects' office. He died in Topeka October 13, 1960.

Miller's unique design is an excellent example of the use of local talent and expertise in bridge building.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Hays R. Miller, 63 Dies After Heart Attack," Kansas Engineering Society Bulletin 10 (November-December, 1960): 8.

"Hays R. Miller," Topeka Daily Journal, October 13, 1960, p. 20.

"Hays R. Miller, 63, Services Saturday," Topeka Daily Capital, October 14, 1960, p. 32.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Nekoma, Kansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	4	9	6	4	0	0	4	2	8	2	9	1	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 over which the bridge is built including bridge structure and abutments NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ S24 T18S R20W

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 W. Tenth 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 listing date _____
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration