

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Wyoming Bridge
other name/site number NEHBS Number OT00-88

2. Location

street & number county road over Squaw Creek
city, town 9.1 miles northeast of Dunbar
state NE county Otoe code 131
N/A not for publication
X vicinity
zip code 68346

3. Classification

Ownership of Property Otoe 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 Kuschendorf DSHPS
Signature of certifying official
Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau
Date 5/6/92

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:)

Entered in the National Register
Arlene 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 /bowstring pony arch-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 9.1 miles northeast of Dunbar, the Wyoming Bridge spans Squaw Creek in a rural Otoe 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 Wyoming Bridge today retains a high degree of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. A description of the structure follows:

span number:	1	construction date:	circa 1878
span length:	80.0'	construction cost:	unknown
total length:	97.0'	current condition:	fair
roadway wdt.:	14.0'	alterations:	part of bridge plate missing; probably not in original location

superstructure: wrought-iron, 8-panel, bowstring pony arch-truss with timber stringer approach spans
substructure: steel pile bent abutments and pier with timber backwalls
floor/decking: timber deck over steel stringers
other features: upper chord: 2 curved channels with continuous plates; lower chord: 2 rectangular punched eyebars continuous through the panel points; vertical: round bar with threaded ends, 2 T-sections with lacing; diagonal: round bar with threaded ends; lateral bracing: round bar with threaded ends; floor beam: I-beam, clamped to lower chord eyebars at vertical; guardrail: timber; outriders: T-sections with lacing; bridge plate: **KING IRON BRIDGE & MAC. CO. CLEVELAND O. Z. KING PAT JULY 30 1866**

___ See continuation sheet

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)	B
Areas of Significance	Engineering
Period of Significance	1878 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1878
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	King Iron Bridge and Manufacturing Company, Cleveland OH
(Fabricator)	King Iron Bridge and Manufacturing Company, Cleveland OH
(Builder)	King Iron Bridge and Manufacturing Company, Cleveland OH

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

Located in northeastern Otoe County, this wrought iron bowstring arch-truss carries a gravel-surfaced county road across Squaw Creek near its confluence with the Missouri River. County records do not mention this bridge specifically, but they do indicate an extended relationship with the bridge's fabricator, the King Iron Bridge and Manufacturing Company. Otoe County first contracted with the huge Ohio-based bridge firm in June 1876 (although King may have fabricated earlier spans in the county for other contractors), when the supervisors ordered three small-scale iron bridges. Otoe County purchased bridges from King throughout the 1880s, although the records are vague about specific structures. In 1886, for example, the county estimated \$16,000 worth of bridges ordered from King. King sued the county soon thereafter and in 1888 won a sizeable settlement in the U.S. Circuit Court. To defray the expenses in its King Iron Bridge Judgement Fund, the county initiated a special 1.5 mill levy that year. Otoe County stretched its payments to King until 1891 and ordered at least one more superstructure from the contractor, but the two parties soon ceased doing business together. Although the records are inconclusive, it seems likely that this truss was one of three ordered from King in July 1878. The bridge has evidently been moved to its current location over Squaw Creek near the small town of Wyoming.

Marketed widely throughout the Midwest by such industry giants as the King Iron Bridge Company and the Wrought Iron Bridge Company, bowstring arch-trusses were the mainstay bridge type for medium-span roadway crossings in the 1870s, 1880s and early 1890s. Several bowstrings were erected in eastern Nebraska during that period, but through subsequent attrition only a handful remain today. Most of these were erected by King. The Wyoming Bridge is significant as a well-preserved, early example of a King bowstring; one of the last surviving trusses of its type remaining in Nebraska. Although the structure appears to have been moved, it has clearly functioned in place at its current site for well over 50 years, and has developed a sense of time and place.

Because this bridge has been moved since its period of significance, Criteria Consideration B has been applied. Significant under Criterion C for its engineering value, the structure still retains the essential technological features that make it a good representative example of its type, period and method of construction.

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 C006616140; Proceedings of the Otoe County Commissioners, on file in the Otoe County Courthouse, Nebraska City, Nebraska, refer to the following entries: 19 June 1876, book 2, (page 487); 3 July 1876, book 2, (page 493-494); 1 July 1878, book 3, (page 19); field inspection by Clayton Fraser and Sheila Bricher-Wade, 14 September 1989.

___ 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 S18, T 9N, R13E
USGS Quadrangle Nebraska City Northwest, Nebraska - Iowa (7.5 Minute Series, 1966)
UTM References zone 15 easting 255805 northing 4514300

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 97 feet by 16 feet, which is centered on the UTM point listed above. Included within this rectangular parcel are the bridge's superstructure, substructure, floor system, and approach spans.

___ 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
street & number	1269 Cleveland Avenue	state	Colorado
city or town	Loveland	zip code	80537
