

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 Wolf Creek Bridge
other name/site number NEHBS Number OT00-87

2. Location

street & number vacated county road over Wolf Creek N/A not for publication
city, town 10.3 miles northeast of Dunbar X vicinity
state NE county Otoe code 131 zip code 68446

3. Classification

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

Signature of certifying official Bob Kirschenborg DSHPS Date 5/6/92
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:
X 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
Signature of the Keeper Melvyn Byers Date 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)

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

OTHER /pin-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 10.3 miles northeast of Dunbar, the Wolf Creek Bridge spans Wolf Creek in a rural Otoe County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. Despite the removal of its deck, the Wolf Creek Bridge today retains an high degree of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. A description of the structure follows:

span number:	1	construction date:	1889
span length:	76.0'	construction cost:	unknown
total length:	77.0'	current condition:	good
roadway wdt.:	13.3'	alterations:	truss moved; deck removed

superstructure: wrought iron, 4-panel, pin-connected Pratt through truss

substructure: steel pile bent abutments

floor/decking: timber decking over steel stringers

other features: upper chord: 2 channels with lacing; lower chord: 2 square looped eyebars; vertical: 4 angles with lacing; diagonal: 2 looped rectangular eyebars; counter: 2 looped round eyebars; lateral bracing: round bar with threaded ends; strut: 4 angles with lacing; floor beam: tapered "fishtail" plate girder, field bolted to vertical below lower chord; guardrail: 2 channels.

___ 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	1889 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1889
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	King Iron Bridge Company, Cleveland OH
(Fabricator)	King Iron Bridge Company, Cleveland OH
(Builder)	King Iron Bridge Company, Cleveland OH

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

In January 1889 the Otoe County Board of Supervisors allocated some \$20,000 for bridge construction for the year. They advertised for competitive bids for "price per foot, pile bridges 10 to 20, and 20 to 30 feet, price per foot for combination Iron and pile bridges from 30 to 100 feet in length and price per foot for all approaches." That March the board contracted with M.D. Campbell and Thomas J. Crummel of Auburn, Nebraska, for these spans and throughout the year issued warrants for small-scale bridge work. What the records do not indicate, however, is the erection of this pinned through truss. Dated 1889 from a now-missing builder's plate, it was likely erected in the county (though evidently not at this location) by the King Iron Bridge Company, which erected all-iron trusses for the county outside of the provisions of the annual contracts. Configured as a four-panel, pinned Pratt through truss, the structure displays features such as the fishtail floor beams, peculiar upper chord connections and "sideways" endposts and upper chords, that were soon thereafter rendered anachronistic. The wood deck has largely been removed from the Wolf Creek Bridge and the structure is abandoned, but the truss itself remains intact.

In Nebraska, the pinned Pratt through truss was the bridge of choice for short- and medium-span applications in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Most of the structures erected during this period were based on standard plans developed either by the state engineer's office or by the individual bridge companies. As a result, hundreds of Pratts were built across the state, all essentially identical, and today the Pratt truss constitutes the most populous group of through trusses. The Wolf Creek Bridge is not like any other truss in Nebraska, however, with its 1880s detailing and configuration. This bridge is technologically significant as the earliest Pratt through truss remaining in the state. The loss of locational integrity associated with the truss's move and the loss of fabric in the removal of its deck are mitigated by the relative importance of this bridge to the history of Nebraska bridge building. Moreover, although the structure is no longer at its original location, 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."

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Nebraska Department of Roads, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure Number C006610270; Proceedings of the Otoe County Commissioners, on file in the Otoe County Courthouse, Nebraska City, Nebraska, refer to the following entries: 7 May 1888, book 4, (page 418); July 1888, book 4, (page 432); January 1889, book 4, (page 471-472); 4 March 1889, book 4, (page 501); January 1890, book 4, (page 590); March 1891, book 5, (page 74); 11 April 1893, book 5, (page 275); 6 February 1894, book 5, (page 352); field inspection by Clayton Fraser and Sheila Bricher-Wade, 14 November 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 S2, T9N, R13E
USGS Quadrangle Nehawka, Nebraska - Iowa (7.5 Minute Series, 1966)
UTM References zone 15 easting 253960 northing 4518760

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 77 feet by 15.3 feet, which is centered on the UTM point listed above. Included within this rectangular parcel are the bridge's superstructure, substructure and floor system.

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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		
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