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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**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 Republican River Bridge
other name/site number NEHBS Number FR00-70

2. Location

street & number county road over the Republican River N/A not for publication
city, town 1 mile east and 1.5 miles south of Riverton X vicinity
state NE county Franklin code 061 zip code 68972

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	<u>Franklin County</u>	Number of Resources within Property	
Category of Property	<u>structure</u>	Contributing	Noncontributing
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures
		<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> 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 Kuschenberg DSHPD 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:)

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

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 /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 southeast of Riverton, the Republican River Bridge spans the Republican River in a rural Franklin 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 Republican River 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:	3	construction date:	1911
span length:	120.0'; 100.0'	construction cost:	unknown
total length:	322.0'	current condition:	good
roadway wdt.:	15.8'	alterations:	earlier north pier (steel cylinders) visible beneath bridge, were replaced by steel pile bent (all-bolted construction); according to welded inscription on northeast endpost of center span, steel deck installed 7 August 1976; minor welding to railing and verticals

superstructure: steel, 6- / 7-panel, pin-connected, Pratt through truss

substructure: steel pile bent abutments with timber wingwalls; steel pile bent and cylinder piers

floor/decking: steel plate over I-beam stringers

other features: upper chord: back-to-back channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 eyebars; vertical: back-to-back channels with lacing; diagonal: 2 eyebars; counter: eyerods with turnbuckles; portal: top and bottom struts and intermediate bracing all back-to-back angles; overhead: back-to-back angles with continuous plate; sway bracing: face-to-face angles between overhead bracing and verticals; top lateral and bottom lateral: cross-braced circular-section eyerods; floor beam: I-beam riveted to angle which is bolted to hanger plate - hanger plate is riveted to bottom of vertical; railing: lattice.

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	1911 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1911
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	unknown
(Fabricator)	Cambria Steel Company, Pittsburgh PA
(Builder)	Empire Bridge Company, Falls City, NE

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

Builder's plates over each portal of the Republican River Bridge identify the construction date as 1911 and the builder as the Empire Bridge Company of Falls City, Nebraska. According to Franklin County Commissioners' records, the Empire Bridge Company first began activity in Franklin County in 1910 and was awarded a contract to construct all of the county's bridges in 1911.

In Nebraska, the pinned Pratt through truss was the bridge of choice for medium-span applications in the early 1900s. Most of the structures erected during this period consisted of single spans, but a number of multiple-span trusses - such as the Republican River Bridge and the North Loup Bridge (NEHBS No. VY00-26) in Valley County - were built over the wider crossings. Almost all of these early bridges have been since been replaced or substantially altered, however. A regionally important crossing in southern Nebraska, the Republican River Bridge is technologically significant as a well-preserved example of this now uncommon vehicular bridge type.

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 C003104705; Proceedings of the Franklin County Commissioners, located in Franklin County Courthouse, Franklin, Nebraska, see following entries in Book 7: 3 May 1910 (page 111), 11 April 1911, (page 144); field inspection by Demian Hess, 23 January 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 S 12, T1N, R13W
USGS Quadrangle Inavale, Nebraska - Kansas (7.5 Minute Series, 1974)
UTM References zone 14 easting 521850 northing 4435300

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 322 feet by 17.8 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	Demian Hess, Research Historian	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
