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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# 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 Plattsmouth Bridge  
other name/site number NEHBS Number CC00-215

### 2. Location

street & number U.S. Highway 34 over the Missouri River  
city, town east edge of Plattsmouth  
state NE; IA county Cass, NE; Mills, IA code 025  
N/A not for publication  
N/A vicinity  
zip code 68048

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Plattsmouth Bridge Company	Number of Resources within Property	
Category of Property	structure	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 Richardson DSHPS*  
Signature of certifying official

5/6/92  
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:)

*Patrick W. Andrews*

4/15/93

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Function (enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Current Function (enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

OTHER /rigid-connected cantilevered through truss

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located on the east edge of Plattsmouth, the Plattsmouth Bridge spans the Missouri River on the Nebraska - Iowa state line. Other than maintenance-related repairs, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Plattsmouth 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:	2	construction date:	1929
span length:	400.0'	construction cost:	\$639,361.00
total length:	1820.0'	current condition:	excellent
roadway wdt.:	20.0'	alterations:	none

superstructure: steel, rigid-connected cantilevered through truss

substructure: concrete abutments and piers with architectural detailing

floor/decking: concrete over steel stringers

other features: upper chord: 2 channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 channels with lacing; vertical: 2 channels with lacing, 4 angles with continuous plate; diagonal: 2 channels with lacing; lateral bracing: 4 angles with lacing; strut: 4 angles with lacing, braced; floor beam: I-beam, field-bolted to vertical; guardrail: steel screen mesh

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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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	1929 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1929
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	Omaha Structural Steel Works, Omaha NE
(Fabricator)	Omaha Structural Steel Works, Omaha NE
(Builder)	Omaha Structural Steel Works, Omaha NE

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

The Plattsmouth Bridge carries U.S. Highway 34 over the Missouri River between Cass County, Nebraska, and Mills County, Iowa. Located immediately downriver from George Morison's 1880 railroad bridge, the immense structure consists of seven spans: a 402-foot cantilevered through truss over the river's navigable channel, anchored by flanking 201-foot through spans, with two 203-foot and two 104-foot deck trusses on the eastern flood plain. The bridge was constructed in 1929 as a toll structure for the Plattsmouth Bridge Company, a privately held corporation. (Tolls are collected on the bridge presently by the company.) The bridge was designed, fabricated and erected by the Omaha Structural Steel Works, for a reported total cost of \$639,361.00. With its sharp angularity and somewhat graceless profile, the Plattsmouth Bridge resembles some of the 19th century pin-connected trusses over the Missouri River. But its riveted connections and modestly Moderne channel piers indicate the relatively late construction date. The bridge's 20-foot roadway width places it among the narrowest of the extant vehicular trusses over the Missouri River. Since its completion in December 1929, the Plattsmouth Bridge has carried relatively heavy traffic on this strategically important interstate route.

The Plattsmouth Bridge is distinguished as one of the oldest extant Missouri River bridges into Nebraska, exceeded in age by only the Abraham Lincoln Bridge in Washington County, and the Meridian Bridge in Cedar County. It is technologically significant as a noteworthy example of cantilevered truss construction: one of three such trusses over the Missouri into the state (the others: the South Omaha Bridge (NEHBS No. DO09: 97-1) in Douglas County, and the Brownville Bridge (NEHBS No. NH00-85) in Nemaha County).

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."

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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Nebraska Department of Roads, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure Number S034 38208; Harold Levinger, "Omaha Steel," **Nebraska Blue Print**, October 1949; H.G. Schlitt, "Missouri River Bridges Progress Report," typewritten report dated 20 September 1945, located at Nebraska Department of Roads, Lincoln, Nebraska; field inspection by Clayton B. Fraser and Sheila Bricher-Wade, 15 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:)

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property    less than one acre  
Cadastral Reference    S20, T12N, R14E  
USGS Quadrangle        Pacific Junction Iowa - Nebr. (7.5 Minute Series, 1956; photorevised 1984)  
UTM References         zone 15    easting 258940    northing 4542560

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is a narrow, rectangular shaped parcel measuring 1820 feet by 22 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

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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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

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