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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

RECEIVED MAY 15 1992

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 Lewellen State Aid Bridge
other name/site number NEHBS Number GD00-119

2. Location

street & number county road over the North Platte River
city, town 1.0 mile south of Lewellen
state NE county Garden code 069 zip code 69147

3. Classification

Ownership of Property Nebraska Department of Roads
Category of Property structure
Number of Resources within Property
Contributing 0
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 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of certifying official: Bob Puchendorf DSHPO
Date: 5/6/92
State or Federal agency and bureau: Nebraska State Historical Society

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
Signature of the Keeper: Melvyn Byers
Date of Action: 6/29/92

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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 Pratt pony 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 one mile south of Lewellen, the Lewellen State Aid Bridge spans the North Platte River in a rural Garden County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. Other than maintenance-related repairs, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Lewellen State Aid 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: 7	construction date: 1926-1927
span length: 100.0'	construction cost: \$71,300.00
total length: 710.0'	current condition: good
roadway wdt.: 15.0'	alterations: none

superstructure: steel, 5-panel, rigid-connected Pratt pony truss  
substructure: concrete abutments, wingwalls and piers on steel pilings encased in concrete  
floor/decking: concrete deck over steel I-beam stringers  
other features: upper chord: 2 channels with cover plate and lacing; lower chord: 2 channels with batten plates; vertical: 4 angles with continuous plate; diagonal: 2 angles with batten plates; lateral bracing: round bar; floor beam: I-beam bolted to vertical; guardrail: 2 continuous angles.

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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	1926-27 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1926-27
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	Nebraska Bureau of Roads and Bridges
(Fabricator)	Inland Steel Company
(Builder)	Western Bridge and Construction Company, Omaha NE

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

The Garden County Commissioners first applied for state aid to build bridges over the North Platte River at Lewellen and Oshkosh in July 1916. The Oshkosh Bridge, comprised of seven 100-foot riveted pony trusses, was erected in 1924-25. Early in 1926 engineers for the Department of Public Works designed a structure for the Lewellen crossing in southeastern Garden County. Like the Oshkosh Bridge, the Lewellen design was made up of seven 100-foot riveted Pratt ponies. These were supported by 50-foot long, 8-inch Bethlehem H-piles, encased in concrete. On April 9, 1926, the county commissioners received proposals for the project from six firms. The bids ranged from a high of \$80,400.00 to the \$71,300.00, bid of the Western Bridge and Construction Company of Omaha, which was awarded the contract. Western built the structure during the fall and winter of 1926-1927. Although originally a primary system crossing, the Lewellen Bridge is now maintained by the county.

The Nebraska state engineer's office designed eight state aid bridges using multiple-span riveted Pratt pony trusses. With spans ranging from 60 to 100 feet, most were built in the mid-1920s, when the riveted long-span pony truss found its greatest acceptance in Nebraska. Of the three Garden County state aid bridges, two remain in original condition. In fact, the Lewellen and Lisco bridges are the only remaining intact examples of state aid pony trusses in Nebraska. (A third structure, the Platte River Bridge in Hall County, is made up of six spans salvaged from the Silver Creek State Aid Bridge.) The Lewellen Bridge is historically significant as a regionally important crossing of the North Platte River and as one of the last remaining intact structures from the state aid program. The Lewellen Bridge is technologically significant as one of the last of the multiple-span state aid truss bridges remaining in Nebraska.

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 C003505305P; Department of Public Works, **Fourteenth Biennial Report**, 1921-1922, page 273; Department of Public Works, **Sixteenth Biennial Report**, 1925-26, page 228; Aivars G. Ronis, "Nebraska State Aid Bridges," typewritten report by Nebraska Department of Roads, 1971, revised 1978, n.p.; field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 2 May 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 S33, T16N, R42W  
USGS Quadrangle Lewellen (7.5 Minute Series, 1971)  
UTM References zone 13 easting 739160 northing 4577740

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 710 feet by 17 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

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