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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 Burwell Bridge
other name/site number North Loup River Bridge; NEHBS Number GF00-13

2. Location

street & number State Highway 11 over the North Loup River N/A not for publication
city, town north edge of Burwell N/A vicinity
state NE county Garfield code 071 zip code 68823

3. Classification

Ownership of Property Nebraska Department of Roads 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 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.

Bob Pischendorf DSHPO
Signature of certifying official 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:

- 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

Andrew Byers
Date 6/29/92

for 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 / steel stringer bridge

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Burwell Bridge spans the North Loup River on the northern edge of Burwell. Other than maintenance-related repairs, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Burwell 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:	1940-41
span length:	110.0'	construction cost:	\$44,763.28
total length:	290.0'	current condition:	excellent
roadway wdt.:	24.0'	alterations:	none

superstructure: steel cantilevered stringer, skewed
substructure: concrete abutments, wingwalls and spill-through piers
floor/decking: concrete deck over steel stringers
other features: guardrail: steel, with concrete curbing

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	1940-41 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1940-41
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	Nebraska Bureau of Roads and Bridges
(Fabricator)	Omaha Steel Works, Omaha NE
(Builder)	W.A. Biba Engineering Company, Geneva NE

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

On June 25, 1939, floodwaters washed out the existing Highway 11 bridge over the North Loup River on the northern edge of Burwell. No effort was made to replace the structure until the following winter, when in March 1940 engineers for the Nebraska Department of Roads and Irrigation designed a new steel bridge. The bureau let the project out for competitive bid under Project No. 322-E(1) and in June awarded the construction contract to the W.A. Biba Engineering Company of Geneva, Nebraska. The structure consisted of three steel stringer spans, supported by concrete abutments and piers. With a 30-degree skew, the Burwell Bridge featured a 73-foot span in the center suspended by cantilevered arms from the outside spans, for a maximum span of 109 feet. The structure was massive, consuming some 365,430 pounds of superstructural steel and costing \$44,763.28, including grading and gravel work on the approaches. Biba obtained steel from the Omaha Steel Works, and completed work on the 290-foot structure early in 1941. Since its completion, the bridge has carried vehicular traffic on Highway 11 - Garfield County's principal north-south artery - in essentially unaltered condition.

Just five feet shorter than the Cairo Bridge in Howard County, the Burwell Bridge represents one of the longest cantilevered beam structures identified in the statewide bridge inventory. It is technologically significant for its representation of long-span beam bridge experimentation conducted by the state engineer's office in the 1930s.

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 S011 09274; "Special Design for 1-109' and 2-90'6" Cantilevered Spans, Deck Steel Girders, Garfield County Project 322-E (1) 17," original construction drawing by Nebraska Bureau of Roads and Bridges, March 1940, located at Nebraska Department of Roads, Lincoln, Nebraska; **Twenty-third Biennial Report of the Department of Roads and Irrigation**, Part I, 1939-1940, pp.49, 50, 52, 151; field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 7 July 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 S13/14, T21N, R16W
USGS Quadrangle Burwell (7.5 Minute Series, 1952)
UTM References latitude: 41° 46' 4" longitude: 99° 07' 31"

____ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 290 feet by 26 feet, which is centered on the coordinates 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
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