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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 Gross State Aid Bridge
other name/site number Verdigris Creek Bridge; NEHBS Number KX00-313

2. Location

street & number county highway over Verdigris Creek N/A not for publication
city, town 3.5 miles north, 0.2 miles west of Verdigre X vicinity
state NE county Knox code 107 zip code 68783

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Knox County	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 Puchendorf DSHPO
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:)

Entered in the
National Register

Delores Byers

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)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

OTHER /pin-connected Parker 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 3.5 miles north and 0.2 miles west of Verdigre, the Gross State Aid Bridge spans Verdigris Creek in a rural Knox 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 Gross 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:	1	construction date:	1918
span length:	180.0'	construction cost:	\$24,596.58
total length:	182.0'	current condition:	good
roadway wdt.:	15.8'	alterations:	none

superstructure: steel, 9-panel, pin-connected Parker through truss
substructure: concrete abutments, back- and wing walls
floor/decking: double-layer timber deck over I-beam stringers
other features: upper chord: back-to-back channels with cover plate and lacing; lower-chord: 2 punched eyebars; vertical: back-to-back channels with lacing; diagonal: eyebars; counter: square rod with turnbuckle; portal and sway bracing: back-to-back angles; floor beam: I-beam; bottom lateral: square rod; railing: 2 channels.

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	1918 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1918
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	Nebraska State Engineer
(Fabricator)	Western Bridge and Construction Company (Omaha); Illinois-USA-Steel Company; Jones & Laughlin
(Builder)	Western Bridge and Construction Company, Omaha NE

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

Bids for the construction of this structure were opened at the Knox County Courthouse in Center on January 24, 1918. With bids ranging from \$15,376 to \$14,585 for the superstructure, proposals were received from six companies: Elkhorn Construction Company, Central Bridge and Construction Company, Beaty Company, Omaha Structural Steel Bridge Company, Midland Bridge Company, and Western Bridge and Construction Company. The award was won by the lowest bidder, Western, a prominent Omaha firm, which had received the county's annual bridge building contract for at least five of the previous ten years. In addition to \$14,585 for the 180-foot superstructure, the company offered concrete at \$27 per cubic yard and reinforcing steel at ten cents a pound. The Department of Public Works' 1919-1920 **Biennial Report** notes that the total cost of the bridge was \$24,596.58, of which the state paid \$17,167.37. This funding was provided by the State Aid Bridge Fund, created by a 1911 law to subsidize the cost of building or renovating bridges over streams 175-feet wide or greater (later decreased to 100 feet). The county paid the remainder. Under this program, which ended in 1936, a total of 97 bridges were built, repaired or purchased. The Gross Bridge was built under projects SAB-782 and SAB-828.

During the formative years of the state aid bridge program, the Nebraska State Engineer designed several long-span through trusses. Among these were the Parshall State Aid Bridge, the Redbird State Aid Bridge, the Fremont State Aid Bridge, the Schuyler State Aid Bridge and the Gross State Aid Bridge - almost all comprised of Parker trusses. All but the Gross Bridge have since been removed (four spans of the Schuyler Bridge have been salvaged and moved to other locations). The Gross State Aid Bridge is technologically significant as one of the most noteworthy examples in Nebraska of a relatively uncommon vehicular truss type in Nebraska: the pinned Parker through truss.

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 C005413205; Proceedings of the Knox County Supervisors, 1889-1918, Knox County Courthouse, Center, Nebraska; Nebraska Department of Roads, "Nebraska State Aid Bridges," September 1978; Nebraska State Board of Irrigation, Highways and Drainage, Twelfth Biennial Report, 1917-18, p. 354; Nebraska Department of Public Works, Thirteenth Biennial Report, 1919-20, p. 557; field inspection by Charlene K. Roise, 22 April 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 20, T31N, R6W
USGS Quadrangle Verdigre Northeast (7.5 Minute Series, 1950)
UTM References zone 14 easting 578450 northing 4722680

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 182 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 and floor system.

___ 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	Charlene K. Roise, Principal	date	30 June 1991
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