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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 Hoyt Street Bridge  
other name/site number Blue Springs Bridge; NEHBS Number GA00-47

2. Location

street & number vacated township road over the Big Blue River N/A not for publication  
city, town western edge of Beatrice N/A vicinity  
state NE county Gage code 067 zip code 68310

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Gage 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 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 Puschendorf 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

*Melvyn Byers*

6/29/92

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)

VACANT/not in use

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

OTHER / bowstring through arch-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.

The Hoyt Street Bridge spans the Big Blue River on the western edge of Beatrice. Other than maintenance-related repairs, noted below, the bridge remains essentially unaltered. The Hoyt Street Bridge, having been at its current location for more than a century, 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:	ca.1870; moved 1890
span length:	approx. 140'	construction cost:	unknown
total length:	approx. 140'	current condition:	good
roadway wdt.:	approx. 14'	alterations:	decking and stringers removed

superstructure: wrought iron, 15-panel bowstring through arch-truss

substructure: tubular piers (east); I-beam piles (west)

floor/decking: removed

other features: upper chord: ovoid section tubular arch consisting of 2 half-ovoid sections riveted with a continuous plate between them; lower chord: 2 iron straps; vertical: cruciform-shaped sections; diagonal: round rods; sway: 2 cruciform sections extending from floor, crossing near the upper chord, and bolted to opposite flanges of the tubular arch; struts: pipe with spacers and rod; floor beam: 2 channels; lateral bracing: rods; guardrail: removed.

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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)	B
Areas of Significance	Engineering
Period of Significance	1870 - 1890 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date and extends through significant later alterations, as noted in the text below.)
Significant Dates	ca. 1870; 1890
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	unknown
(Fabricator)	unknown
(Builder)	King Iron Bridge Company, Cleveland OH (probably)

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

This bridge was originally constructed at Blue Springs and was known as the "Blue Springs Bridge". The date of construction and contractor are unknown. The bridge is first mentioned in Book 1 of the Gage County Supervisors' Records in October 1874 when a contract was awarded to paint the structure. In 1876, the supervisors ordered repairs to the bridge and authorized the contractor to seek an equal payment from the King Bridge Company, thus implying that the King Bridge Company originally built the structure. The tubular sections resemble the 1867 and 1872 patents issued to William Rezner of the Ohio Bridge Company. The bridge was moved to Hoyt Street near Beatrice in 1890. This bowstring through truss bridge is significant as an outstanding representative of an unusual structural type (one of six bowstring arch bridges identified in Nebraska). Although the structure has been moved from its original location, it has functioned in place at its current site for more than 100 years, and has developed a sense of time and place.

Because this bridge has been moved, Criteria Consideration B has been applied. Significant under Criterion C for its engineering value, the structure still retains the essential technological features that make it a good representative example of its type, period and method of construction.

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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**The Ohio Historic Bridge Inventory, Evaluation, and Preservation Plan** (no place: Ohio Department of Transportation, 1983), pp. 38-39; Gage County Supervisor's Record, 6 October 1874, 7 February 1876; 15 July 1890, located at the Gage County Courthouse, Beatrice, Nebraska; field inspection by Fred Quivik, 4 March 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    S29/32, T4N, R6E  
USGS Quadrangle        Beatrice West (7.5 Minute Series, 1957; photorevised 1980)  
UTM References        zone 14    easting 688930    northing 4460710

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 140 feet by 16 feet, which is centered on the UTM point listed above. Included within this rectangular parcel are the bridge's superstructure and substructure.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated structure includes the bridge's superstructure, substructure 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
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