

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

MAY 30 1985

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections.

1. Name

historic Polecat Creek Bridge

and/or common Polecat Creek Bridge

2. Location

street & number 5 miles west and 2 miles south of Douglass n/a not for publication

city, town Douglass  vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Butler code 15

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Butler County

street & number Butler County Courthouse

city, town El Dorado n/a vicinity of state Kansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Butler County Courthouse

city, town El Dorado state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historical Bridges Kansas Dept. of Transportation has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980-83  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society

city, town Topeka state Kansas

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Polecat Creek bridge is located 1.4 miles east and 5 miles south of Rose Hill. The single span stone arch is 31 feet long and 13.4 feet wide. The roadway is located 11 feet above the water level.

The stone arch ring springs from and is disposed between two stone abutments of native limestone. The stone spandrel walls project above the roadway to serve as guard rails as well as retain the earthen fill which loads the arch. This fill allows for even distribution of the live loads and helps to strengthen the arch.

The roadway itself follows the general configuration of the extrados of the arch.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** [1901] **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Butler County Polecat Creek bridge southwest of Douglass retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling and association. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and method of construction no longer being used namely the construction of a roadway supported by a stone arch which is loaded by an earthen fill which, in turn, is retained by stone spandrel walls. This bridge may yield information important to the history of engineering.

The stone arch bridge was popular in Kansas because the stone and construction expertise was locally available. Although somewhat more expensive initially to construct, they were very strong and long lived. The use of local stone and labor makes each example unique and particularly suited to the Kansas environment.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Charles S. Whitney, Bridges: Their Art, Science, and Evolution. New York: Greenwich House, 1983.

"Walter Sharp Bridge Company," El Dorado Walnut Valley Times, March 23, 1906.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Udall, Kansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

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6	6	7	1	6	0
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4	1	5	0	6	8	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification

That property on and over which the bridge is built including bridge structure, abutments and piers S $\frac{1}{2}$  S28 T29S R3E N $\frac{1}{2}$  S533

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Larry Jochims, Research Historian and Michael Snell

organization Kansas State Historical Society date 2/20/85

street & number 120 W. Tenth telephone (913) 296-2973

city or town Topeka state Kansas

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society date 3/4/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Beth Groves*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 1/2/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration