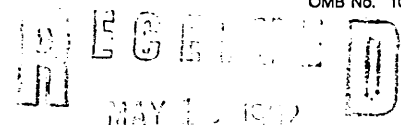


771



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Elkhorn River Bridge
other name/site number Singing Bridge; Krumm Bridge; NEHBS Number AP00-3

2. Location

street & number Township road over the Elkhorn River N/A not for publication
city, town 3.0 miles east of Clearwater X vicinity
state NE county Antelope code 003 zip code 68726

3. Classification

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ownership of Property | <u>Antelope County</u> | Number of Resources within Property | |
| Category of Property | <u>structure</u> | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| | | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> buildings |
| | | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> sites |
| | | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> structures |
| | | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> objects |
| | | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> 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 Kuschner DSHPD 5/6/92
Signature of certifying official 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

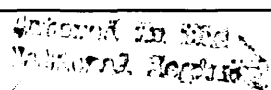
State or Federal agency and bureau

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:)

Delores Byrum 6/29/92
Signature of Keeper Date of Action



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)
VACANT/not in use

7. Description

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

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located 3.0 miles east of Clearwater, the Elkhorn River Bridge spans the Elkhorn River in a rural Antelope County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. Other than maintenance-related repairs, noted below, the bridge remains essentially unaltered. The Elkhorn River Bridge has been recently replaced by another structure but has been left in place, and today it 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: | 1883; moved 1929 |
| span length: | 98.0' | construction cost: | \$2050.00 |
| total length: | 135.0' | current condition: | good |
| roadway wdt.: | 13.0' | alterations: | joists replaced in 1912, moved in 1929 |

superstructure: wrought iron, 8-panel bowstring through arch-truss
substructure: steel pile bent pier and abutments, with timber back- and wingwalls
floor/decking: timber deck over steel stringers
other features: upper arch chord: 2 channels with cover plates each side; bottom chord: 2 rectangular eyebars; vertical: 2 T-sections with lacing, pipe at mid-span; diagonal: round rods with threaded ends; strut: pipe; floor beam: jack-trussed beams (two channels trussed with tension rods and separated by a pair of channel sections); lateral bracing: round rod with turnbuckle; guardrail: pipe.

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) | B |
| Areas of Significance | Engineering |
| Period of Significance | 1883 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.) |
| Significant Dates | 1883; 1929 |
| Cultural Affiliation | N/A |
| Significant Person | N/A |
| Architect/Builder (Designer) | King Iron Bridge Company, Cleveland OH |
| (Fabricator) | King Iron Bridge Company, Cleveland OH |
| (Builder) | King Iron Bridge Company, Cleveland OH |

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

On February 8, 1883, the Antelope County Commissioners contracted with the King Iron Bridge Company to build a tubular arch bridge across the Elkhorn River just northeast of Clearwater on Road 48. King began work at once, completing the project late that spring for a total cost of \$2050. For this crossing the Cleveland-based bridge company erected a 98-foot bowstring through arch-truss, fabricated from King's patented standard tubular arch design. On June 18, 1883, county officials inspected and accepted the new span; the bridge carried wagon traffic with only minimal repairs for nearly thirty years, until the summer of 1912. That July the Western Bridge and Construction Company of Omaha replaced the bridge's original timber stringers with steel stringers. County records are vague regarding when the bridge was moved to its present location, but Creighton resident Albert Bonge remembers that the move took place in the fall of 1929. In a May 1990 interview with the *Norfolk Daily News*, Bonge reported that he worked as a hoist operator for Western Bridge, and that he and a five-man crew moved the bridge about five miles to its present site. In its new location, the bridge replaced a timber structure built circa 1890, known as the Krumm [Crum] Bridge. In recent years the bowstring truss has become known locally as the "Singing Bridge" because when it is crossed, its truss members emit a singing sound. Since the construction of a replacement bridge 100 yards upstream in 1990, the Singing Bridge no longer carries traffic, but it is being preserved in place by the county.

Marketed widely throughout the Midwest by such industry giants as the King Iron Bridge Company and the Wrought Iron Bridge Company, bowstring arch-trusses were the mainstay bridge type for medium-span roadway crossings in the 1870s, 1880s and early 1890s. Several bowstrings were erected in eastern Nebraska during that period, but through subsequent attrition only a handful remain today. Most of these were erected by King in the 1880s and 1890s. The Elkhorn River Bridge is technologically significant as the first all-iron vehicular span erected in Antelope County and one of the last remaining examples in the state of this once-common, important early bridge type. Although the structure has been moved from its original location, it has functioned in place at its current site for more than 50 years, and has developed a sense of time and place.

Because this bridge has been moved since its period of significance, 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."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Nebraska Department of Roads, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure Number C000221910; Antelope County Commissioners' Record, Book A: 8 February 1883, 18 June 1883 (page 422); Book E: 9 July 1912 (page 123) located at Antelope County Courthouse, Neligh, Nebraska; "Bridge No. 11, Ord Township", Antelope County Bridge Record, n.d. (includes maintenance notations for Crum Bridge circa 1915-1918) located at Antelope County Courthouse, Neligh, Nebraska; A.J. Leach, *A History of Antelope County, Nebraska*, [1868-1883] (Chicago: The Lakeside Press, 1909), pp. 138-139; "Old Bridge To Continue Singing Its Song," *Norfolk Daily News*, 26 April 1990, pp. 1-2; "Bridge Mystery - Man Resolves Questions," *Norfolk Daily News*, 15 May 1990, pp. 2, 10; field inspection by Lon Johnson, 26 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 S9/10, T25N, R7W
USGS Quadrangle Clearwater (7.5 Minute Series, 1963; photorevised 1986)
UTM References zone 14 easting 572220 northing 4667690

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 135 feet by 15 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

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------|--------------|----------|-------|
| name/title | Clayton B. Fraser, Principal, and Carl W. McWilliams, Research Historian | | | | |
| organization | Fraserdesign and Hess, Roise and Company | date | 30 June 1991 | | |
| street & number | 1269 Cleveland Avenue | telephone | 303-669-7969 | | |
| city or town | Loveland | state | Colorado | zip code | 80537 |
