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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 Ponca Creek Bridge
other name/site number NeHBS Number BD00-224

2. Location

street & number county road over Ponca Creek N/A not for publication
city, town 3.0 miles east of Lynch X vicinity
state NE county Boyd code 015 zip code 68746

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	<u>Boyd 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 1986, 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.

[Signature] 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:)

[Signature] 6/29/92
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

[Signature]
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)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

OTHER /steel, 3-panel, pin-connected Pratt half-hip pony truss with timber stringer approach span foundation N/A

walls N/A
roof N/A
other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located 3.0 miles east of Lynch, the Ponca Creek Bridge spans Ponca Creek in a rural Boyd 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 as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Ponca Creek 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: 1904
span length: 48.0'	construction cost: unknown
total length: 79.0'	current condition: good
roadway wdt.: 14.3'	alterations: slight collision damage to truss; substructure largely replaced

superstructure: steel, 3-panel, pin-connected Pratt half-hip pony truss with timber stringer approach span
substructure: steel/timber pile bent abutments and pier with timber wingwalls
floor/decking: timber deck over timber stringers
other features: upper chord: 2 channels with cover and batten plates; lower chord: 2 looped rectangular eyebars; vertical: 4 angles with lacing; diagonal: 2 looped rectangular eyebars, 1 round eyebar with turnbuckle; lateral bracing: round bar with threaded ends; floor beam: I-beam U-bolted to vertical; guardrail: timber (removed); gusset plate at hip connection

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	1904 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1904
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	unknown
(Fabricator)	Lackawanna Steel Company, Pittsburgh PA
(Builder)	E. Roy Townsend, O'Neill NE

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

On October 17, 1903, the Boyd County Commissioners convened a special session to consider a petition for a bond election for bridge construction in Lynch Precinct. The bond issue passed, and early the next year the county solicited proposals for four 48-foot pony trusses over Ponca Creek, with two other bridges elsewhere in the county. The commissioners rejected all bids in March, re-advertised to the bridge companies in April, and awarded a construction contract the following month to E. Roy Townsend of O'Neill, Nebraska. This small-scale pony truss east of Lynch was among the seven steel spans erected by Townsend under the contract that year. It carried wagon and auto traffic on the county's main east-west road until the re-routing of State Highway 12, and today carries only intermittent local traffic. At some point, the bridge's substructure has been largely replaced, but the truss itself retains a high degree of structural integrity.

Flowing west-east across nearly the entire width of Boyd County, Ponca Creek formed the most troublesome barrier to inter-county traffic. (The Niobrara River, which forms the county's southern boundary created a more formidable barrier, but it was bridged in only a handful of places, and in each of these crossings, the county received assistance, either from neighboring Holt County or from the Nebraska Highway Department.) As a result, most of the county's bridge budget - beginning with the 1903 bond issue - historically has been directed toward erecting and maintaining Ponca Creek spans. Only one of the earliest Ponca Creek bridges in the county remains in its original location: this 48-foot pony truss. The remainder have been either moved or replaced. As the oldest vehicular bridge in the county, and the most significant extant Ponca Creek span, this bridge enjoys a degree of historical significance. Although modest in its dimensions and detailing, the Ponca Creek enjoys some technological significance as one of the older documentable trusses in the state.

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 C000808705; Boyd County Commissioners' Record, Book 2: 17 October 1903 (pages 1-4), 14 January 1904 (page 22), 23 February 1904 (page 24), 29 March 1904 (pages 32-33), 4 May 1904 (page 37), 7 July 1904 (page 47), 25 July 1904 (page 50), 26 July 1904 (page 52), located at Boyd County Courthouse, Butte, Nebraska; field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 7 August 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, T33N, R9W
USGS Quadrangle Lynch (7.5 Minute Series, 1950)
UTM References zone 14 easting 548510 northing 474125 0

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 79 feet by 16.3 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

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