

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 30 1985

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Bullfoot Creek Bridge (Primary Name of bridge 70)

and/or common Bullfoot Creek Bridge

2. Location

street & number Four miles south and .9 miles east of Vesper n/a not for publication

city, town Vesper x vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Lincoln code 105

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Lincoln County

street & number Lincoln County Courthouse

city, town Lincoln vicinity of state Kansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Lincoln County Courthouse

city, town Lincoln state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic 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

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Bullfoot Creek Tributary bridge is 33 feet long and 25 feet wide curb to curb. The roadway lies 17.5 feet above the water level.

The stone arch springs from and is disposed between stone abutments. Stone spandrel walls project above the elliptical arch to form a guard railing 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. Stone wing walls project from each approach.

The voussoirs, spandrel walls, abutments and wing walls are made from local post rock limestone. The railing or balustrade is open at intervals along its length. A large dressed keystone is located at the crown of each set of ring stones.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** [1930] **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bullfoot Creek Tributary bridge 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. In this instance it was post rock limestone.

Research has failed to reveal any construction details about the bridge but its refined style reflects the design of the third decade of the 20th century.

The decorative dado of the balustrades is unique in Kansas stone arch bridges.

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.

Henry G. Tyrrell, Artistic Bridge Design, Chicago: Myron C. Clark Publishing Co., N.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Wilson NE, Kansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

That property on and over which the bridge is built including bridge structure and abutments. SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S30 - T12S - R8W

### 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 West 10th

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

  
Keeper of the National Register

date 7/2/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration