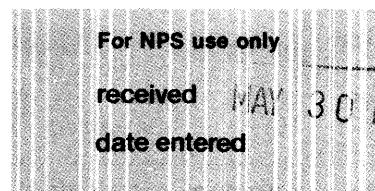


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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



1. Name

historic Harris Bridge *(Mass. reg. that is on road 20-11)*

and/or common Neosho River Bridge

2. Location

street & number 3 miles north and 4 miles west of Americus \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Americus -x- vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Kansas code 20 county Lyon code 111

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"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Lyon County

street & number Lyon County Courthouse

city, town Emporia N/A vicinity of state Kansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Lyon County Courthouse

city, town Emporia state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Bridges  
Kansas Department 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 \_\_\_\_\_

---

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

The Harris Bridge is a reinforced concrete double filled spandrel arch bridge. It spans the Neosho river three miles north and four miles west of Americus on a county road. It is 123 feet long and 16 feet wide from curb to curb. The roadway grade is situated 23½ feet above the water level. The structure is in very good condition although the railings are slightly damaged from the passage of wide loads.

The bridge consists of two reinforced concrete arch rings which spring from and are disposed between an abutment and a pier. Reinforced concrete spandrel walls rise from each side of the arch ring and are used to retain the earthen fill which loads the arch. The earth "loading" allows even distribution of the live loads and helps to strengthen the arch. The solid concrete railings are located on both sides of the floor line. The railings are decorated with incised rectangles. The roadway is cantilevered by the use of brackets over the 9' wide arch ring.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1916 **Builder/Architect** Topeka Bridge & Iron

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

The Harris Bridge three miles north and four miles west of Americus, Kansas 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 reinforced concrete arch ring which is loaded by earthen fill which, in turn, is retained by reinforced concrete spandrel walls. This particular structure was built by the Topeka Bridge and Iron Company which was the area's agent for the Lutten design of reinforced concrete bridges and may yield information important to the history of engineering.

On March 16, 1916 the Emporia Weekly Gazette reported that there had been a "hot argument" the week before between the Lyon County and Morris County Board of Commissioners concerning the location of a new bridge. The structure was to cross the Neosho River either on the county line or one mile to the east in Lyon County. The decision was left up to the Lyon County Board who chose to build the bridge approximately 200 feet from what was known as the Harris Crossing one mile east of the Morris-Lyon County line.

On April 27, 1916 the Gazette announced that the contract for the Harris Bridge had been let on April 22, 1916 to the Topeka Bridge and Iron Company at \$5,795 as per plans and specifications. Afterwards the commissioners decided to increase the width of the arch ring from seven to nine feet and allowed a separate contract for this to the Topeka Bridge and Iron Company for \$555.

"This will be one of the largest concrete bridges in the county" wrote the Gazette on June 15, 1916 as material was being hauled to the site. According to the Americus Greeting on July 19, 1916 work had begun on the new bridge and on September 21, 1916 the Emporia Weekly Gazette reported the inspection of the Harris Bridge that had been "finished several weeks ago."

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet, item #9.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre.

Quadrangle name Americus, Kans.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	4	7	3	2	2	4	1	0	4	2	7	1	0	0	1	4	1	0
Zone			Easting						Northing									

B 

Zone			Easting						Northing									

C 

Zone			Easting						Northing									

D 

Zone			Easting						Northing									

E 

Zone			Easting						Northing									

F 

Zone			Easting						Northing									

G 

Zone			Easting						Northing									

H 

Zone			Easting						Northing									

### Verbal boundary description and justification

That property on and over which the bridge is built 3 miles north and 4 miles west of Americus, Kansas. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S29, T17S, R10E. Includes bridge superstructure and supporting abutments and piers.

### 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 10th and Jackson Streets

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

see continuation sheet for listing date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- "Sexton Got the Bridge," Americus Greeting, March 16, 1916, p. 2, c. 1.  
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"Notice to Contractors," Emporia Times, March 30, 1916, p. 14, c. 4.  
"Bridge Contracts Let," Emporia Weekly Gazette, April 27, 1916, p. 3, c. 6.  
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"Floyd Ketcham . . .," Americus Greeting, July 19, 1916, p. 3, c. 4.  
"New County Bridges," Emporia Weekly Gazette, August 17, 1916, p. 3, c. 4.  
"Road Work Finished," Emporia Weekly Gazette, September 21, 1916, p. 4, c. 4.