

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

For NPS use only
received MAY 30 1985
date entered

1. Name

historic Bucher Bridge *(Masonry Arch Bridges of US TR)*
and/or common Eight Mile Creek Bridge

2. Location

street & number *OFUS 77* 1.5 miles north and 1.75 miles west of Rock n/a not for publication
city, town Rock n/a vicinity of
state Kansas code 20 county Cowley code 35

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Cowley County
street & number Cowley County Courthouse
city, town Winfield n/a vicinity of state Kansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds
street & number Cowley County Courthouse
city, town Winfield state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Survey of Historic Bridges--
title 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 bridge over Eight Mile Creek northwest of Rock, Kansas is 44 feet long and 13 feet wide curb to curb. The deck lies 18 feet above the water level. A concrete cap at the top of the spandrel walls forms the roadway curbing.

Structurally the bridge consists of a concrete arch, possibly reinforced by steel. The arch springs from and is disposed between concrete abutments. A limestone date stone was placed at the crown of the arch on the north face of the bridge. Short limestone wing walls are located at each approach.

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 1905

Builder/Architect Walter Sharp Bridge Co.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bucher 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 and may yield information important to the history of engineering.

Walter Sharp of El Dorado was awarded the contract for the Bucher bridge on December 21, 1904. At that time he anticipated starting construction in two weeks and hoped to have it completed in 90 days. Sharp completed the bridge on about May 18, 1905. The Winfield Courier called it an "unusually fine piece of work," and advised anyone involved in such work to come and inspect it.

Due to the fact that the township officials would not assist in finishing the structure, people living in the neighborhood got together and built the approaches to the bridge. The Courier reported, "The people all cheerfully went to work and our bridge is done."

Walter Sharp was one of the area's most prolific bridge contractors and usually worked with stone. By 1904 he had started experimenting with the use of concrete. This culminated in 1907 with his "invention" of the "Reinforced Concrete Beam Bridge." Sharp, however, had always been of the opinion that solid, nonreinforced, concrete bridges were as strong, if not stronger, than a stone arch. His first test of this theory resulted in a bridge completed in December 1904. It is possible the Bucher bridge is a second example of solid concrete bridges.

The Courier reported on December 22 that the bridge would be known as the Bucher bridge but does not indicate the reason.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

181

9. Major Bibliographical References

- "Cowley's Bridges," Dexter Advocate, December 8, 1904, p. 1
 "Bridge Contract Let," Winfield Courier, December 22, 1904, p. 12
 "Bridge Completed," Winfield Courier, May 18, 1905, p. 5
 "Walter Sharp Bridge Company," El Dorado Walnut Valley Times, March 23, 1906.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Udall, Kansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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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. NW $\frac{1}{4}$, S7-T30S-R4E.

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

[Signature] date _____
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration