

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 Nine Bridges Bridge
other name/site number NEHBS Number HL00-39

2. Location

street & number private road over Middle Channel of the Platte River N/A not for publication
city, town 3.9 miles north of Doniphan X vicinity
state NE county Hall code 079 zip code 68832

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	<u>Fred Bosselman, Grand Island, Nebraska</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 Paschen DSHPS
Signature of certifying official

5/6/92
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 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)

OTHER /pin-connected Pratt half-hip pony 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 3.9 miles north of Doniphan, the Nine Bridges Bridge spans the Middle Channel of the Platte River. Other than maintenance-related repairs, the bridge remains essentially unaltered. The Nine Bridges 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:	3	construction date:	1913
span length:	60.0'	construction cost:	unknown
total length:	185.0'	current condition:	good
roadway wdt.:	16.0'	alterations:	none

superstructure: steel, 4-panel, pin-connected Pratt half-hip pony truss

substructure: steel pile bent abutments and piers

floor/decking: new timber decking over I-beam stringers

other features: upper chord: 2 channels with cover and batten plates; bottom chord: 2 looped rectangular eyebars; vertical: 4 angles with lacing; diagonal: 2 looped rectangular eyebars; counter: 1 round eyebar with turnbuckle; floor beam: I-beam, U-bolted to lower chord pin; guardrail: lattice.

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	1913 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1913
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	Standard Bridge Company, Omaha NE
(Fabricator)	Jones and Laughlin Steel Company, Pittsburgh PA
(Builder)	Standard Bridge Company, Omaha NE; fillwork: D.H. Luddington NE

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

Early in 1911 citizens of Doniphan Township pledged \$1000 toward construction of a new bridge over the Platte River to replace the existing timber structure that linked the area with Grand Island. The county board of supervisors in March began considering the bridge and its approaches. Four months later the board contracted for a new north-south road north of Doniphan, known as "Nine Bridges Road", that would serve the proposed crossing. The county waited a year and a half before acting on the bridge itself, however. After soliciting advice from the Union Pacific Railroad, which spanned the Platte at many locations, the supervisors decided to constrict the river's north channel width by some 340 feet and erect a three-span pony truss. Finally, on Christmas Eve, 1912, they ordered the new structure from the Standard Bridge Company, which then held the county's annual bridge contract. Construction progressed quickly; using steel components rolled by Jones and Laughlin, Standard completed the structure by the end of May 1913. The Nine Bridges Bridge carried mainline traffic until construction of a parallel span over the Platte on U.S. Highway 281/34. Sold to the adjacent landowner in the mid-1960s, it is no longer open to traffic but is maintained in essentially unaltered condition.

A subtype of the venerable Pratt pony truss, the Pratt half-hip configuration was marketed extensively by midwestern bridge companies in the early 1900s. Its primary advantage as a structural type was that, by eliminating the vertical members at the hip connections, it was more materially conservant than the standard Pratt. Its disadvantage was that it was generally limited to short-span applications: typically 30-60 feet. But Nebraska's myriad small streams lent themselves to this range, and, as a result, thousands of single-span half-hip pony trusses were erected across the state between 1900 and 1915. The half-hip was used less often for longer crossings, because its intrinsically short length necessitated more substructural work than did longer spans. The Nine Bridges Bridge was therefore unusual when it was constructed across the Platte River, and it is even more uncommon today, due to attrition of virtually all other multiple-span examples of this truss type. It is technologically significant as an outstanding example of its structural type.

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

Proceedings of the Hall County Board of Supervisors, Book 8: 28 March 1911 (pages 154-55), 29 March 1911 (page 165), 16 June 1911 (page 168), 31 July 1911 (page 176), 26 March 1912 (page 225), 10 June 1912 (page 240), 20 August 1912 (pages 254-57), 13 December 1912 (page 277), 24 December 1912 (page 279), 4 March 1913 (page 300), 27 May 1913 (page 316), located at Hall County Courthouse, Grand Island, Nebraska; field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 8 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 S24, T10N, R10W
USGS Quadrangle Alda (7.5 Minute Series, 1962; photorevised 1974)
UTM References zone 14 easting 552300 northing 4519610

____ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 185 feet by 18 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	date	30 June 1991
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All photos by Clayton B. Fraser, Fraserdesign, 8 July 1989
Original negative at NeSHPO

