

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 Twin Bridge
other name/site number North Loup River Bridge; NEHBS Number CE00-223

2. Location

street & number county road over the North Loup River N/A not for publication
city, town 7.9 miles northwest of Brownlee x vicinity
state NE county Cherry code 031 zip code 69126

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	<u>Cherry 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 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 Fischer DSHPS 5/6/90
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:

<u> </u> entered in the National Register	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u> <u> </u> see continuation sheet	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u> determined eligible for the National Register <u> </u> see continuation sheet	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u> determined not eligible for the National Register	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u> removed from the National Register	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u> other (explain:)	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 /steel stringer bridge

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located 7.9 miles northwest of Brownlee, the Twin Bridge spans the North Loup River in a rural Cherry County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. Other than maintenance-related repairs, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Twin 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:	8	construction date:	1900
span length:	16.0'	construction cost:	\$3500 [three bridges]
total length:	129.0'	current condition:	good
roadway wdt.:	15.6'	alterations:	none

superstructure: steel stringer

substructure: steel pile bent abutments and piers with timber back- and wingwalls

floor/decking: timber deck over steel stringers

other features: stringers: channel on outside with I-beams on interior; guardrail: 2 channels

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	1900 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1900
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	Wrought Iron Bridge Company, Canton OH
(Fabricator)	Lackawanna Steel Company, Pittsburgh PA; Bethlehem Steel Company, Bethlehem PA
(Builder)	Wrought Iron Bridge Company, Canton OH

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

This steel pile bridge carries a two-track county road across the North Loup River some eight miles northwest of Brownlee in rural south-central Cherry County. Comprised as a series of steel stringers, supported by steel piles, the bridge was erected in 1900 by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company. The Cherry County Commissioners received a citizens' petition in May 1899 for a crossing of the North Loup River in this remote part of the county. In June 1900 they solicited proposals for a 30-foot span across the Snake River, a 35-foot span across Big Creek and this steel stringer bridge over the Loup. Competitive proposals were received the following month from nine bridge contractors. The county awarded the construction contract to Wrought Iron for all three structures for a cost of \$3500.00; by year's end all had been completed. The Twin Bridge has since carried intermittent traffic with only maintenance-related repairs.

The Wrought Iron Bridge Company was one of the two largest vehicular bridge erectors in the country during the late 1800s, rivaling only the giant King Iron Bridge Company in its nationwide trade. Though not as active in Nebraska as King, Wrought Iron Bridge did erect spans in the southeast part of the state and in Cherry County. Few of Wrought Iron Bridge's structures are known to have survived in the state, however. The Ohio-based contractor maintained an extensive catalog of steel and iron spans, ranging from the standard to the esoteric. With its steel stringer configuration, the Twin Bridge represents the former more than the latter. As one of the simplest of bridge types, steel stringers were built extensively throughout Nebraska in the early 20th century. Probably preserved by its extremely remote location, the Twin Bridge is technologically significant as the oldest extant steel stringer vehicular bridge identified 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 COE1603510P; Cherry County Commissioners' Record, Book B: 15 May 1899 (page 304), 24 April 1900 (page 374), 18 June 1900 (page 376), 24 July 1900 (page 388), 2 October 1900 (page 394), 2 January 1901 (page 419), located at Cherry County Courthouse, Valentine, Nebraska; field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 25 April 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 S12, T27N, R30W
USGS Quadrangle Lowes Lake (7.5 Minute Series, 1987)
UTM References zone 14 easting 354840 northing 4688070

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 129 feet by 17.6 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
organization	Fraserdesign and Hess, Roise and Company	telephone	303-669-7969
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city or town	Loveland	zip code	80537



View looking N
Photo by Clayton B. Fraser, 25 April 1990
Original negative at NeSHPO