

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 **Borman Bridge**
other name/site number **Niobrara River Bridge; NEHBS Number CE00-224**

2. Location

street & number **county road over the Niobrara River** N/A not for publication
city, town **2.3 miles southeast of Valentine** x vicinity
state **NE** county **Cherry** code **031** zip code **69201**

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Cherry County	Number of Resources within Property	
Category of Property	structure	Contributing	Noncontributing
		0	0 buildings
		0	0 sites
		1	0 structures
		0	0 objects
		1	0 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 DSHPO 5/6/92
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> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<u> </u> determined eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<u> </u> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<u> </u> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<u> </u> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<u> </u> 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 through 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 2.3 miles southeast of Valentine, the Borman Bridge [Niobrara River Bridge] spans the Niobrara River in a rural Cherry County setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. Other than maintenance-related repairs, noted below, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Borman 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:	1	construction date:	1916
span length:	130.0'	construction cost:	\$4230.00
total length:	131.0'	current condition:	good
roadway wdt.:	12.7'	alterations:	moderate substructural replacement

superstructure: steel, 7-panel, pin-connected Pratt through truss
substructure: concrete abutments (extended from original steel cylinders) and wingwalls
floor/decking: timber deck over steel stringers
other features: upper chord: 1 channels with cover plates and lacing; lower chord: 2 looped rectangular eyebars; vertical: 2 channels with lacing; 1 square eyebar at hip connection; diagonal: 2 looped rectangular eyebars; lateral bracing: round bar; strut: 2 angles; floor beam: I-beam field bolted to vertical; guardrail: 2 angles; builder's plate: 1916 THE CANTON BRIDGE Co. CANTON OHIO; decorative lacing at portal

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	1916 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1916
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	Canton Bridge Company, Canton OH
(Fabricator)	Cambria Steel Company, Pittsburgh PA
(Builder)	Canton Bridge Company, Canton OH

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

On the afternoon of February 16, 1916, the winter ice on the Niobrara River near the western edge of Cherry County began to break up as the river's level rose quickly. The flood that resulted moved downstream, pushing the ice pack in front of it and "virtually eating away the thick ice and destroying the county bridges," lamented the Cherry County Clerk. Before it passed through the county's eastern edge two days later, the flood had swept fourteen bridges away and damaged or destroyed seven others. Only four bridges over the Niobrara remained passable. In the aftermath of the flood, the county commissioners declared an emergency on February 29th and established a special fund to pay for the extensive repair and reconstruction. A representative from the Canton Bridge Company, which had held the county's annual bridge contract for 1915, conferred with the commissioners and assured them that work by his firm to rebuild several of the bridges would not constitute an annual contract. On March 24th, the commissioners visited the site of the Borman Bridge (1900) southeast of Valentine with the Canton official, and two days later ordered a replacement span from the Ohio-based company. Using steel rolled by Cambria, Canton erected this pinned Pratt through truss within a month, although the county did not pay its \$4230 cost until two years later. The Borman Bridge has carried light traffic since in this sparsely settled region.

The pinned Pratt through truss was the bridge of choice for medium-scale river crossings in Nebraska during the early 1900s, as the Cherry County Commissioners discovered in 1916. Of the fourteen Cherry County bridges surveyed on the Niobrara River (five of which were erected in 1916), thirteen are medium-span Pratts. Due in part to the flood, these Niobrara River bridges represent the best-preserved group of county trusses in the state. The Borman Bridge is technologically significant as a well-documented example of a mainstay 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

Nebraska Department of Roads, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure Number COE1606105; Cherry County Commissioners' Record, Book C: 21 April 1900 (page 371), 27 July 1915 (page 162), 18 February 1916 (page 209), 23 February 1916 (page 209), 29 February 1916 (page 210), 3 March 1916 (page 211) 15 March 1916 (page 213), 25 March 1916 (page 213), 9 September 1916 (page 245), 10 September 1918 (page 404), 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 S8, T33N, R27W
USGS Quadrangle Valentine South (7.5 Minute Series, 1983)
UTM References zone 14 easting 375740 northing 4745290

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 131 feet by 14.7 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
street & number	1269 Cleveland Avenue	state	Colorado
city or town	Loveland	zip code	80537

Photos by Clayton B. Fraser, 25 April 1990
Negatives at NeSHPO

Looking S

