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 Rattlesnake Creek Bridge
   other name/site number NEHBS Number CM00-58

2. Location
   street & number county road over Rattlesnake Creek
   city, town 2.8 miles northwest of Bancroft
   state NE county Cuming
   code 039 vicinity 68004

3. Classification
   Ownership of Property Cuming County
   Category of Property structure
   Number of Resources within Property
   Contributing 0 buildings
   Noncontributing 0 sites
   1 structures
   0 objects
   1 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 meets the National Register Criteria.

   Signature of certifying official
   Date

   In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.

   Signature of commenting or other official
   Date

5. National Park Service Certification
   I, hereby, certify that this property is:
   ______ entered in the National Register
   ______ determined eligible for the National Register
   ______ 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 2.8 miles northwest of Bancroft, the Rattlesnake Creek Bridge spans Rattlesnake Creek in a rural Cuming 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 Rattlesnake Creek 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
- span length: 60.0’
- total length: 92.0’
- roadway width: 15.7’
- construction date: 1903
- construction cost: unknown
- current condition: good
- alterations: none

- superstructure: steel, 4-panel, pin-connected Pratt half-hip pony truss
- substructure: steel I-beam pile abutments with timber back- and wingwalls and I-beam piers
- floor/decking: timber deck over transverse I-beam stringers
- upper chord: 2 channels with cover and batten plates; bottom chord: 2 looped eyebars; vertical: 2 pair angles with lacing; diagonal: eyebars; counter: eyerod with turnbuckle; stringer: transverse I-beam stringers are bolted to the flanges of larger, longitudinal I-beam stringers and rest on a continuous angle iron bracket, stringers are continuous across approach spans; floor beam: I-beam, field bolted to vertical below lower chord; lateral bracing: rod with threaded ends; guardrail: lattice; endpost-mounted builder’s plate: Standard Bridge Company (broken)

See continuation sheet
On January 13, 1903, the Cuming County Supervisors awarded an annual bridge construction contract to the Standard Bridge Company of Omaha, a practice they would continue to do each subsequent year until the early 1920s. In 1903 the county undertook an ambitious bridge building program, ordering 60 new or rebuilt bridges. Among the structures erected that year by Standard Bridge was this pinned Pratt half-hip pony truss. Located northwest of Bancroft, the bridge carries a gravel-surfaced county road over Rattlesnake Creek in northeastern Cuming County. With a documented erection date of 1903, it appears to be the oldest remaining truss from among the dozens built in the county by Standard Bridge during the century's first two decades.

The Standard Bridge Company developed its own designs for the pinned Pratt half-hip pony truss and marketed it extensively during the early 1900s. With annual contracts for eastern Nebraska counties such as Cuming, Wayne, Thurston, Stanton, Dodge and Burt, the firm erected hundreds of half-hip trusses between 1900 and 1920. Many remain in place today. The Rattlesnake Creek Bridge is distinguished as the oldest documentable example among these.

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."
Nebraska Department of Roads, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure Number COO2024320; Bridge plate; Cuming County Supervisor’s Record, 13 January 1903, located at the Cuming County Courthouse, West Point, Nebraska; field inspection by Lon Johnson, July 1989.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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: S21/22, T24N, R7E
USGS Quadrangle: Bancroft (7.5 Minute Series, 1966)
UTM References: zone 14, easting 697540, northing 4657240

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Carl W. McWilliams, Research Historian
organization: Fraserdn & Hess, Roise and Company
date: 30 June 1991
street & number: 1269 Cleveland Avenue
telephone: 303-669-7969
state: Colorado
zip code: 80537
View looking northwest. Photo by Lon Johnson, 1989, original negative located at NeSHPO