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MAY 1 1992

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Ponca Creek Bridge
other name/site number NeHBS Number BD00-224

2. Location

street & number county road over Ponca Creek N/A not for publication
city, town 3.0 miles east of Lynch X vicinity
state NE county Boyd code 015 zip code 68746

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Boyd 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 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Paul R. Anderson DSHPO
Signature of certifying official
Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau
Date: 5/6/92

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:)
Michael Byers
Signature of the Keeper
Entered in the National Register
6/29/92
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)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

OTHER /steel, 3-panel, pin-connected Pratt half-hip pony truss with timber stringer approach span foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located 3.0 miles east of Lynch, the Ponca Creek Bridge spans Ponca Creek in a rural Boyd 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 Ponca 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	construction date: 1904
span length: 48.0'	construction cost: unknown
total length: 79.0'	current condition: good
roadway wdt.: 14.3'	alterations: slight collision damage to truss; substructure largely replaced

superstructure: steel, 3-panel, pin-connected Pratt half-hip pony truss with timber stringer approach span
substructure: steel/timber pile bent abutments and pier with timber wingwalls
floor/decking: timber deck over timber stringers
other features: upper chord: 2 channels with cover and batten plates; lower chord: 2 looped rectangular eyebars; vertical: 4 angles with lacing; diagonal: 2 looped rectangular eyebars, 1 round eyebar with turnbuckle; lateral bracing: round bar with threaded ends; floor beam: I-beam U-bolted to vertical; guardrail: timber (removed); gusset plate at hip connection

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	1904 (The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)
Significant Dates	1904
Cultural Affiliation	N/A
Significant Person	N/A
Architect/Builder (Designer)	unknown
(Fabricator)	Lackawanna Steel Company, Pittsburgh PA
(Builder)	E. Roy Townsend, O'Neill NE

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

On October 17, 1903, the Boyd County Commissioners convened a special session to consider a petition for a bond election for bridge construction in Lynch Precinct. The bond issue passed, and early the next year the county solicited proposals for four 48-foot pony trusses over Ponca Creek, with two other bridges elsewhere in the county. The commissioners rejected all bids in March, re-advertised to the bridge companies in April, and awarded a construction contract the following month to E. Roy Townsend of O'Neill, Nebraska. This small-scale pony truss east of Lynch was among the seven steel spans erected by Townsend under the contract that year. It carried wagon and auto traffic on the county's main east-west road until the re-routing of State Highway 12, and today carries only intermittent local traffic. At some point, the bridge's substructure has been largely replaced, but the truss itself retains a high degree of structural integrity.

Flowing west-east across nearly the entire width of Boyd County, Ponca Creek formed the most troublesome barrier to inter-county traffic. (The Niobrara River, which forms the county's southern boundary created a more formidable barrier, but it was bridged in only a handful of places, and in each of these crossings, the county received assistance, either from neighboring Holt County or from the Nebraska Highway Department.) As a result, most of the county's bridge budget - beginning with the 1903 bond issue - historically has been directed toward erecting and maintaining Ponca Creek spans. Only one of the earliest Ponca Creek bridges in the county remains in its original location: this 48-foot pony truss. The remainder have been either moved or replaced. As the oldest vehicular bridge in the county, and the most significant extant Ponca Creek span, this bridge enjoys a degree of historical significance. Although modest in its dimensions and detailing, the Ponca Creek enjoys some technological significance as one of the older documentable trusses 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 C000808705; Boyd County Commissioners' Record, Book 2: 17 October 1903 (pages 1-4), 14 January 1904 (page 22), 23 February 1904 (page 24), 29 March 1904 (pages 32-33), 4 May 1904 (page 37), 7 July 1904 (page 47), 25 July 1904 (page 50), 26 July 1904 (page 52), located at Boyd County Courthouse, Butte, Nebraska; field inspection by Clayton Fraser, 7 August 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 S 20, T33N, R9W
USGS Quadrangle Lynch (7.5 Minute Series, 1950)
UTM References zone 14 easting 548510 northing 474125 0

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a rectangular shaped parcel measuring 79 feet by 16.3 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

5/15/92

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Highway Bridges in Nebraska MPS
NEBRASKA
Section number _____ Page _____

Highway Bridges in Nebraska MPS	NEBRASKA	Date Listed
92000746	Main Street Bridge	6/29/92
92000762	Mission Creek Bridge	6/29/92
92000724	Neligh Mill Bridge	6/29/92
92000716	Nine Bridges Bridge	6/29/92
92000704	North Loup Bridge	Substantive Review 6/29/92
92000727	North Omaha Creek Bridge	6/29/92
92000739	Olive Branch Bridge	6/29/92
92000755	Plattsmouth Bridge	Substantive Review 6/29/92
92000769	Ponca Creek Bridge	6/29/92
92000712	Prairie Dog Creek Bridge	6/29/92
92000743	Rattlesnake Creek Bridge	6/29/92
92000726	Red Cloud Bridge	6/29/92
92000765	Republican River Bridge	6/29/92
92000709	Roscoe State Aid Bridge	6/29/92
92000718	Rulo Bridge	6/29/92 *
92000741	Saddle Creek Underpass	6/29/92
92000713	Sappa Creek Bridge	6/29/92
92000740	Sargent Bridge	Substantive Review 6/29/92
92000742	South Omaha Bridge	6/29/92
92000717	Stewart Bridge	6/29/92
92000705	Sutherland State Aid Bridge	Substantive Review 6/29/92
92000767	Sweetwater Mill Bridge	6/29/92
92000766	Tekamah City Bridge	6/29/92
92000711	Turkey Creek Bridge	6/29/92
92000750	Twin Bridge	6/29/92
92000770	Verdigris Creek Bridge	6/29/92
92000706	Willow Creek Bridge	Substantive Review 6/29/92
92000738	Wolf Creek Bridge	6/29/92
92000736	Wyoming Bridge	6/29/92
92000772	York Subway	6/29/92

*9200718 Rulo Bridge - Delisted 9/21/92 Relisted 1/4/93

93000536 Brownville Bridge
 93000537 Meridian Bridge
 93000560 36th Street Viaduct
 93000559 O Street Viaduct
 93000558 10th Street Viaduct

Entered in the National Register 6/17/93
 Determined Eligible
 DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
 Determined Eligible
 DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
 Determined Eligible
 DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

6/17/93
 6/17/93
 6/17/93

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Ponca Creek Bridge
NAME:

MULTIPLE Highway Bridges in Nebraska MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEBRASKA, Boyd

DATE RECEIVED: 5/15/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/26/92
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/11/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/29/92
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92000769

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6/29/92 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



Roca Creek Bridge - NESHBS No. B100-224

Lynch vicinity, BOYD CO., NEBR

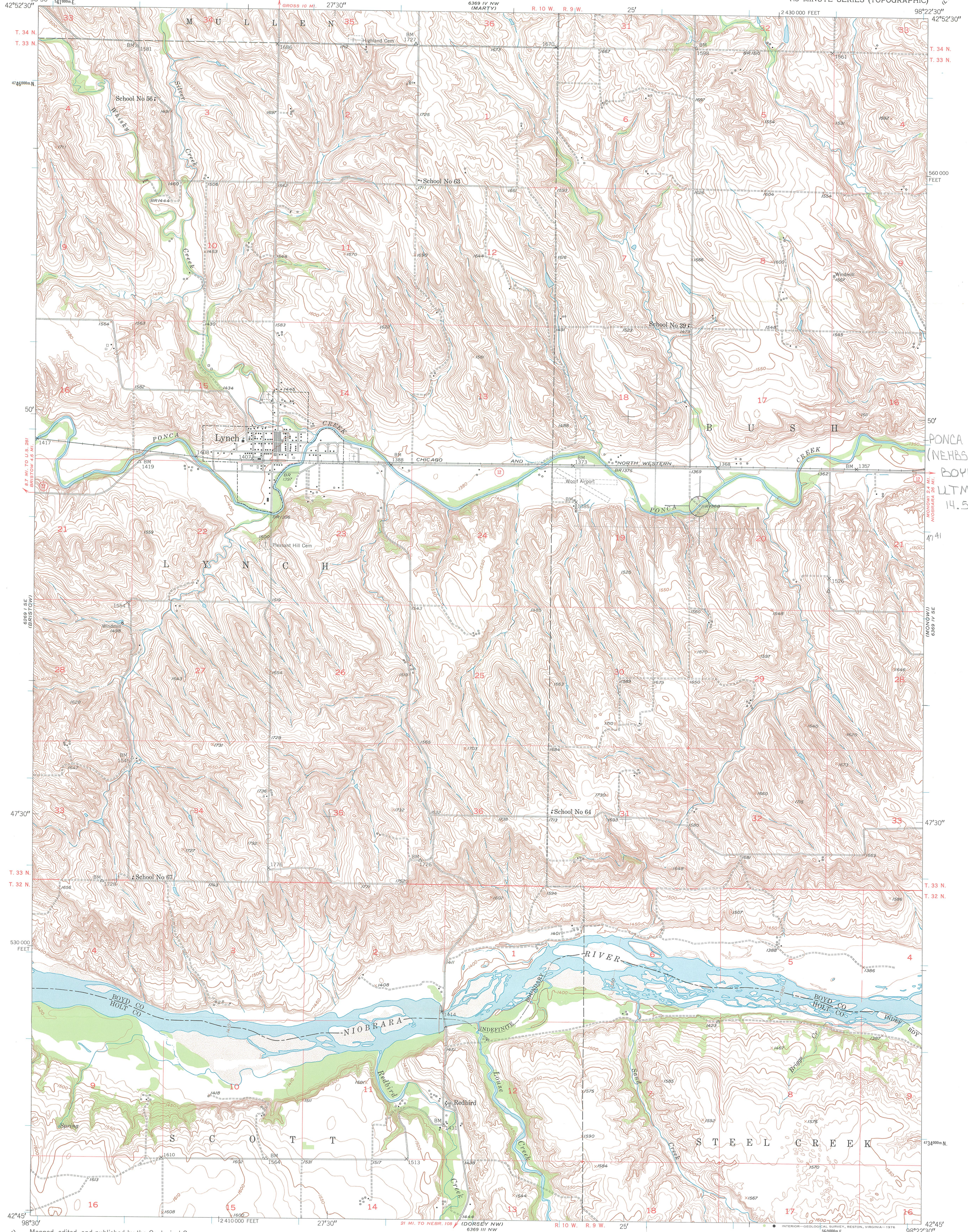
CLAYTON FRASER

7 Aug 1990

original negative located at NESHBS

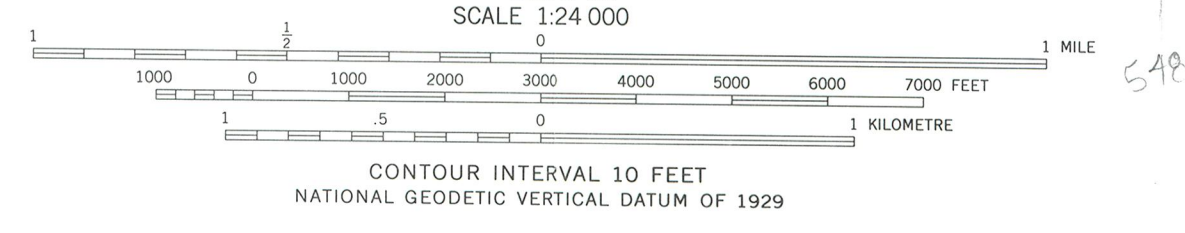
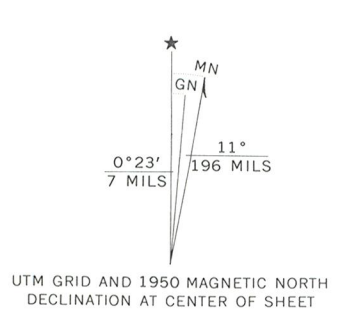
view looking: northeast

PHOTO 1 of 1



PONCA CREEK BRIDGE
(NEHBS# BDDO-224)
BOYD COUNTY
UTM:
14.548510.4741250

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by multiplex methods from aerial photographs taken 1946, by plane-table surveys 1950, and in part by United States Corps of Engineers. Field check 1950
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Nebraska coordinate system, north zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	4 LANE 8 LANE	Light-duty	2 LANE 4 LANE
Medium-duty	4 LANE 8 LANE	Unimproved dirt	-----
U. S. Route	□	State Route	○

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

LYNCH, NEBR.
N4245-W9822.5/7.5

1950



NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1500 R STREET, BOX 82554, LINCOLN, NE 68501
DIRECTOR: JAMES A. HANSON (402) 471-3270

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MAY 15 1992

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May 8, 1992

Ms. Carol Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
1100 'L' Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

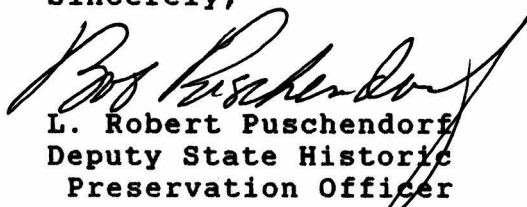
Re: Ponca Creek Bridge
NEHBS # BD00-224
3.0 miles E of Lynch
rural Boyd County, Nebraska

Dear Ms. Shull:

Please find enclosed the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the above property. The property is being nominated under the Multiple Documentation Form, Highway Bridges in Nebraska 1870-1942, which is enclosed under separate cover. This nomination has met all notification and other requirements as established in 36 CFR Part 60.

If you have any questions regarding the nomination, please let me know.

Sincerely,


L. Robert Puschendorf
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

Enclosure