

Historic Bridge Recordation Form

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Mulberry Creek Truss Bridge

Other names/site number: Second Avenue Bridge (Dodge City); Coronado Bridge (southeast of Fort Dodge); 057-0000-00010

2. Location

Street & number: 3 miles west and 3 miles south of Ford, KS on Valley Road

City or town: N/A

State: KS

County: Ford

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

Public – Local

Public – State

Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

District

Site

Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

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

4. Function or Use

Historic Function: bridge

Current Function: bridge

5. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Pratt Truss

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: steel

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Mulberry Creek Truss Bridge, on Valley Road, is a two-span, Pratt truss steel bridge. It crosses Mulberry Creek approximately 3.85 miles southwest of Ford and approximately 15.5 miles southeast of Dodge City in Kansas. The general setting is flat land dominated by farm fields. Mulberry Creek is normally dry and is vegetated by regrowth trees and bushes. This bridge was originally constructed as the six-span truss Second Avenue Bridge across the Arkansas River in Dodge City in 1906. The Second Avenue Bridge was replaced by a concrete structure in 1935. Reportedly, all six spans of the original bridge were then used to construct the Coronado Bridge across the Arkansas River southeast of Fort Dodge. The Coronado Bridge was replaced by a concrete structure in 1958 and two of its six spans were placed in their present location. The Mulberry Creek Truss Bridge exhibits integrity of design, materials, and workmanship associated with its original 1906 manufacture. The Mulberry Creek Truss Bridge lacks integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association due to having been moved twice.

Narrative Description

The Mulberry Creek Truss Bridge, on Valley Road, is a two-span, Pratt truss steel bridge. This bridge was originally constructed as the six-span Second Avenue Bridge across the Arkansas River in Dodge City in 1906. This was the second bridge in this original location. The first bridge, a wooden structure, was built by the Dodge County Bridge Company in 1873. Originally a toll bridge, the original bridge became a toll-free, publicly owned bridge in the 1880s.

In 1906, the wooden bridge on Second Avenue was replaced by a six-span steel Pratt truss bridge manufactured by the Kansas City Bridge Company of Kansas City, Missouri. The 1906 steel bridge was described by a local newspaper to be a 20-foot wide bridge consisting of six 85-foot long spans supported by two concrete abutments and five cylinder piers. It was designed to support the weight of steam engines, which were then coming into general use in the area and to withstand seasonal flooding of the Arkansas River. The cost to erect the bridge in its original location was \$20,997 but the use of lumber from the original bridge lowered the price by \$1,000.

The 1906 steel bridge on Second Avenue was replaced by a concrete structure in 1935. Reportedly, all six spans of the steel bridge were moved to a new location two miles southeast of Fort Dodge and used to construct the Coronado Bridge across the Arkansas River. The Coronado Bridge was named for the nearby location where Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado crossed the Arkansas River on June 29, 1541. A 38-foot tall concrete cross on a nearby hilltop marked the location of the first known Christian service in the interior of the continent.

The steel bridge served in this second location until 1958, when it was replaced by a concrete span. At that time, two of its spans were used to span Mulberry Creek in its present location.

An inspection in May of 2012 revealed that one of the load-bearing connecting pins was broken and the bridge was ordered to be closed. Closer inspection revealed that it was a replacement pin that had been fabricated out of a vehicle axle. The design of this bridge makes it fracture-critical, which means that the entire bridge is subject to complete failure if a single piece fails. The Ford County Commissioners decided to replace the bridge with a culvert due to the risk of structural failure of the bridge even if the defective pin is replaced.

This recordation form is being completed to comply with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Kansas State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The MOA was developed to address the adverse effect of the demolition of the Mulberry Creek Truss Bridge in accordance with the Section 106 process. The Mulberry Creek Truss Bridge is expected to be removed sometime in 2014 or early 2015 upon receipt of a permit from the USACE.

6. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Period of Significance

1906 - 1935

Significant Dates

1906 – Construction in Dodge City as the six-span Second Avenue Bridge

1935 – Reconstruction to form the six-span Coronado Bridge near Fort Dodge

1958 – Reconstruction of two spans at its present location to form the Valley Road Bridge

Significant Person

none

Cultural Affiliation

None

Architect/Builder

Kansas City Bridge Company

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The two remaining trusses of this bridge exhibit integrity of the design, materials, and workmanship of a steel bridge produced in 1906 by the Kansas City Bridge Company of Kansas City, Missouri. The Kansas City Bridge company built many bridges throughout the Midwest from its founding in 1893 until it ceased business around 1960. Some of the more notable National Register-listed spans manufactured by the Kansas City Bridge Company include:

- Asylum Bridge, Osawatomie, Kansas;
- Carey’s Ford Bridge, Osawatomie, Kansas;
- Little Walnut River Bridge, Bois D’Arc, Kansas;
- North Gypsum Creek Bridge, Barnard, Kansas;
- Tauy Creek Bridge, Ottawa, Kansas;
- Little Deep Fork Creek Bridge, Bristow, Oklahoma; and
- South Omaha Bridge, between Omaha, Nebraska and Council Bluffs, Iowa (no longer extant)

When compared to its original construction, the Mulberry Creek Truss Bridge lacks integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association for having been moved twice from locations across the Arkansas River, which flowed historically, to its present location across a small, predominantly dry creek.

7. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Metal Truss Bridges in Kansas 1861 – 1939. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. <http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/64500222.pdf>

“Dodge City’s Second Avenue Historic Steel Bridge Fate to be Determined at Meeting in April.” *The Bucklin Banner*. Volume 117, Issue 14. Wednesday, April 3, 2013.

“Mulberry Creek Truss Bridge – Valley Road.” Kansas Historic Resources Inventory. 057-0000-00010. Form Printed March 21, 2013.

“Future of Historic Bridge in Question.” *Dodge City Daily Globe*. Authored by Don Steele. December 6, 2012.

Kansas City Bridge Company. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kansas_City_Bridge_Company

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other

Name of repository: Newspaper archives of the Dodge City Daily Globe

8. Geographical Data

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum: WGS84

Latitude: 37.60133

Longitude: -99.80903

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of this historic property is defined by the bridge itself, beginning at the abutments at the east and west ends of the bridge and including the center pier.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary was established based on the bridge as a historic structure.

9. Form Prepared By

Name / Title: Joe Trnka, AICP, CEP / Principal Investigator

Organization: Kirkham Michael

Address: 12700 West Dodge Road

City: Omaha

State: NE

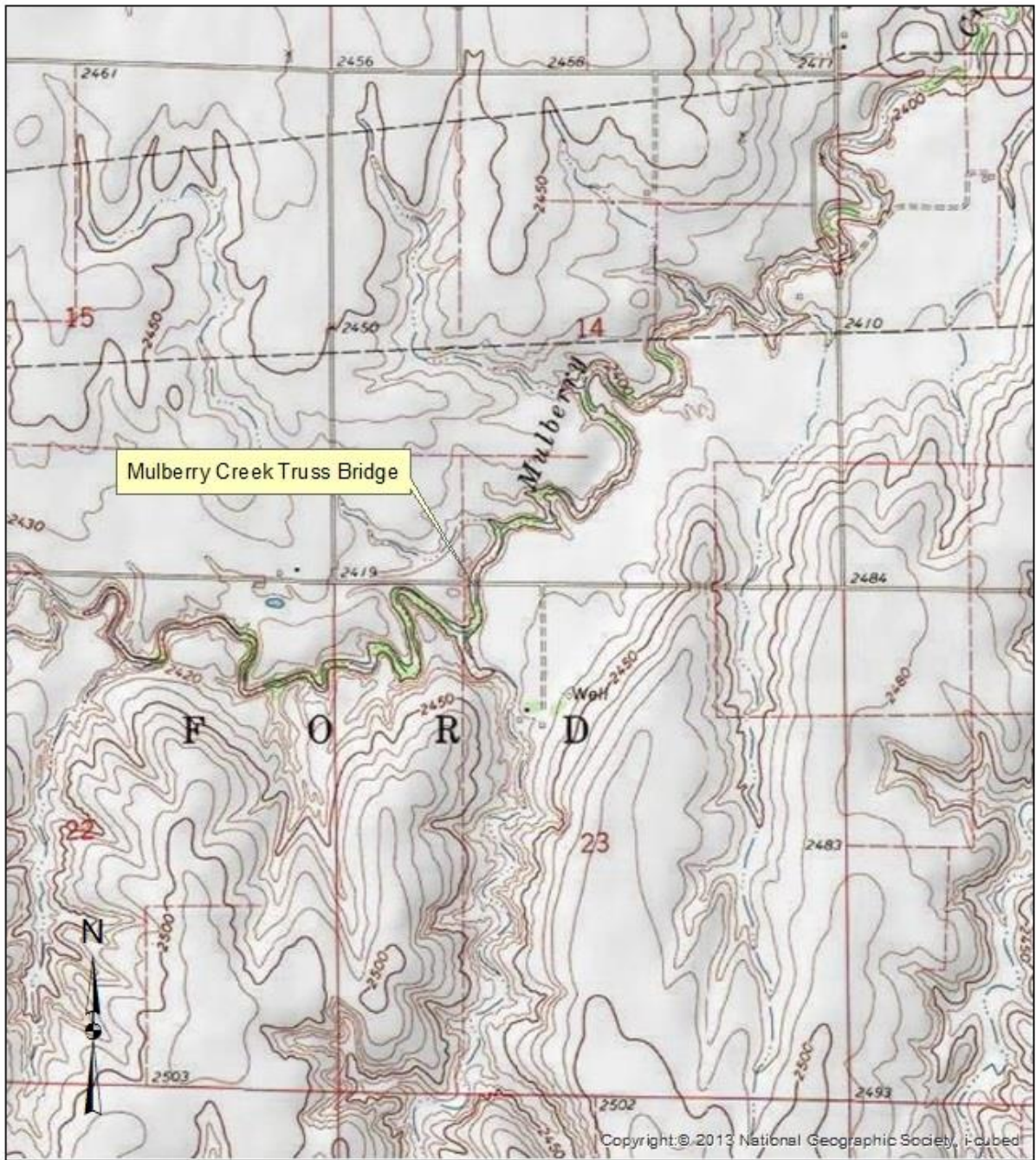
Zip Code: 68154

E-mail: jtrnka@kirkham.com

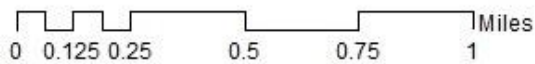
Telephone: (402) 255-3816

Date: January 28, 2014

Map



Mulberry Creek Truss Bridge
Valley Road
Ford County, Kansas



Photographs



Figure 1. Overview of Mulberry Creek Truss Bridge looking east. Photograph taken on January 21, 2014.



Figure 2. Mulberry Creek Truss Bridge looking southeast. Photograph taken on January 21, 2014.



Figure 3. Mulberry Creek Truss Bridge looking east-northeast. Photograph taken on January 21, 2014.



Figure 4. Mulberry Creek Truss Bridge looking northwest. Photograph taken on January 21, 2014.



Figure 5. Mulberry Creek Truss Bridge looking west. Photograph taken on January 21, 2014.



Figure 6. Mulberry Creek Truss Bridge – makers mark. Photograph taken on February 19, 2014.