

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received

date entered

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Marmaton Bridge

and/or common N/A

## 2. Location

street & number 1 mile NE of Fort Scott N/A not for publication

city, town N/A Fort Scott  vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Kansas code 20 county Bourbon code 011

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>none</u>

## 4. Owner of Property

name Bourbon County

street & number 210 South National

city, town Fort Scott N/A vicinity of state Kansas

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bourbon County Courthouse

street & number 210 South National

city, town Fort Scott state Kansas

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kansas Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date July, 1972  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Ks. State Historical Society—Historic Preservation Dept.

city, town Topeka state Kansas 66612

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>      N/A      </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The bridge that spans the Marmaton River one mile northeast of the city of Fort Scott, Kansas, is on the original bridge site and is currently in fair condition. The bridge is comprised of three bowstring tied arch spans which include various stringers and braces. Two cut stone piers support the large 112 foot center span which is flanked by the two smaller spans of 50 feet each that terminate on the respective north/south abutments of the bridge. The existing superstructure, piers and abutments are comprised of original fabric, but most of the flooring was removed after it was destroyed by a fire which occurred in 1974. The bridge is 15'9" wide. The floor of the bridge is about 35 feet above the Marmaton River.

Some deterioration has occurred as the result of constant exposure to indigenous environmental conditions and the cessation of applicable maintenance. All of the metal fabric in the superstructure and sub-bracing is severely rusted but appears to be sound and undamaged by the fire which destroyed the flooring. The piers and abutments are in good condition and do not have any major age cracks in the bonding fabric or stone matrix.

In 1980 Bourbon County Engineer Lewis Shields estimated that the total restoration cost would be approximately \$20,000.00. The latter restoration would include the replacement of the oak floor and support beams and the sandblasting/coating of all of the metal fabric.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1878-1879      **Builder/Architect** King Bridge Company

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Marmaton Bridge near Fort Scott, Kansas, is a rare extant example of a triple span bow-string arch bridge. It crosses the Marmaton River at the site of a ford that was an integral part of an older military/public highway. The highway had been constructed by the U. S. Army to connect various Forts that had been established as part of the 1840-1853 Permanent Indian Frontier. When the bridge was constructed in 1878 the frontier had advanced west and the highway was used by civilian vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Although constructed by the Bourbon County Commission, the bridge is frequently inaccurately referred to as the Old Military Bridge.

The May 4, 1878, Fort Scott Monitor noted that "some efforts are being made to have a bridge constructed over Military Ford. It has been a want long felt by the business men of our city and farmers East of us."

The contract for the metal fabric of the bridge was awarded to the King Bridge Company of Cleveland, Ohio, on June 8, 1878. The completed bridge was accepted by the Bourbon County Board of Commissioners on January 14, 1879 and the King Bridge Company was paid \$3233.00 for completing their part of the construction contract. Mr. John S. Miller was awarded the contracts for the construction of the stone bridge piers and the approach abutments. On January 21, 1879, Mr. Miller was paid \$1500.00 for having completed the approach abutments.

The Marmaton Bridge served vehicular and pedestrian traffic that traveled the county road from 1878 to 1965. In 1965 the bridge was closed and became a footbridge. In 1974 the flooring of the bridge was almost completely destroyed by a fire of suspicious origin and it was closed to all traffic.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Fort Scott

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	5	3	5	3	0	5	0	4	1	9	1	3	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification That property on and over which the bridge is built, 1 mile NE of Fort Scott, S21, T25S, R25E. Includes bridge superstructure plus supporting stone piers and bank abutments.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nora Pat Small, Architectural Historian

organization Ks. State Historical Society--HPD

date 3-30-82

street & number 120 West Tenth

telephone 931 296-3251

city or town Topeka

state Kansas 66612

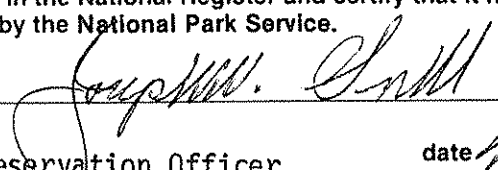
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Ex. Director and St. Historic Preservation Officer

date March 24, 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

I. Newspapers:  
Fort Scott Monitor

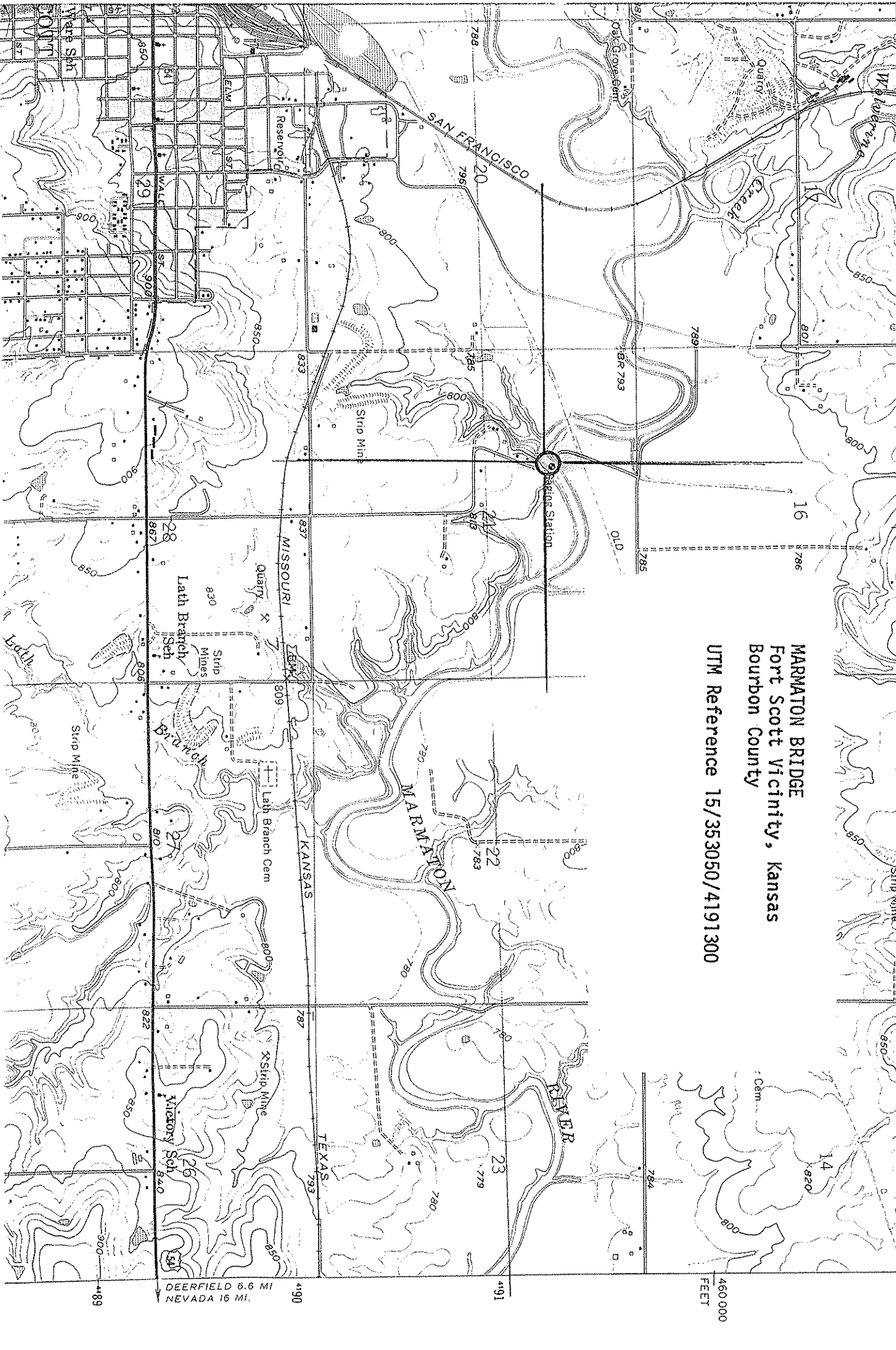
1. May 4, 1878
2. May 21, 1878
3. May 22, 1878
4. June 6, 1878
5. June 8, 1878
6. Dec. 12, 1878
7. Jan. 16, 1878
8. Jan. 29, 1889

II. Bourbon County Commission Record Book C:

1. June 8, 1878
2. July 19, 1878---pg. 122
3. Oct. 10, 1878---pg. 142
4. Oct. 12, 1878---pg. 156
5. Oct. 23, 1878---pg. 160
6. Oct. 23, 1878---pg. 161
7. Jan. 14, 1879---pg. 195
8. Jan. 20, 1879---pg. 196
9. Jan. 21, 1879---pg. 197

7059 1 MW (HAMMOND) 351 352 353 40' 354 356 1:3110 000 FEET 94°37'30" 37°52'30"

MARMATON BRIDGE  
Fort Scott Vicinity, Kansas  
Bourbon County  
UTM Reference 15/353050/4191300



460 000  
FEET

DEERFIELD 6.6 MI  
NEVADA 16 MI.

7059 1 NE  
(RICHARDS)

Inventory Number 011-000h-000

REGISTER OF HISTORIC KANSAS PLACES---COVER SHEET

Name of Property Marmaton Bridge

Location  
(street and number)

vicinity of Fort Scott  
(city, town, or vicinity location)

1 mile NE of Fort Scott; S21, T25S, R25E  
(legal description)

Bourbon  
(county)

Owner of Property Bourbon County

210 South National  
(street and number)

Fort Scott  
(city, town, county)

National Register status:

date approved for nomination to the National Register by Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review 2/13/1982

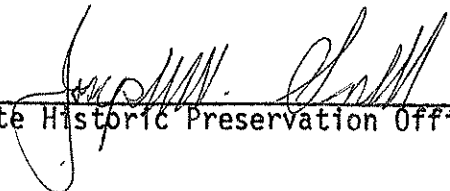
date entered in National Register 5/11/82

Description: The bridge which spans the Marmaton River 1 mile NE of the  
city of Fort Scott is on the original bridge site and is currently in fair  
condition. The bridge is comprised of three Bowstring tied arch spans  
that include various stringers and braces. Two cut stone piers support the  
large center span which measures 112'. Two 50' spans reach from the north  
and south abutments of the bridge to the center span.

Significance The Marmaton Bridge is a rare extant example of a triple span  
Bowstring arch bridge. It was built by order of the County Board of  
Commissioners in 1878 and 1879. It was used by vehicular and pedestrian  
traffic from 1879 until 1965 when it was closed to all but foot traffic.  
A fire in 1974 destroyed most of the floor boards and so rendered it  
inaccessible even by foot.

Form prepared by Nora Pat Small date 3/3/82

This property was approved for listing in the Register of Historic Kansas Places by  
the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review on Feb. 13, 1982  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the Register of Historic Kansas  
Places.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State Historic Preservation Officer

March 3, 1982  
Date