### NAME

**HISTORIC**
Clements Stone Arch Bridge

**AND/OR COMMON**

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

**CITY, TOWN**
Clements

**STATE**
Kansas

**VICINITY OF**
X

**CODE**
20

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**
no. 5, Joe Skubitz

### CLASSIFICATION

**CATEGORY**
X

**OWNERSHIP**
PUBLIC

**STATUS**
X

**PRESENT USE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
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<tr>
<td>DISTRICT</td>
<td>PUBLIC</td>
<td>OCCUPIED</td>
<td>AGRICULTURE</td>
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<td>BUILDING(S)</td>
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<td>IN OCCUPIED</td>
<td>COMMERCIAL</td>
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<td>BOTH</td>
<td>WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td>EDUCATIONAL</td>
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<td>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>ENTERTAINMENT</td>
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<td>IN PROCESS</td>
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<td>RELIGIOUS</td>
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<td>BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>YES: UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>GOVERNMENT</td>
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### OWNER OF PROPERTY

**NAME**
Chase County

**STREET & NUMBER**
Chase County Courthouse

**CITY, TOWN**
Cottonwood Falls

**STATE**
Kansas

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**
Register of Deeds

**STREET & NUMBER**
Chase County Courthouse

**CITY, TOWN**
Cottonwood Falls

**STATE**
Kansas

### REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE**
Historic Sites Survey

**DATE**
Aug., 1971 and July, 1975

**FEDERAL**
X

**STATE**
X

**COUNTY**
_ LOCAL

### DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

**KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**CITY, TOWN**
Topeka

**STATE**
Kansas
DESCRIPTION

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<tr>
<td>__EXCELLENT</td>
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<td>__FAIR</td>
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<td>DATE________</td>
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Clements stone bridge spans one hundred seventy-five feet over the Cottonwood river one-half mile south of Clements in western Chase county. It is located on a secondary road in a rural setting. The bridge rises forty feet above the water level and the road bed is ten feet wide. The bridge was built of native stone from nearby quarries.

The span is supported by twin stone arches which have been accented by voussoirs and keystones. The east and west faces of the bridge and the foundations have been finished in large blocks of squared rubble. The inner faces of the arches have been built up of coursed cut stone. A plaque bearing the date and the names of the construction company, its principals and the county commissioners has been inserted on the west face of the bridge in the spandrel. The approach to the bridge has a slight rise in both directions and the stone work has been stepped indicating the steepness of that rise.

The bridge is very gracefully proportioned, the double arches setting up a subtle rhythm connecting the banks. The local materials used are complemented by the setting, making the bridge seem visually very appropriate. The scale and design is also interesting as it reflects the needs and concerns of the century before modern transportation.

The only alteration is the asphalt surface now on the roadway.
The Clements Stone Arch Bridge was erected in 1886 across the Cottonwood river south of Clements. A masterpiece of design and stone construction, it continues to serve the people of the area.

Chase county had been organized in 1859 but its big settlement boom came in the 1870's. The county had only 1900 people in 1870 but more than 6000 by 1880. (Today the county's total is 3600.) The bridge was built during a period of growth and expansion, a time of great confidence in the state's seemingly unlimited potential for growth.

In April of 1886 the Chase county commissioners ordered that a stone arched bridge be built over the Cottonwood river at Clements and appointed William Jeffrey as a special bridge commissioner for the project. In August bids were received for the project. Evidently each company that bid was bidding on its own design. The commissioners were dissatisfied with the first bids and ordered the project re-advertised. Then in September the contract was awarded to L. P. Santy and Co. of Clements. As reported in the Chase County Leader of Sept. 9, 1886, Santy's prices were "Excavation -- below water, 90 cents per cubic yard; above water, 30 cents. Masonry, $7.25 per cubic yard. Estimated cost of the bridge complete, $12,000. The contractor furnishes everything."

The construction work soon began and the Leader told its readers on Oct. 7, 1886, that the excavation for the south abutment was underway, that a cofferdam for the center pier was being constructed and that an elevated tramway was being built to transport the large stones. By the end of October the bridge was taking shape, and apparently it was finished in a matter of months.

The principals of the construction company, L. P. Santy and D. Y. Hamill, also operated stone quarries near Clements. William Dawson was the carpenter who built the frame work or forms for the arches of the bridge. Others who worked on the project were William Butler and John Park.

The Clements Stone Arch Bridge is worthy of nomination to the National Register because it is such a fine example of craftsmanship and design. The bridge is more than a utilitarian structure; it reflects an understanding and sensitivity to the terrain and the local materials, and is one of the most handsome bridges in the state.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Chase County Courant (Cottonwood Falls), Apr. 22, Aug. 12, Sept. 9, 1886.
Chase County Leader (Cootonwood Falls), Sept. 9, Oct. 7, 21, 1886.
"Clements Stone Arch Bridge," Chase County Centennial, 1872-1972 (n.p.,

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 114 6198 1115 42140 776
C

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
B
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY
NAME / TITLE Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey
Cornelia Wyma, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society
STREET & NUMBER 120 West Tenth Street
CITY OR TOWN Topeka
STATE Kansas 66612

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:
NATIONAL ___ STATE X 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 Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society
DATE July 29, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY
HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE
Clements Stone Arch Bridge
Clements, Kansas

UTM Reference
14 698115 4240775