United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Esch's Spur Bridge

and/or common Esch's Spur Bridge

2. Location

street & number Three miles south and three miles west of Dexter n/a not for publication

city, town Dexter x__ vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Cowley code 35

3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x__ district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>x__ occupied</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>__ unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>__ work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>in process</td>
<td>X yes: restricted</td>
<td>government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>being considered</td>
<td>X yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>industrial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Owner of Property

name Cowley County

street & number Cowley County Courthouse

city, town Winfield x__ vicinity of state Kansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Cowley County Courthouse

city, town Winfield state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Bridges—Kansas Dept. of Transportation has this property been determined eligible? x__ yes X__ no

date 1980-83 federal x__ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society

city, town Topeka state Kansas
7. Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Check one</th>
<th>Check one</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>deteriorated</td>
<td>unaltered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>ruins</td>
<td>altered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fair</td>
<td>unexposed</td>
<td>original site</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Esch's Spur bridge crosses Grouse Creek three miles south and three miles west of Dexter, Kansas. The triple span stone arch bridge has a total length of 182 feet and is 13 feet wide curb to curb. The deck lies 17 feet above the water level.

The stone arches spring from and are disposed between two abutments and stone piers. Stone spandrel walls retain the earthen fill and are capped with concrete. This concrete cap forms the roadway curbing. The spandrel walls do not extend above the crown of the elliptical arches and the roadway rests directly on the arch ring.
8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>prehistoric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400–1499</td>
<td>archeology-prehistoric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500–1599</td>
<td>archeology-historic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600–1699</td>
<td>architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700–1799</td>
<td>art</td>
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<tr>
<td>1800–1899</td>
<td>commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900–</td>
<td>communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specific dates: [1910–1920]  Builder/Architect: Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Esch's Spur bridge retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling and association. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and method of construction no longer being used namely the construction of a roadway supported by a stone arch which is loaded by an earthen fill, which, in turn, is retained by stone spandrel walls. This bridge may yield information important to the history of engineering.

The stone arch bridge was popular in Kansas because the stone and construction expertise was locally available. Although somewhat more expensive, initially, to construct they were very strong and long lived. Cowley county was blessed with exceptionally good building stone. The county commission, at the turn of the century, created a special bridge fund and began a concerted effort to bridge the numerous streams they had. This bridge is a result of that effort. The use of local stone and labor makes this bridge unique and particularly suited to its environment.

This statement reflects current knowledge and is subject to change.
9. Major Bibliographical References

"To Bid on Stone Bridges," Kansas City Star, March 25, 1906
"Our Building Stone," Dexter Advocate, November 17, 1904.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: Less than one acre
Quadrangle name: Eaton, Kansas
Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

UTM References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1 4</td>
<td>6 9 7 1 0 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td></td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>G</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbal boundary description and justification:
That property over which the bridge is built including bridge structure and abutments. SE 1/4, NW 1/4, S33 T33S R6E

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>n/a</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
<th>code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Larry Jochims, Research Historian and Michael Snell
organization: Kansas State Historical Society
date: 2/20/85
street & number: 120 West Tenth
telephone: (913) 296-2973
city or town: Topeka
state: Kansas

12. 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 89-655), 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: 3/4/85

For NPS use only:

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

date

Keeper of the National Register:

Attest:

Chief of Registration:

date
The following photographs were taken at Esch's Spur, Kansas by Larry Jochims and Michael Snell on January 28, 1985. Photograph negatives are located at the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

Grouse Creek Bridge. South Side Looking North.
Grouse Creek Bridge.
West Approach Looking East.

Grouse Creek Bridge.
South Side of West Arch Looking Northwest.
The following photographs were taken at Esch's Spur by Larry Jochims and Michael Snell on January 28, 1985. Photograph negatives are located at the Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas.

Grouse Creek Bridge.
South Side Looking North West.
## Historic Bridge Inventory

**County:** Cowley  
**Structural Type:** MAR  
**Date Constructed:** 1900

**Road System**  
**State**  
**County**  
**Off-System ✔**  
**Urban**

**Planning Dept Designation**  
**Secondary Rds Designation:** 811

**Location-Route**  
**East edge of Esch's Spur**  
**Mile Post**

**Feature Crossed**  
**Wildcat Cr. (TRIBUTARY)**

**Legal Description**

**Bridge Number:** 881. 52644.5

**Number of spans:** 3

**Span identity and description:**

**LENGTH: 182' / WIDTH: 13'**

**Truss type:**

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**Historical Data:**

**Date Constructed**

**Erector Contractor**

**Manufacturer**

**Located in Historical District? or near Historical Site?**

**Original Use**

**Present Use:** 8-26-81

**Photos Taken? ✔**

**Date**

**Current Condition:**

**Excellent ✔ Good ☑ Fair ☑ Deteriorated ☑**

**Altered ☑**

**Demolished ☑**

**Field Observation Notes:**

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**Inventory Completed by**

**Date**