United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Inventory—Nomination

See instructions in How to Complete National Re.
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Old Maids Fork Bridge

and/or common Old Maids Fork Bridge

2. Location

street & number .5 mile north and 2.5 miles west of Nekoma

city, town Nekoma

city, town vicinity of

state Kansas
code 20

county Rush
code 165

3. Classification

Category district

building(s) public

structure both

site

Public Acquisition in process

object

Ownership

Status

Present Use

agriculture

design

work in progress

educational

Entertainment

government

industrial

military

museum

park

private residence

religious

scientific

transportation

other:

4. Owner of Property

name Rush County

street & number Rush County Courthouse

city, town La Crosse

state Kansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Register of Deeds

street & number Rush County Courthouse

city, town La Crosse

state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of Historic Bridges Kansas Department of Transportation

has this property been determined eligible? yes

state Kansas

date 1980-83

federal

state

county

local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society

city, town Topeka

state Kansas
The bridge spans Old Maids Fork of Walnut Creek 2 miles west and .5 miles north of Nekoma, Kansas. It is 22 feet long and 20 feet wide curb to curb. The deck lies 11 feet above the bed of the stream.

Structurally the bridge consists of two reinforced concrete arches springing from and disposed between the abutment and pier. The spandrel walls extend above the roadway to form a railing. The railing on the north side has been broken off.

The arch reinforcement visible in the photograph consists of woven wire reminiscent of the Monier system. Impressions of the type of formwork are quite visible. A cylindrical opening, going completely through the bridge is located above the central pier and near the haunches of each arch.

The date 1934 is inscribed on the top of the south railing and construction data was initially inscribed on the north pier. Unfortunately the outer layer of concrete has spalled. All that remains is the engineers name and indications that the county commissioners names were once present.
The Old Maids Fork 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 and may yield information important to the history of engineering. It is the only remaining example of this style in Kansas.

Hays Miller was born December 11, 1896 in Rush Center, Kansas. He attended local schools and eventually graduated from the University of Indiana. He served as Rush county engineer from 1921 until 1932 and moved to Topeka in 1934 as chief engineer of the State Planning Board. From 1938 until 1941 he was director of that agency. In 1942 he accepted the position as research engineer for the Kansas Industrial Development Commission and served there until 1950 when he moved to the state architects' office. He died in Topeka October 13, 1960.

Miller's unique design is an excellent example of the use of local talent and expertise in bridge building.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
9. Major Bibliographical References

"Hays R. Miller, 63, Services Saturday," Topeka Daily Capital, October 14, 1960, p. 32.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than 1 acre
Quadrangle name Nekoma, Kansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification That property over which the bridge is built including bridge structure and abutments NE^2, NW^2, S2^2, T18^2 S20W

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

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<th>county</th>
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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 W. 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 89-665), 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 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:
date

Chief of Registration