

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Cottonwood River Bridge

and/or common Cottonwood River Bridge

2. Location

street & number North edge of Cottonwood Falls \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Cottonwood Falls \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Kansas code 20 county Chase code 17

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Chase County

street & number Chase County Courthouse

city, town Cottonwood Falls N/A vicinity of state Kansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Chase County Courthouse

city, town Cottonwood Falls state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Bridges--  
Kansas Department of Transportation has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980-83  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society

city, town Topeka state Kansas

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## 7. Description

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<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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Cottonwood River Bridge in Cottonwood Falls is a triple filled spandrel arch bridge. It is 207 feet long and 34 feet wide curb to curb. The roadway is situated 25½ feet above normal water level. It has been closed to traffic and as part of a "Green Thumb project" has been converted to a park area and fishing bridge. Although this represents a good adaptive use for the structure, gates installed at each approach make it extremely difficult for machinery to get close enough to clear away the drift that collects against the piers. The concrete has deteriorated in various areas of the bridge and portions of the railing are missing.

The bridge consists of a series of reinforced concrete arch rings which spring from and are disposed between the abutments and piers. Reinforced concrete spandrel walls rise from each side of the arch ring and are used to retain the earthen fill which loads the arch. This earthen "loading" allows for even distribution of the live loads and helps to strengthen the arch. The turned balusters of the railing are located on both sides of the floor line. The roadway is cantilevered by the use of brackets over the 21' wide arch ring.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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** 1914 **Builder/Architect** Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Company

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cottonwood River Bridge at Cottonwood Falls, Kansas 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 reinforced concrete arch ring which is loaded by an earthen fill which, in turn, is retained by reinforced concrete spandrel walls. This bridge may yield information important to the history of engineering.

On August 6, 1914, a "Notice to Bridge Contractors" was published in the Chase County Leader "for the building of a reinforced concrete bridge across the Cottonwood river in Cottonwood Falls, Kansas." On August 13, 1914, the Leader announced the contract had been let to the Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Company. Their bid was \$13,700. The contract called for work to begin on August 15, and for completion by December 1, 1914.

F. L. Rice, who was in charge of the work, gave November 1 as his completion target according to the August 27 Leader. He was also quoted as saying the bridge would be one of the best of its size being, "neat and artistic," in appearance.

By October 15, the Leader was reporting the bridge's progress to be "moving rapidly." The piers were completed and work was underway on the arches.

The bridge was accepted by the county commissioners on December 17, 1914 according to an article in the December 24, 1914 issue of the Chase County Leader.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- "Notice to Bridge Contractors," Chase County Leader, August 6, 1914, p. 8, c. 6.  
"To Build New Bridge at Once," Chase County Leader, August 13, 1914, p. 1, c. 4.  
"Construction of Bridge has Started," Chase County Leader, August 27, 1914, p. 1, c. 6.  
"New Bridge Soon Finished," Chase County Leader, October 15, 1914, p. 1, c. 6.  
"New Bridge Accepted," Chase County Leader, December 24, 1914, p. 1, c. 4.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet, item #9.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Cottonwood Falls, Kans.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	4	7	1	4	8	1	4	10	4	1	2	5	10	0	1	8	10
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 on the north edge of Cottonwood Falls, Kansas. NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S24, T19S, R8E. Includes bridge superstructure plus supporting piers and abutments.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Larry Jochims, Research Historian and Michael Snell

organization Kansas State Historical Society date

street & number 10th and Jackson Streets 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  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 date

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

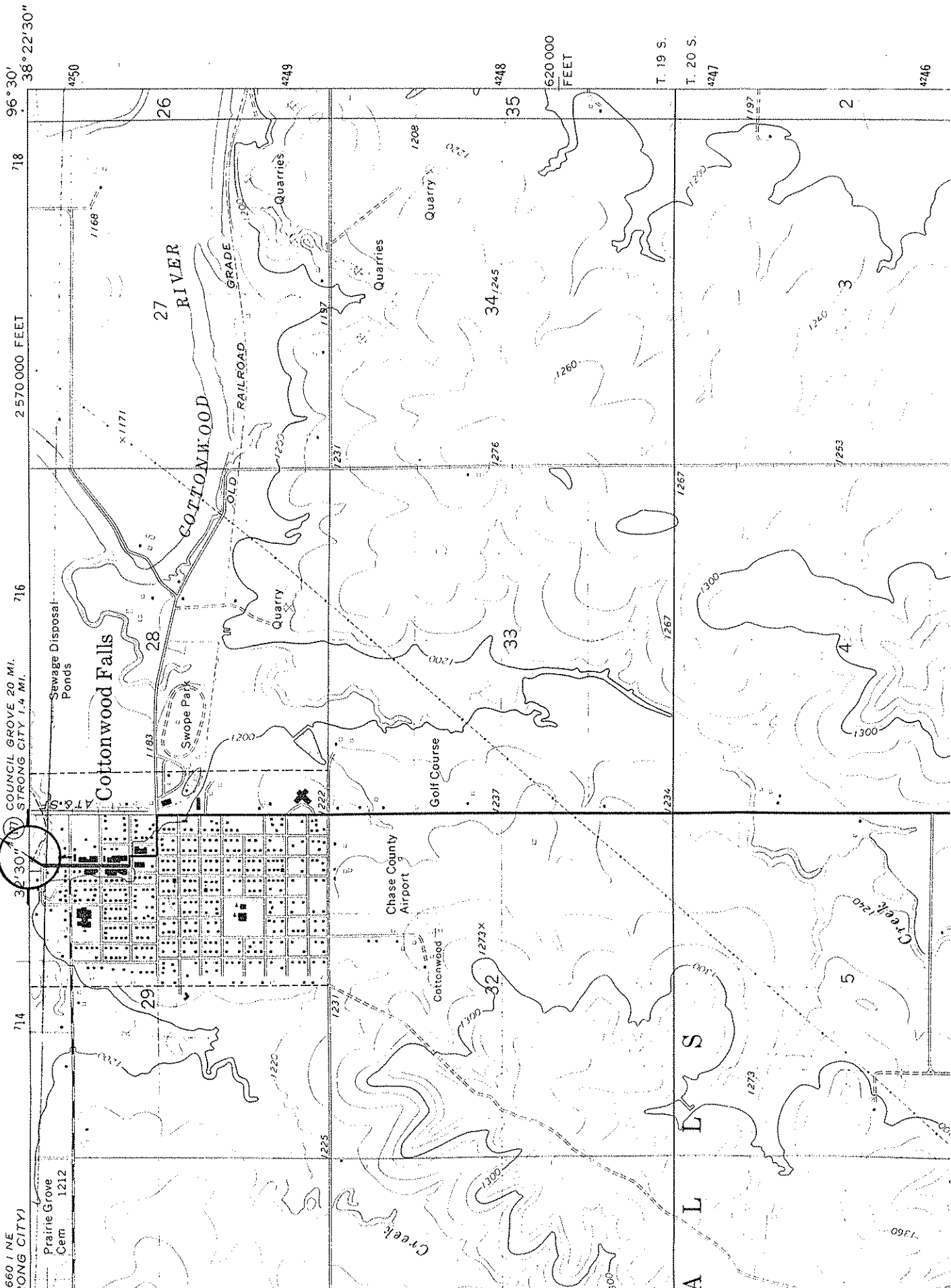
date

Chief of Registration

Cottonwood River Bridge  
Cottonwood Falls, Kansas  
UTM Reference  
14/714840/4250080

# COTTONWOOD FALLS QUADRANGLE KANSAS—CHASE CO. 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

690 N.W. (SAFE)  
MIDVILLE



6660 LINE  
STRONG CITY

30' 30" 714 716 718 720

4247 4248 4249

620 000  
FEET

T. 19 S.  
T. 20 S.  
4247 4248