NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

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 North Branch Otter Creek Bridge

and/or common North Branch Otter Creek Bridge

2. Location

street & number One mile west and five miles north of Piedmont n/a not for publication

city, town Piedmont x vicinity of

state Kansas code 20 county Greenwood code 73

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	x public	x occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
x structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	x yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	x transportation
	n/a	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Greenwood County

street & number Greenwood County Courthouse

city, town Eureka ___ vicinity of state Kansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Greenwood County Courthouse

city, town Eureka state Kansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Bridges--Kansas Dept. of Transportation has this property been determined eligible? ___ 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

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	_x_ unaltered	_x_ original site
_x_ good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The North Branch Otter Creek bridge is 109 feet long and 14 feet wide curb to curb. The roadway lies 17.5 feet above the water level.

The bridge is a triple stone and concrete arch structure. Ring stones for each arch spring from and are disposed between stone piers and abutments. Between the ring stones is an arch ring of concrete. Together they form the full arch. Stone spandrel walls retain the earthen fill which loads the arch. This fill allows for even distribution of the live loads and helps to strengthen the arch. Concrete caps are placed on top of the spandrel walls and hold metal pipe which serves as a guard rail. A portion of this railing has been replaced on the west side of the north approach.

A date stone is located at the crown of the center arch on the west side.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1908 **Builder/Architect** Walter Sharp Construction Company

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The North Branch Otter Creek 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.

On August 3, 1908 the county commission voted to advertise for bids on a steel, stone arch, or concrete bridge over Otter Creek at what was known as Harrison Ford. At the special session of August 29, they voted to accept the bid of Walter Sharp Construction Company of Eldorado in the amount of $1,977. Sharp's proposal for a combined stone and concrete arch bridge was accepted.

Walter Sharp was one of the state's most prolific and innovative builders of stone arch bridges. He also was one of the early experimenters in concrete construction. This bridge is an example of his combination of the two building materials.

Stone arch bridges were popular in Kansas, especially in counties such as Greenwood where abundant and good stone was locally available. The use of concrete in this was a further labor and cost saving device. The use of ring stones, however, retains the aesthetic beauty of the structure and makes it particularly well suited to its environment.

THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

9. Major Bibliographical References

County Commissioner's Journal M, p. 80. Ibid., p. 89
"Walter Sharp Bridge Company," El Dorado Walnut Valley Times, March 23, 1906.
"Cowley's Bridges," Dexter Advocate, December 8, 1904, p. 1.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: Less than one acre

Quadrangle name: Piedmont NW, Kansas

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	14	731060	4174570
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

That property on and over which the bridge is built including bridge structure, abutments and piers. NW¼, S24-T27S-R9E.

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

state	code	county	code
n/a			

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 x 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: Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society — date: 3/4/85

For NPS use only

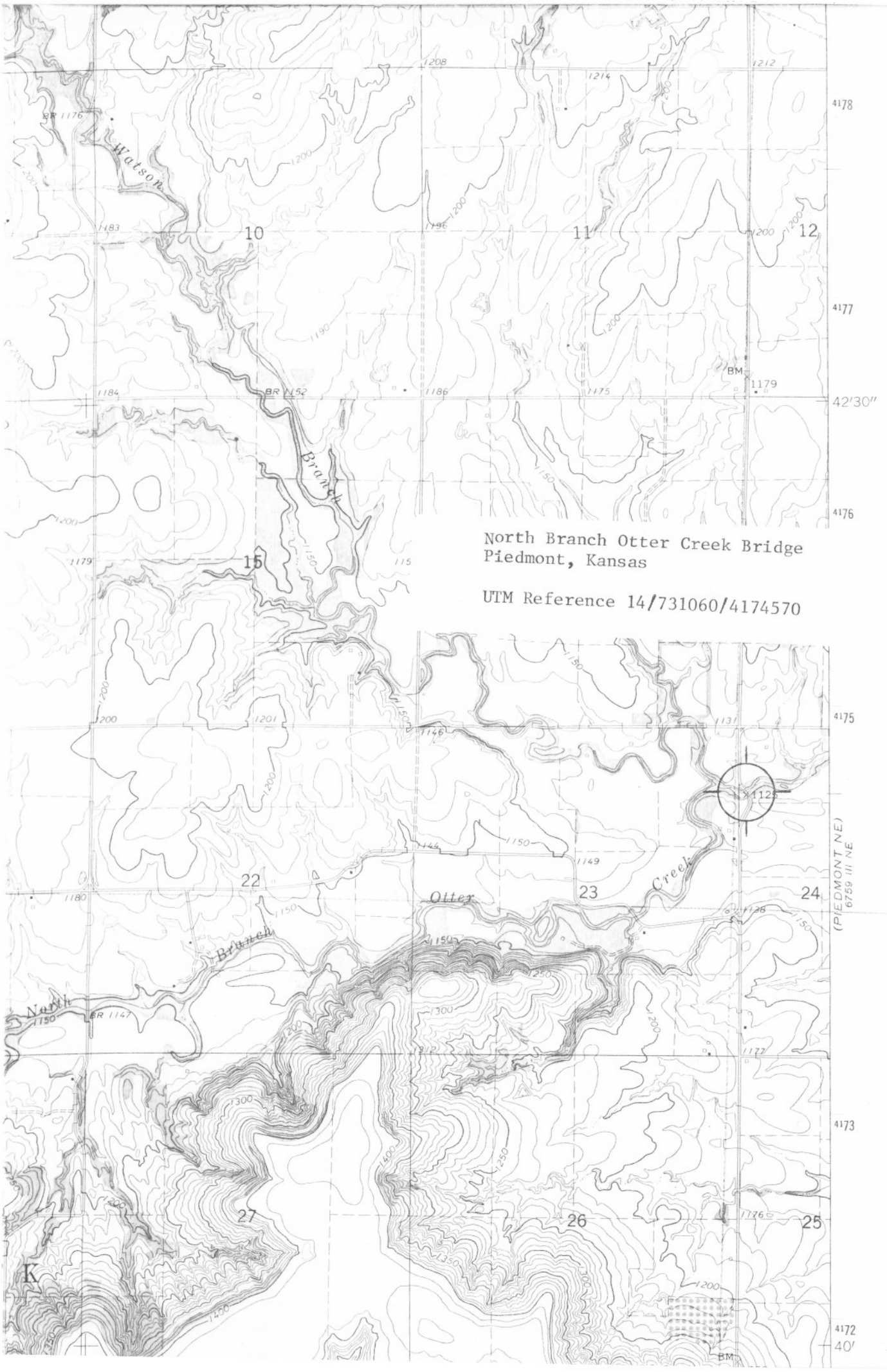
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: — date

Chief of Registration



North Branch Otter Creek Bridge
Piedmont, Kansas

UTM Reference 14/731060/4174570