

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register  
Listed  
March 27, 2017**

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Ness County Bridge FS-450

Other names/site number Bridge #680450; KHRI# 135-0000-00030

Name of related Multiple Property Listing Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas

## 2. Location

Street & number <u>County Road 20</u>		not for publication
City or town <u>Bazine</u>	X	vicinity
State <u>Kansas</u> Code <u>KS</u> County <u>Ness</u> Code <u>135</u> Zip code <u>67516</u>		

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this x nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
     national      statewide   x   local      Applicable National Register Criteria:      A      B   x   C      D

See file.  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Kansas State Historical Society  
 State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.  
 Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
     entered in the National Register      determined eligible for the National Register  
     determined not eligible for the National Register      removed from the National Register  
     other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Ness County Bridge FS-450  
Name of Property

Ness County, Kansas  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
		buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Transportation: Road-related (vehicular)

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Transportation: Road-related (vehicular)

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Masonry Arch

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone

walls: Stone

roof: N/A

other: \_\_\_\_\_

Ness County Bridge FS-450

Name of Property

Ness County, Kansas

County and State

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## Narrative Description

### Summary

Ness County Bridge FS-450, built in circa 1935, is a triple-arch native limestone culvert located ten miles south and 2.5 miles west of Bazine, Kansas (*Figures 1 & 2*).<sup>1</sup> The filled-spandrel masonry bridge is part of County Road 20 and spans an intermittent tributary of the Pawnee River. Measuring 35'-0" long (east-west), Bridge FS-450 has a 25'-5" wide gravel roadway over the masonry arches. The bridge carries two lanes of traffic and has limestone sidewalls.

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### Elaboration

Ness County Bridge FS-450 is located approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of a mile west of County Road BB in the SW/4 of the SE/4 of Section 22, Township 20 South, Range 22 West. The bridge is on an east-west gravel section line road (County Road 20) between Sections 22 and 27. To the north and south of County Road 20 is pastureland; the Pawnee River is a little over ¼ mile to the south of the nominated bridge.

This bridge type is described in the *Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas* multiple property nomination:

The stone arch bridges included in this nomination consist of limestone arch rings which spring from and are disposed between abutments or piers. Limestone spandrel walls rest on these arch rings and are used to retain the earthen fill which loads the arch. This earth loading allows for even distribution of the live loads and helps to strengthen the arch.<sup>2</sup>

Spanning a total length of 35'-0", Ness County Bridge FS-450 contains three evenly-spaced masonry arches each measuring 8'-11". These half-round arches are formed of evenly-sized voussoirs and none contain an elaborate keystone. The remaining stone structure is formed of long and narrow, rough-faced stone blocks laid in a running bond. Most of the county's stone arch bridges have buttresses between the arches (*Figure 3*); however, Bridge FS-450 does not. Stepped stone wing walls extend to the east and west of the arches but below the roadbed. A stone railing begins two courses above the top of the arches. This railing, extant on both the north and south sides of the bridge, is four courses tall and is created through the removal of every other stone in two of the four stone courses. This bridge is also the only known stone bridge in the county with a decorative side rail.

The bridge is in fair condition. Stones have fallen from the railing and vegetation appears to be growing from the dirt and gravel at the railing line. Stone spalling is evident where cementitious mortar has been previously used in repair work; however, overall, few cracks appear.

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<sup>1</sup> Although called a bridge, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) classifies a bridge as spanning over 20'-0"; anything spanning a shorter distance is classified as a culvert. While the overall span of this structure exceeds 20'-0", the individual spans are just under 9'-0".

<sup>2</sup> Kansas Historical Society, *Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas* multiple property nomination (1985): 3 [digital copy online] Kansas Historical Society, Thematic Nominations available at <http://www.kshs.org/14634> (accessed 12/01/2016).

Ness County Bridge FS-450  
Name of Property

Ness County, Kansas  
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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

TRANSPORTATION

ENGINEERING

**Period of Significance**

circa 1935

**Significant Dates**

1935

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance is 1935, the year the bridge was constructed.

**Criteria Considerations (justification)**

N/A

Ness County Bridge FS-450  
Name of Property

Ness County, Kansas  
County and State

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## Narrative Statement of Significance

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### Summary

Built in circa 1935, Ness County Bridge FS-450 is nominated under Criterion C in the areas of transportation and engineering for its local significance as a native limestone triple-arch bridge. This bridge is eligible as part of the *Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas* MPS as a local example of the stone arch bridge/culvert property type. Although built within the time period of the New Deal era, no known primary information ties this bridge's construction to a New Deal projects; therefore, this bridge is not nominated also under the *New Deal-era Resources of Kansas* multiple property nomination.

The impetus for the nomination of Ness County Bridge FS-450 was a Section 106 case that involved the demolition of a similar culvert built during the same period, Ness County Bridge FS-530.<sup>3</sup> The proposal to demolish Ness County Bridge FS-530 required a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, a federal agency. The bridge was determined eligible for the National Register and the demolition was considered an adverse effect. Ness County agreed to nominate a similar structure, Ness County Bridge FS-450, to the National Register to mitigate the loss of Ness County Bridge FS-530.

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### Elaboration

The first iteration of Ness County was created by the state legislature in 1867, six years after statehood. Although the federal census of 1870 only counted two people in the entire county, in 1873 the Kansas legislature expanded the boundaries to include just over 1000 square miles.<sup>4</sup> By 1880, the total population was over 3700 people, and the county had been re-organized with Ness City as county seat.

Since its organization, Ness County has been primarily agricultural. In 1880 the total acreage under cultivation was around 20,000 acres. By 1910 over 380,000 acres were cultivated with winter wheat, corn, sorghum, and oats. The county's land also supported livestock, which it continues to do today.<sup>5</sup> The physical character of rural Ness County is defined by section line roads, most of which are unpaved. Creeks and tributaries feed pasture and cultivated fields, and where these cross under roads, culverts and bridges have been installed. In the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, limestone was the most common material used in the construction of these structures due to its local prevalence.<sup>6</sup>

The county's total population peaked in 1930 with 8358 people. During the Great Depression, several of these people were out of work. Relief programs under the National Recovery Administration (NRA) and the Public Works Administration (PWA) funded several road projects in the state of Kansas – including Ness County – between 1933 and 1935, as evidenced by several newspaper columns in both the *Bazine Advocate* and the *Ness County News*. Most of the \$12 million-plus allocated to the state went to the Kansas Highway Commission for state highway improvements (such as regrading and sanding what is now US-283 through Ness City). However, individual townships like Highpoint, where Bridge FS-450 is located, were allowed to use labor supplied through the NRA to make county road improvements if the townships supplied the money.<sup>7</sup> By the end of 1933 Highpoint Township had a project overseer and had used 11 out of work persons to accomplish various unspecified road projects.<sup>8</sup> County records are sparse as related to the construction of this bridge. What is known is that Ness County Bridge FS-450 is one of at least ten similar bridges constructed in the county between circa 1928 and circa 1941 (*Figures 2 & 3*).<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Ness County Bridge FS-530 was located approximately four miles northwest of Ness City in the NW1/4, NW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 4, Township 18 South, Range 24 West. Built in circa 1933, the culvert was a double masonry arch structure spanning a tributary of Wild Horse Creek.

<sup>4</sup> William Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1883), n.p. [online transcription] Kansas Collection Books available at <http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/ness/ness-co-p1.html> (accessed 11/29/2016).

<sup>5</sup> Frank Blackmar, *Kansas*, Volume II (Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912), 352.

<sup>6</sup> *Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas*, 6.

<sup>7</sup> "Men Put to Work," *Bazine Advocate* (11/24/1933): 4.

<sup>8</sup> "More Civil Works Information," *Bazine Advocate* (12/15/1933): 4. The following February, the newspaper listed each townships yearly expenses. "Road work" was a common expense, but there was no further explanation of what that entailed.

<sup>9</sup> These dates were supplied through the Kansas Department of Transportation during a statewide survey of stone bridges in the 1980s.

Ness County Bridge FS-450  
Name of Property

Ness County, Kansas  
County and State

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Blackmar, Frank. *Kansas*. Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912.

Cutler, William. *History of the State of Kansas*. Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1883. [online transcription] Kansas Collection Books available at <http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/> (accessed 11/29/2016).

Kansas Historical Society. *Masonry Arch Bridges of Kansas* multiple property nomination (1985): 3 [digital copy online] Kansas Historical Society, Thematic Nominations available at <http://www.kshs.org/14634> (accessed 12/01/2016).

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: Kansas Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** < 1 acre

**Provide latitude/longitude coordinates.**

(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>38.290740</u>	<u>-99.738400</u>	3	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

2	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	4	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated bridge spans an intermittent tributary of the Pawnee River is located approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of a mile west of County Road BB in the SW/4 of the SE/4 of Section 22, Township 20 South, Range 22 West. The bridge is on an east-west section line road (County Road 20) between Sections 22 and 27. The boundaries encompass the entire bridge and the right-of-way surrounding the bridge.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

Ness County Bridge FS-450  
Name of Property

Ness County, Kansas  
County and State

These boundaries include only the property directly associated with the historic bridge.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Amanda K. Loughlin  
organization Kansas Historical Society (SHPO) date Fall 2016  
street & number 6425 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave telephone (785) 272-8681  
city or town Topeka state KS zip code 66615  
e-mail [cultural\\_resources@kshs.org](mailto:cultural_resources@kshs.org)

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**Property Owner:** (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

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name Ness County Commissioners, c/o Renee Kerr, County Clerk  
street & number Courthouse, 202 W Sycamore St. telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Ness City state KS zip code 67560

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**Ness County Bridge FS-450**  
Name of Property

**Ness County, Kansas**  
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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photograph Log**

Name of Property: **Ness County Bridge FS-450**

City or Vicinity: **Bazine vicinity**

County: **Ness County** State: **Kansas**

Photographer: **Craig Crosswhite**

Date Photographed: **October 2016**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 6:** North elevation
- 2 of 6:** South elevation, looking NE
- 3 of 6:** Wing wall, west side of south elevation
- 4 of 6:** Center arch, looking N
- 5 of 6:** Looking NE from top of bridge
- 6 of 6:** Looking SE from top of bridge

**Figures**

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

Ness County Bridge FS-450  
Name of Property

Bazine vicinity, Ness County  
County and State

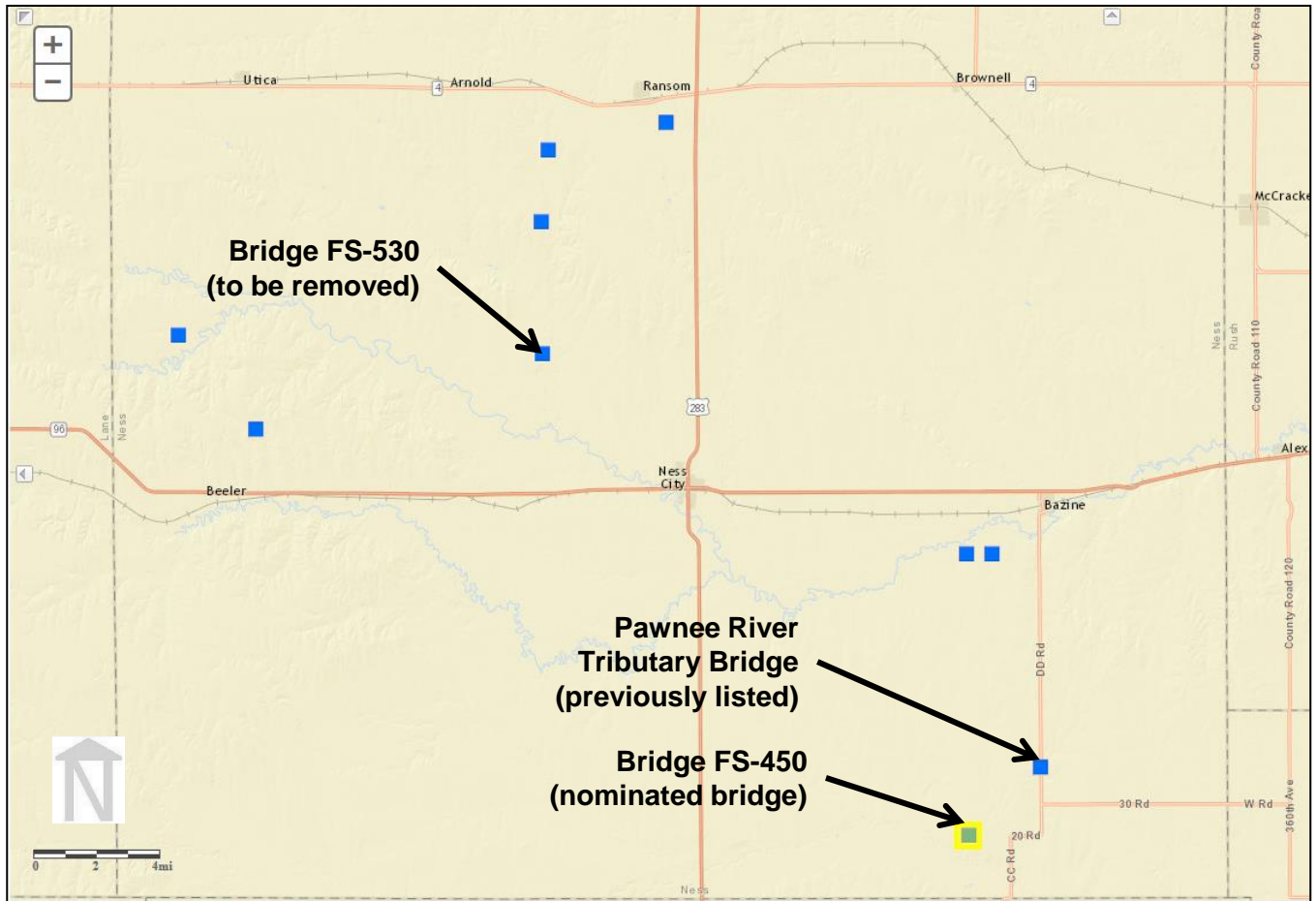
**Figure 1.** 2015 Aerial image, showing bridge (indicated by box) in landscape context.  
Source: Kansas Historic Resources Inventory



Ness County Bridge FS-450  
Name of Property

Bazine vicinity, Ness County  
County and State

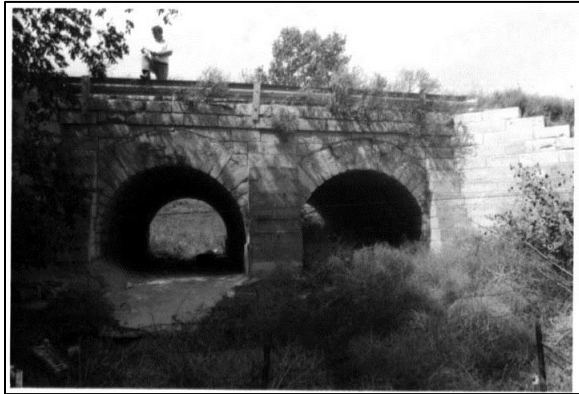
**Figure 2.** Map representation of the ten surveyed stone arch bridges in Ness County.  
Source: Kansas Historic Resources Inventory



Ness County Bridge FS-450  
Name of Property

Bazine vicinity, Ness County  
County and State

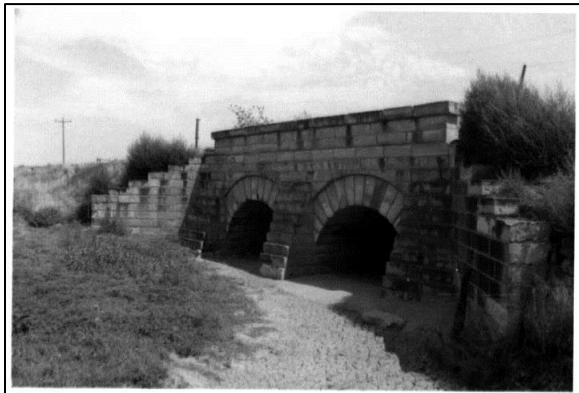
**Figure 3.** Sampling of surveyed stone arch bridges in Ness County.  
Source: Kansas Historic Resources Inventory



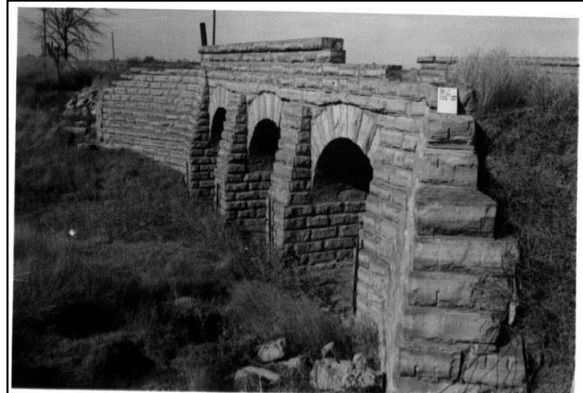
Bridge #680550, Ransom vicinity (ca. 1928).



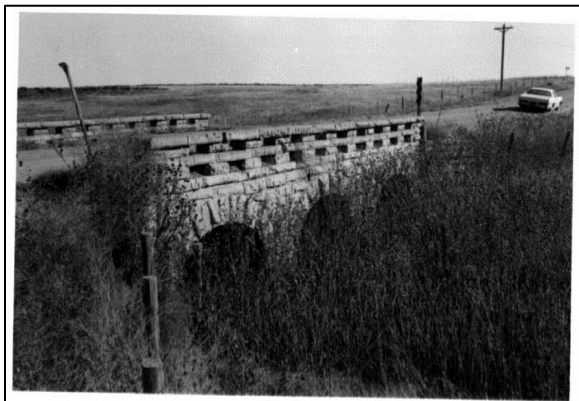
Pawnee River Tributary Bridge, Bazine vicinity (ca. 1928). NR-listed, 1985.



Bridge FS-530, Ness City vicinity (ca. 1933).  
Bridge to be replaced.



Walnut Creek Tributary Bridge,  
Bazine vicinity (ca. 1935).



Bridge FS-450, Bazine vicinity (ca. 1935).  
Only known bridge in county with this decorative side rail.



North Fork Walnut Creek Tributary Bridge,  
Beeler vicinity (ca. 1941).  
Only known quadruple arch in county.

Ness County Bridge FS-450  
Name of Property

Bazine vicinity, Ness County  
County and State

**Boundary Map.** 2016 Google aerial image, showing location of bridge along road.

