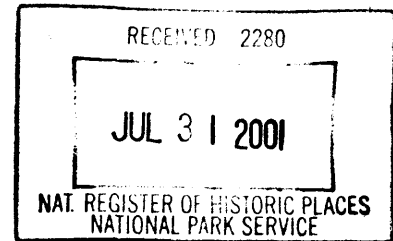


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

980



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ninth Street Bridge

other names/site number South 8th Street Bridge

2. Location

street & number Immediately east of the new 9th Street bridge, over the Boise River N/A not for publication

city or town Boise N/A vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Ada code 001 zip code 83702

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 nationally X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth Reid 2014601
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
KENNETH C. REID, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

_____ determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

_____ determined not eligible for the National Register.

_____ removed from the National Register.

_____ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Entered in the
National Register

9.14.01

Ninth Street Bridge
Name of Property

Boise (Ada), Idaho
City, County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Engineering

Period of Significance

1911

Significant Dates

1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lapointe & Fox, Consulting
Engineers
Missouri Valley Bridge & Iron Co.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Ninth Street Bridge
Name of Property

Boise (Ada), Idaho
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/1 5/6/3/9/0/0 4/8/2/8/5/8/0 B 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1 D 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is bounded by the exterior dimensions of the bridge and its supporting abutments and pier.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the minimum necessary to convey the bridge's historic significance as an engineering structure.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donald W. Watts, Preservation Planner

organization Idaho SHPO date 07/24/2000

street & number 210 Main Street telephone (208) 334-3861

city or town Boise state ID zip code 83702

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Maps:** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

- **Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

- **Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name Boise City Dept. of Parks and Recreation

street & number 1104 Royal Blvd. telephone (208) 384-4240

city or town Boise state ID zip code 83706

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Name of Property Ninth Street Bridge

County and State Ada, Idaho

DESCRIPTION:

The Ninth Street Bridge is a pin-connected Pratt through truss bridge crossing the Boise River in Boise, Idaho. The structure has an approximately north-south orientation. It is supported by a concrete abutment at either end and a concrete pier at the mid-point.

The bridge consists of two pin-connected Pratt through truss spans, each span measuring 160 feet long and comprised of six full panels and two end panels approximately twenty feet in length. The total length of the bridge is 322 feet. Upper chords are constructed of laced channel sections with cover plates, and the lower chords are formed by eyebars. Verticals are composed of laced channel sections, and the diagonals are constructed of steel eyebars with turnbuckles. The floor system consisted of a concrete deck, steel I-beam floor beams, and steel stringers which provided for an original roadbed width of nineteen feet with a six-foot wide pedestrian walkway with a lattice railing. In 1988 the road deck and walkway were removed and rebuilt with wood planking to accommodate pedestrian/bicycle use. A new safety rail, compatible with the bridge, was installed at that time.

The bridge is tagged with dedication plates at the tops of both the north and south elevation crossbars. The plates identify the Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Works Company, the Ada County commissioners of both 1910 and 1911, and LaPointe and Fox as consulting engineers.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Name of Property Ninth Street Bridge

County and State Ada, Idaho

SIGNIFICANCE:

Within the context of the Historic Metal Truss Highway Bridges of Idaho Multiple Property Listing, the 9th Street Bridge is eligible under Criterion C for its engineering design.

Completed in 1911, this bridge is one of the most important pin-connected Pratt truss bridges in Idaho. In a statewide context, the bridge is one of only fifteen Pratt through-trusses found on the state highway system and one of only eight multi-span structures of that type. Further, it remains as one of only a very few pin-connected bridges of this scale remaining anywhere in the state. This structure remains as an excellent example of turn-of-the-century bridge construction technology. As active highway bridges are continuously replaced in the state, the significance as a surviving bridge type in an ever-dwindling pool of like structures increases its relative importance. It is the only steel highway truss bridge remaining in Boise.

In December 1910, bids were let by Ada County for three bridges across the Boise River: for the Ninth Street bridge to the Missouri Valley Bridge company at \$28,000; the Barberton bridge to the Forbes Bridge company at \$8,395; and the Linder bridge to the Security Bridge company at \$4,600.¹ Work on the Ninth Street bridge began almost immediately -- pilings were received on February 13, 1911, and stored onsite while the abutments were being constructed.²

The bridge was completed in May and served for two decades as the major crossing of the Boise River to and from downtown. Its location on Ninth Street (which curved eastward to align with the bridge), put the structure at the south end of a burgeoning warehouse district and, therefore, at the crux of a crucial transportation link. Located at the site of an 1864 ferry crossing and earlier bridge, the new Ninth Street bridge was a modern crossing of the river on the old Oregon Trail's approach to the city.

The City Beautiful movement in the early years of the 20th century began a chain of events that would eventually cause the Ninth Street bridge's demise. Plans for the expansion of the state capitol in 1905 initiated an opportunity to increase the visibility of the statehouse, and in 1914, three years after the Ninth Street bridge's completion, local architect Charles Wayland helped spur the grand boulevard concept for Seventh Street with a major newspaper article proposing parks and a widened roadway. The 1924 construction of the Union Pacific railroad depot on an imposing site to the south furthered the boulevard concept by making Seventh Street (by now called Capitol Boulevard) a major axial design element for the city.³

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Name of Property Ninth Street Bridge

County and State Ada, Idaho

The construction of the Capitol Boulevard Memorial Bridge in 1931 (listed in the National Register in 1990, NRIS# 90001717) was a major improvement in traffic capacity and had a major impact on the implementation of the boulevard idea. Memorial Bridge almost immediately rendered the Ninth Street structure obsolete, yet the latter continued as a secondary vehicular bridge until the early 1980s. At that time, segments of Capitol Boulevard were converted to a one-way route going north from the railroad depot toward the Capitol, and the historic Ninth Street Bridge (now called the South Eighth Street Bridge due to reconfiguration of the traffic route) handled south-bound traffic. Construction of a new, higher capacity Ninth Street bridge in 1987 ended the usefulness of the historic structure as a vehicular bridge once and for all.

In the 1980s ownership of the bridge was transferred from the Ada County Highway District to Boise City to facilitate incorporating the structure into an extensive greenbelt pedestrian and bicycle path. In 1988 modifications to the bridge included removal of the roadbed which was replaced with board planking and removal of a six-foot wide pedestrian walkway and guardrails which were part of the original configuration. In addition, new guardrails were installed within the confines of the bridge trusswork. These alterations do not affect the structural integrity of the truss, and their visual impact to the bridge is minimal. The bridge still conveys its original design configuration.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Name of Property Ninth Street Bridge

County and State Ada, Idaho

ENDNOTES:

¹ Planmakers, "Proposed Capitol Boulevard Historic District," p 2.

² "Contracts Let for New Bridges," Evening Capital News (Boise, Idaho), Dec. 30, 1910, p 3 c 4.

³ No title, *ibid.*, Feb. 13, 1911, p 2 c 2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

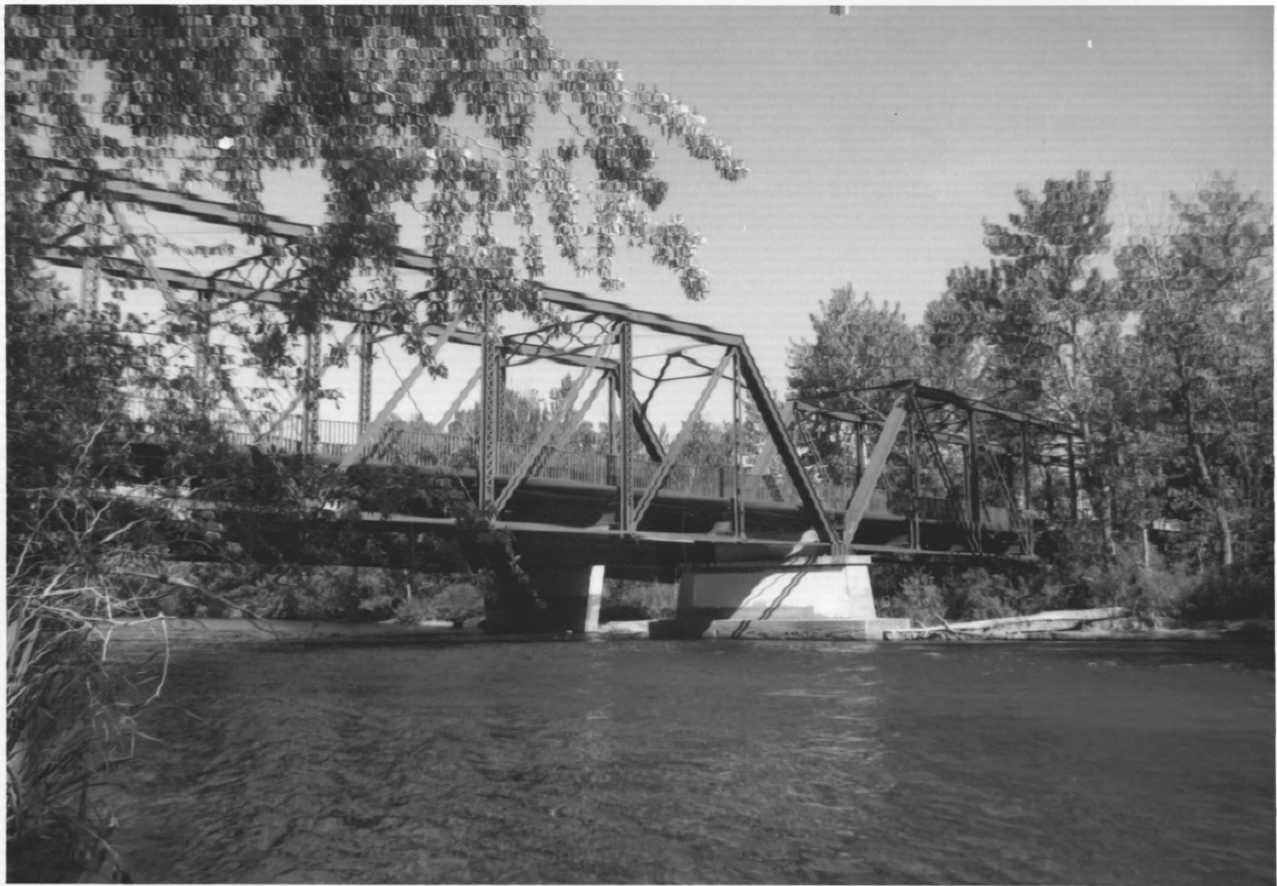
Section number 9 Page 1

Name of Property Ninth Street Bridge

County and State Ada, Idaho

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

1. *Evening Capital News* (Boise, Idaho); Dec. 30, 1910; Feb. 13, 1911.
2. Herbst, Rebecca; "Idaho Bridge Inventory," Idaho Historic Sites Inventory Report 17, 1983.
3. Idaho Historic Sites Inventory; Site # 01-15999. John Bertram, 1990.
4. *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho); May 17, 1911.
5. Planmakers, "Proposed Capitol Boulevard Historic District," Idaho Historic Sites Inventory; Report 135 / Survey 159, July 1990.
6. Watts, Donald W.; "Historic Highway Bridges in Idaho, 1890-1945; A Planning Context"; Idaho Historic Sites Inventory, CS2, 1993.



1. NINTH ST. BRIDGE
2. ADA CO., IDAHO
3. DONALD W. WATTS
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