

DESTROYED

F-3-2

Devilbiss Bridge  
Walkersville  
Public (To be disassembled October, 1978)

1889

The Devilbiss Bridge consists of two single span iron truss through bridge structures of Pratt design with a combined length of approximately 150 feet. The bridge rests on large rectangular random stone abutments. The wood decking was washed away by a flood in 1973 and was never replaced.

A covered bridge, part of which is now Utica Bridge, stood in the location of Devilbiss Bridge until June, 1889 when a flood destroyed many of the bridges in Frederick County. Each span of the bridge was constructed by a different company. On June 28, 1889 the Frederick County Commissioners began advertising for bids to replace or repair the bridge. A contract was awarded to the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio "to furnish one span of the bridge at Devilbiss" on July 19, 1889. In September of the same year the second span of the same bridge was awarded to the Columbia Bridge Company for \$3,035.

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INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Devilbiss Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Devilbiss Road over Monocacy River

Frederick

CITY, TOWN

2

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Maryland

STATE

— VICINITY OF

Frederick

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Frederick City Board of County Commissioners

Montevue Lane

STREET & NUMBER

C/o William Fout, Frederick County Roads Board

Telephone #:

Frederick

CITY, TOWN

Maryland 21701

STATE, zip code

— VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<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		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Devilbiss Bridge consists of two single span iron truss bridge structures built by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, and the Columbia Bridge Company of Dayton, Ohio, in 1889. Both structures are iron thru truss Pratt type bridges with a combined length of approximately 150 feet. The bridges rest on large rectangular random stone abutments. The wood decking was washed away by a flood in 1973 and has not been replaced.

In June 1889, many bridges in Frederick County were severely damaged or completely destroyed by the Johnstown, Pennsylvania flood. Instructions were given on June 28, 1889 by the Frederick County Commissioners to advertise for bids to replace or repair the bridge at Devilbiss either of wood or iron. For some reason only one span was initially planned to be replaced as evidenced by this entry in the minutes of July 19, 1889 "the contract to furnish one span of the bridge at Devilbiss be awarded to the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio at the sum of (not completed.)" In September of the same year the second span of the same bridge was awarded to the Columbia Bridge Company for \$3,035.

Currently the bridge is not being used and is scheduled for replacement by the Frederick County Roads Department.

**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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES    1889	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Wrought Iron Bridge Co. & Columbia Bridge Co.
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Devilbiss Bridge was constructed by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio and the Columбина Bridge Company of Dayton, Ohio, in 1889.

According to Polk's York City Directory, the York Bridge Company was in business between 1902 and 1917 and advertised as the Bridge Builders of Iron and Steel Steel Structural Work.

There are over forty iron and steel truss bridges still in existence in Frederick County, Maryland. But, with increasing development in the area many of these bridges will be destroyed because of additional tonnage requirements demanded on highway structures.

Iron truss bridges portray an important step in bridge engineering design and were the most popular form of bridge construction in Frederick County, Maryland between the 1870's and the 1930's. One of the earliest mentions of iron bridges in Frederick County is found in The Frederick Examiner dated September 13, 1854, which states that iron, rather than wood, was now being used for bridge building and it was hoped that iron bridges would soon be built in the county. It was not until the 1870's however, that the county commissioners began using iron truss bridges almost exclusively in county bridge construction. Some of the most popular companies contracted to do the work were the Wrought Iron Bridge Company, Canton, Ohio; King Iron Bridge and Manufacturing Company, Cleveland, Ohio; Groton Bridge Manufacturing Company of Groton, New York and the York Bridge Company of York, Pennsylvania.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Cherilyn Widell, Sites Analyst

3/9/78

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Frederick County Historic Preservation

663-8300

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

12 East Church St., Winchester Hall

Maryland

CITY OR TOWN

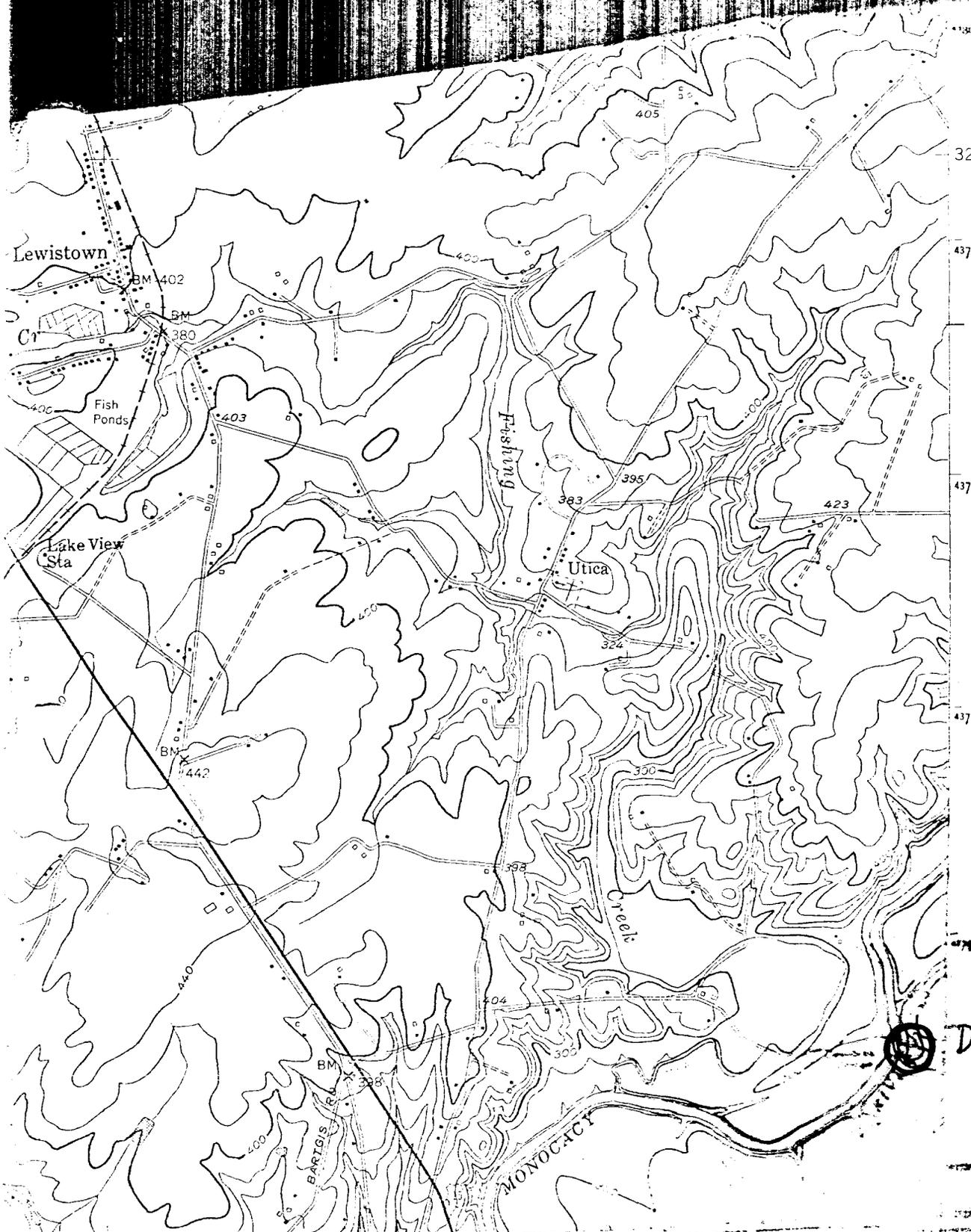
STATE

Frederick

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



CATOCTIN  
FURNACE  
QUADRANGLE

DEVILBISS  
BRIDGE  
F3-2

1 MILE

Heavy line  
Light line



CATOCTIN FURNACE QUADRANGLE



Devilbiss Road Bridge  
Devilbiss Road over Monocacy River  
EAST APPROACH

HARWOOD

F-3-2

11/77



DEVILBISS BRIDGE , DEVILBISS BRIDGE RD OVER  
WEST APPROACH MONOCACY RIVER

CEW 5/78

F-3-2



DEVILBISS ROAD BRIDGE HARWOOD 11/77  
DEVILBISS RD OVER Monocacy RIVER  
CENTER F-3-2