

F-3-8
Pedestrian Swinging Bridge
Frederick
Public

1885

The Pedestrian Swinging Bridge spanning one hundred feet in length with galvanized cables, iron rods and wood deck was constructed across Carroll Creek on Bentz Street in Frederick in 1885 by Buckey and Firestone, a local foundry.

It replaced an existing "high footbridge" which was destroyed during a flood in 1885. In 1928, the bridge was moved to its present location in the Frederick City Park.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Iron Swinging Footbridge

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Baker's Park over Carroll Creek

Sixth

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Frederick

— VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Frederick

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The Board of Aldermen

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21701

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Minutes of the Board of Aldermen

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland 21701

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

F-3-8

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>4/1928</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Swinging Footbridge is located in upper Baker's Park in Frederick, Maryland. It now crosses Carroll Creek. The bridge was moved from its original site crossing Carroll Creek at Bentz Street next to the Creamery.

It is an iron suspension bridge spanning one hundred feet in length. It has galvanized cables and rods which were replaced in 1928 when the bridge was moved. It has a wooden floor.

The bridge was built in 1885 by Buckey and Firestone upon direction of the Mayor and Board of Alderman of Frederick City. The bridge is unusual in that it is an iron suspension bridge built exclusively for the use of pedestrians.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

F-3-8

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 checked="" 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 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		

SPECIFIC DATES	1885	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Buckey and Firestone Co.
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the August 3, 1885 issue of the Daily News published in Frederick, Maryland, there is mention of a disastrous flood that had passed through Frederick the day before.¹ Many wooden bridges over Carroll Creek were destroyed. The paper reported, "the high footbridge across the creek in Mill Alley is a wreck."² This act of nature was to bring about investigation of the building of a new bridge on this site, an iron bridge in keeping with the popular usage of iron in this period.

The Buckey and Firestone Company was contracted to do the job. Articles of Agreement between Buckey and Firestone and the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of Frederick called for the following specifications: "bridge is to be built within the span of sixty days from date of contract (October 3, 1885)." Buckey and Firestone, "will substantially build, set up and finish one iron suspension bridge over Carroll Creek and Bentz Street, in Frederick City, of the following dimensions, first span, one hundred feet in length, incline thirty-three feet, walk four feet, with galvanized cables, braces of iron, with iron floor beams and one and one-half pine floors, static load two hundred pounds per lineal foot."³ The price of the bridge at time of construction was six hundred and eighty-five dollars and fifty-nine cents.⁴

The December 19, 1885 issue of the Daily News recorded "Messrs. Buckey and Firestone have commenced placing in position the iron work of the new footbridge on Mill Alley to replace the one destroyed by the flood in August of this year."⁵ The bridge was to remain in this spot until 1928 when a new bridge was built across Carroll Creek. At this time the Swinging Bridge was moved to Baker's Park for the enjoyment of city residents. The contract for moving the bridge was held by a local mason, Leroy Hoke, who moved the bridge between April and June of 1928.

The significance of the bridge lies in the fact that of over forty iron truss bridges in the Frederick County area, this is the only suspension bridge. The bridge stands as an unique example of iron bridge making for the exclusive use of pedestrians.

¹Daily News, August 3, 1885, p.1.

²Ibid.

³Articles of Agreement between Mayor and Board of Aldermen and Buckey and Firestone Co., October 3, 1885. p.1.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Daily News, December 19, 1885, p.1.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Articles of Agreement between Mayor and Board of Aldermen and Buckey and Firestone Co.: Frederick, Maryland, October 3, 1885,

Daily News; Frederick, Maryland August 3, 1885; December 19, 1885.

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Aldermen:Frederick, Maryland 1857-1869, 1886-1889.

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

clh

Cherilyn Widell, Sites Analyst; Deborah Sheetenhelm, Intern

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Frederick County Office of Historic Preservation

4/10/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

12 East Church St., Winchester Hall

694-1063

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Frederick

Maryland

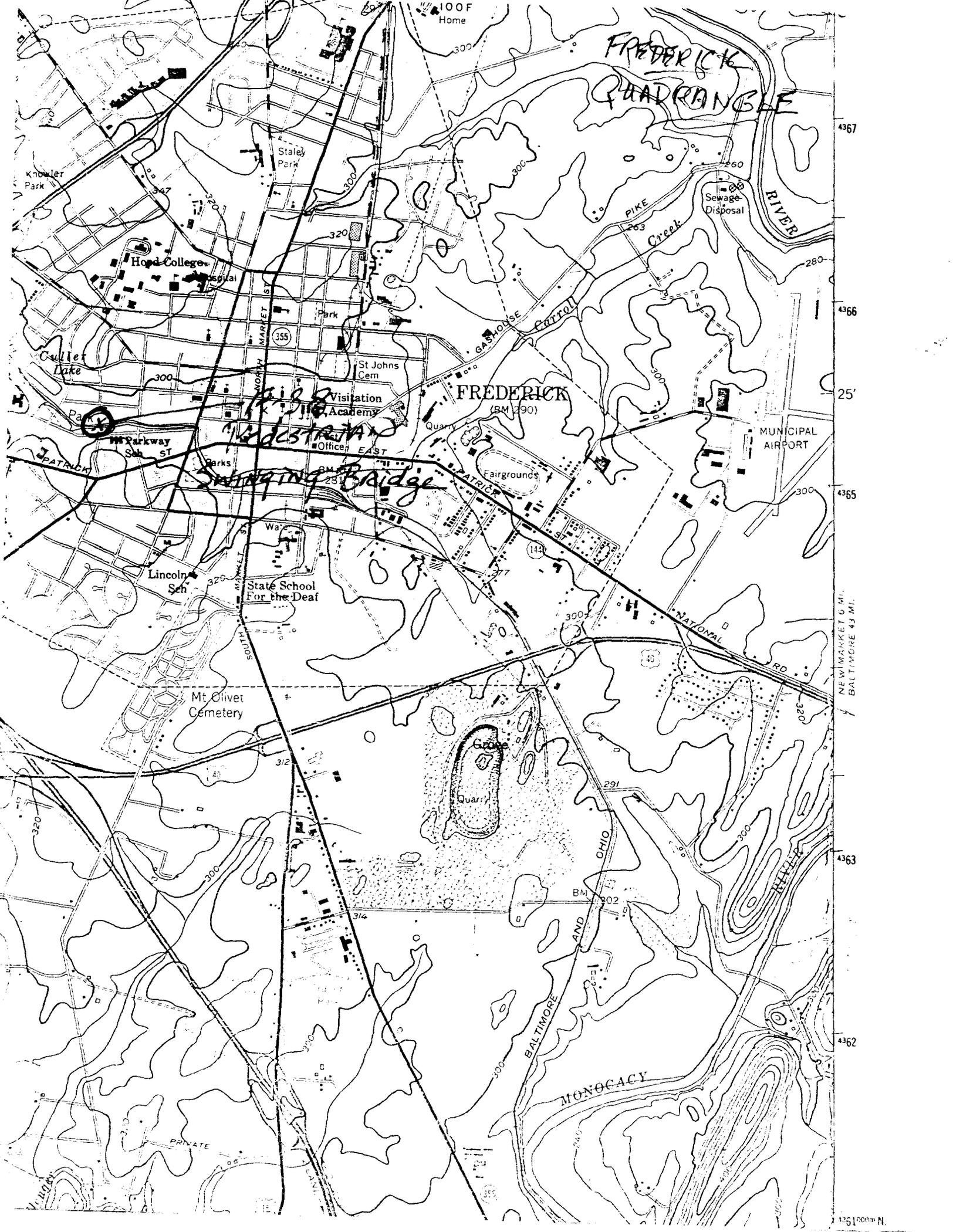
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)

Meeting Minutes of the Common Council. Frederick, Maryland, 1852-1874.



FREDERICK QUADRANGLE

FREDERICK (BM 390)

Sinking Bridge

GASHOUSE CANYON

4367

4366

25'

4365

NEW MARKET 6 MI.
BALTIMORE 43 MI.

4363

4362

1361 0000 N.



P-3-8

SWINGING BRIDGE

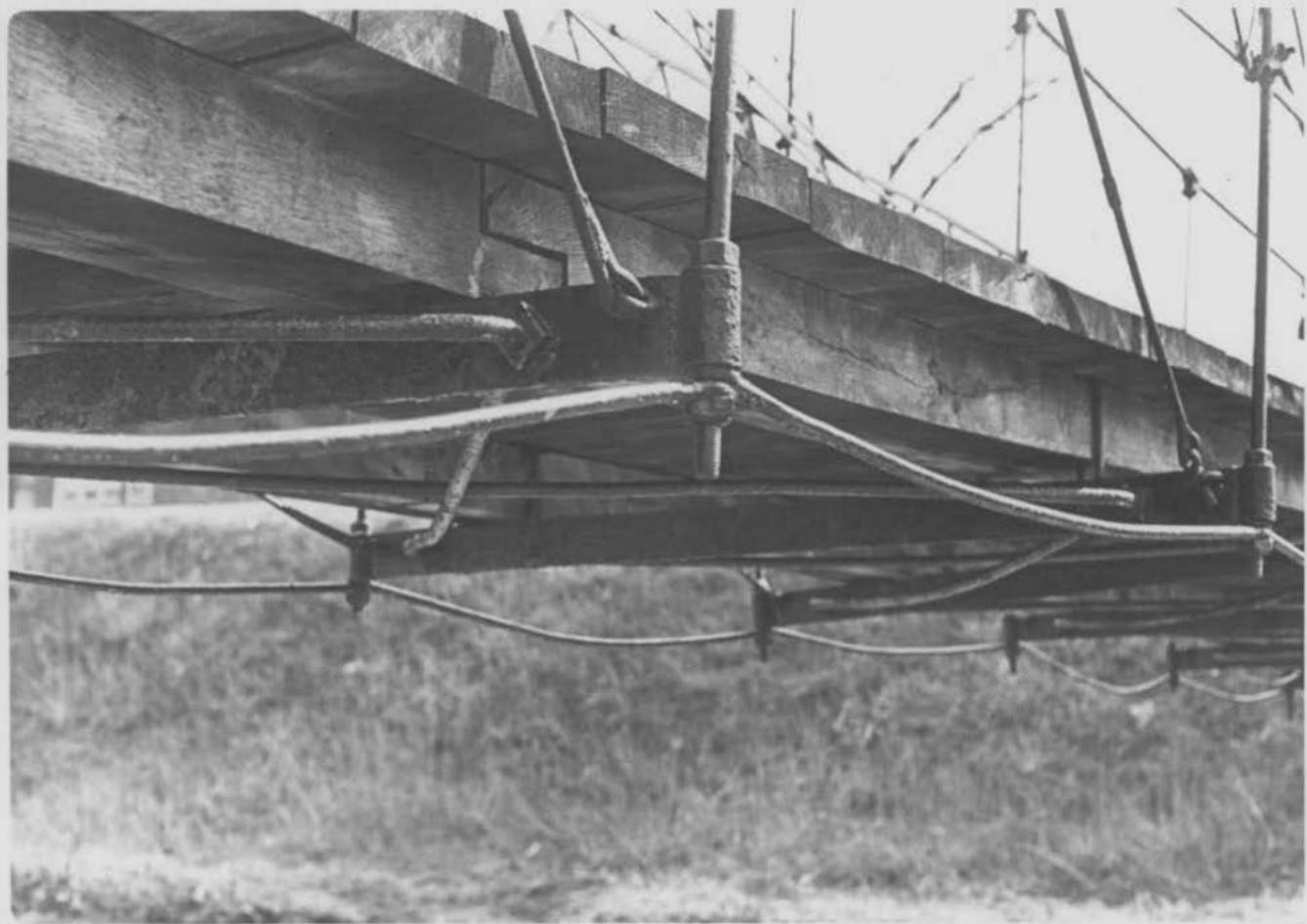
BAKER PARK

FREDERIC

CREW 5/79



F-3-8
SHINBUMS BRIDGE
BAKER PARK
FREDERICK
CREW 5/79



F-3-8

SWINBURN BRIDGE

BAKER PARK

FREDERICK

CEN 5/79



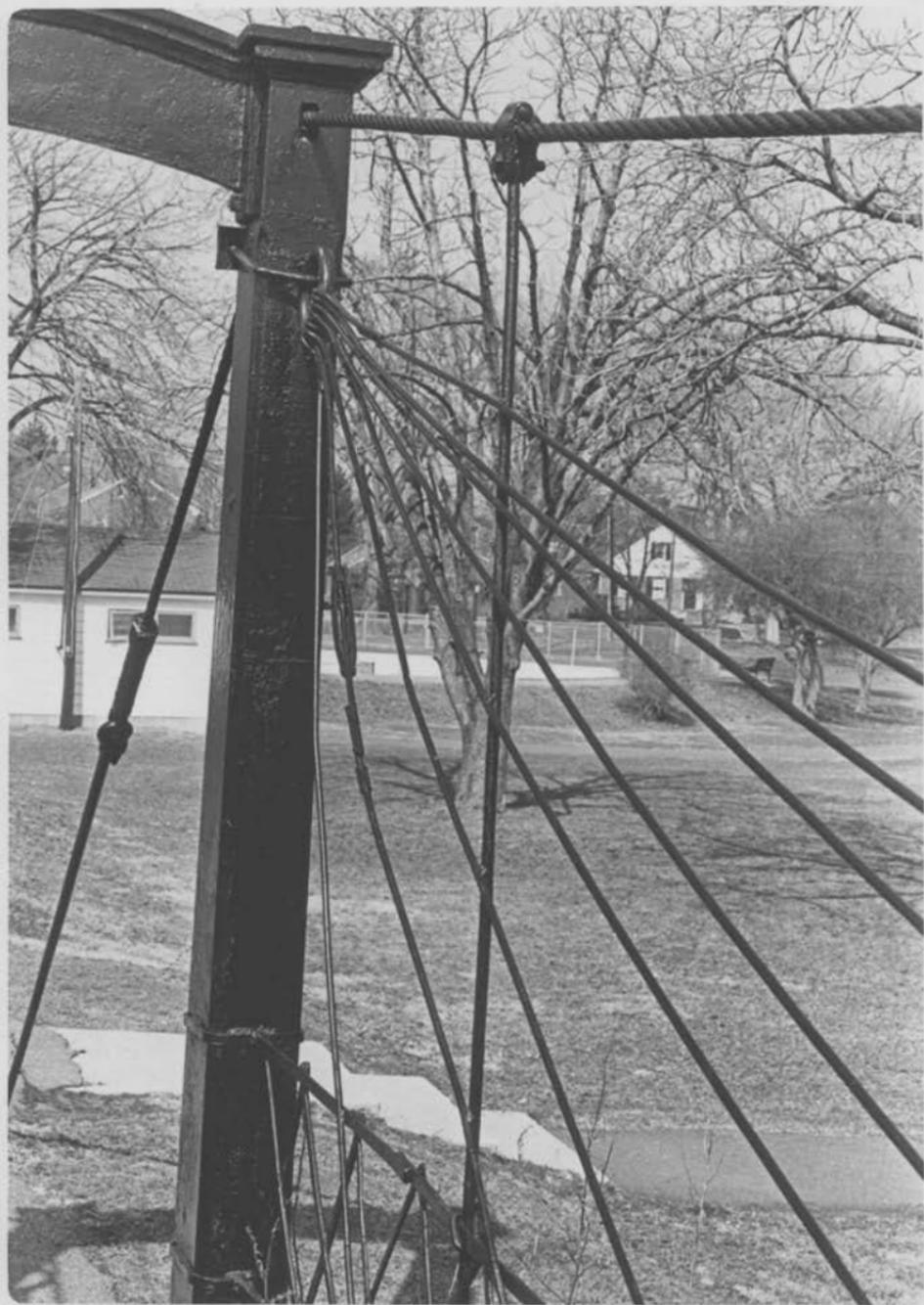
F3-8

SWINGING BRIDGE

BALCONY PARK

FREDERICK

CRW 5/79



F-3-8

SWINBIN BRIDGE

BAKER PARK

FREDERICK

CREW 5/79