

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Old Hagerstown Road Bridge Survey Number: F-4-2  
Old Hagerstown Road over Little Catockin Creek, Middletown Vicinity  
Project: Bridge Replacement Agency: U.S. Army Corps

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Under Criteria A, the Old Hagerstown Road Bridge derives its significance from its association with the development of transportation in Frederick County. An iron pony truss bridge of Pratt design, it appears to be similar to those built by the York Bridge Company of York, PA. Iron truss bridges were the most popular form of bridge construction in Frederick County between the 1870s and 1930s. Large numbers of these relatively easily and cheaply built structures were constructed over small crossings, greatly facilitating vehicular movement and communication throughout the developing County. The Old Hagerstown Road Bridge is thus an increasingly rare example of the modest sort of structure which once was a common element of the rural landscape.

Under Criteria C, the Old Hagerstown Road Bridge is significant as a representative example of the iron pony truss bridge of Pratt design. Iron truss bridges represent an important step in engineering design and a uniquely American achievement, the result of intensive experimentation in the 19th century. The Pratt truss was patented in 1844 and, along with the Warren truss, became the favored truss form by the early 20th century. The Old Hagerstown Road Bridge is open-connected, an earlier method than riveting. County records indicate a construction date of 1920, but the use of pins suggests an earlier date.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Inventory Form F-4-2

Prepared by: Cheryl Widdell, Frederick Co Office of Historic Preservation  
Elizabeth Skunkold 10/16/91  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable  
Roy Anderson 29 Oct 91  
Reviewer, NR program Date

mg

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C.- A.D.900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic )

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Bridge

Known Design Source: \_\_\_\_\_



EXIST. BRIDGE  
# 03-01  
Old Hagerstown Rd.

PROPOSED RELOCATION OF  
EXIST. BRIDGE # 03-01

F-4-2

TO LEESBURG AND DULLES  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

TO GAITHERS  
WASHINGTON  
AND NATIONAL A

F-4-2

Old Hagerstown Road Bridge  
Middletown  
Public

1920

The Old Hagerstown Road Bridge is a single span iron pony truss bridge of Pratt design which spans Little Catocin Creek. The single lane bridge is set upon coursed rubble stone abutments and is sixty-six feet long and twenty-six feet, seven inches wide. Joints of the bridge are secured with pinned connections. No plaque exists on the bridge, but the structure appears to be similar to those built by York Bridge Company of York, Pennsylvania. State records indicate the construction date is 1920.

In 1854, the weekly Frederick Examiner announced that wrought iron was now being used as bridge material and has proved to be stronger than the wood truss construction that had been in general use. At that time it was hoped that such an iron bridge would soon be constructed in Frederick County.

It appears from the Frederick County Commissioners Minutes that iron truss bridge became popular in the area during the 1870's. Records show that a variety of companies, including Groton Manufacturing Company, Groton, New York; Wrought Iron Bridge Company, Canton, Ohio; King Iron Bridge Company, Cleveland, Ohio; and the Pittsburgh Bridge Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, constructed bridges throughout the county. Iron truss bridges were an innovative step toward good bridge engineering design in the nineteenth century and were the pride of every community.

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INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Old Hagerstown Road Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Old Hagerstown Road over Little Catoclin Creek

CITY, TOWN

Middletown

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

E.D. 3

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Frederick

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Frederick County Roads Department

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Montevue Lane

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21701

**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**

F-4-2

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

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

The Old Hagerstown Road Bridge is a single span iron pony truss bridge of Pratt design which spans Little Catoctin Creek. The single lane bridge is set upon coursed rubble stone abutments and is sixty-six feet long and twenty-six feet, seven inches wide. Joints of the bridge are secured with pinned connections. No plaque exists on the bridge, but the structure appears to be similar to those built by York Bridge Company of York, Pennsylvania. State records indicate the construction date is 1920.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" 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     1920

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1854, the weekly Frederick Examiner announced that wrought iron was now being used as a bridge material and has proved to be stronger than the wood truss construction that had been in general use. At that time it was hoped that such an iron bridge would soon be constructed in Frederick County.

It appears from the Frederick County Commissioners Minutes that iron truss bridges became popular in the area during the 1870's. Records show that a variety of companies, including Groton Manufacturing Company, Groton, New York; Wrought Iron Bridge Company, Canton, Ohio; King Iron Bridge Company, Cleveland, Ohio; and the Pittsburgh Bridge Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, constructed bridges throughout the county. Iron truss bridges were an innovative step toward good bridge engineering design in the nineteenth century and were the pride of every community.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**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

ORGANIZATION

Frederick County Office of Historic Preservation

STREET & NUMBER

12 East Church St., Winchester Hall

CITY OR TOWN

Frederick

DATE

9/28/78

TELEPHONE

694-1063

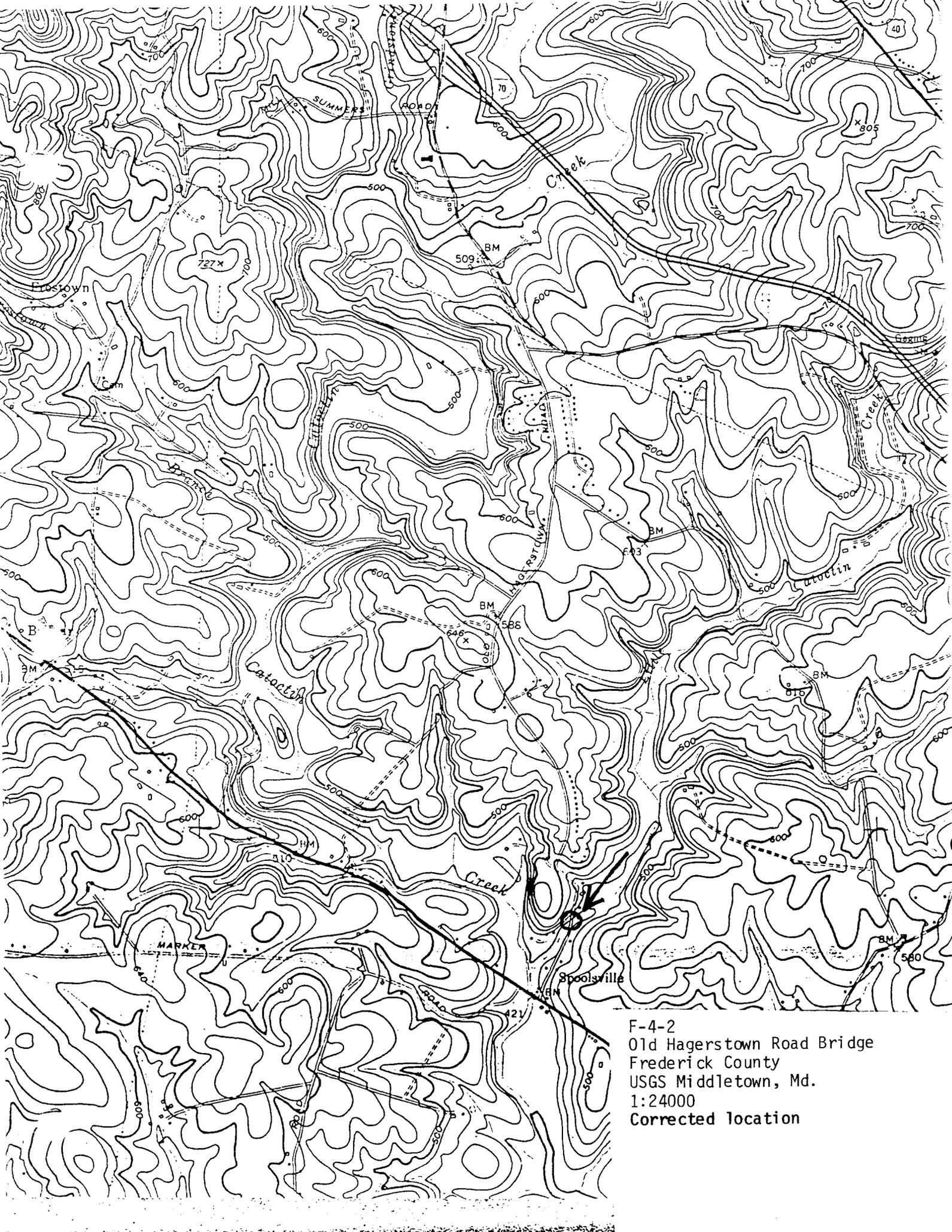
STATE

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



F-4-2  
Old Hagerstown Road Bridge  
Frederick County  
USGS Middletown, Md.  
1:24000  
Corrected location

F-4-2

Old Hagerstown Road Bridge



F-4-2

Old Hagerstown Road Bridge

