

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_  
no \_\_\_

Property Name: Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm Inventory Number: F-6-136  
Address: East side of MD 76 at Motters Run Historic district: \_\_\_ yes X no  
City: Motters vicinity Zip Code: 21778 County: Frederick  
USGS Quadrangle(s): Emmitsburg  
Property Owner: n/a Tax Account ID Number: n/a  
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): n/a Tax Map Number: 14  
Project: MD 76 over Motters Run Agency: State Highway Administration  
Agency Prepared By: State Highway Administration  
Preparer's Name: Melissa Hess Date Prepared: 09/19/2005

Documentation is presented in: \_\_\_\_\_

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: X Eligibility recommended \_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: X A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_

Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: \_\_\_ yes Listed: \_\_\_ yes

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

Description of Property and Justification: (Please attach map and photo)

The Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm once carried the Emmitsburg Railroad over Motters Run in northwest Frederick County. The late nineteenth-century structure is one of the few remaining elements of the former seven-mile railroad, which ran between the towns of Emmitsburg and Rocky Ridge for close to three quarters of a century. On March 28, 1868, the Maryland Assembly incorporated the Emmitsburg Railroad Company, which was composed of citizens of the towns of Emmitsburg and Rocky Ridge. The original charter authorized the company to build from Emmitsburg to a point on the Western Maryland Railroad, west of the Monocacy River. Joseph S. Gitt surveyed the road and John Donoghue constructed a large portion of the road. When money for the initial construction ran out, the Sisters of Charity of Emmitsburg funded the completion of the project. The first train ran on November 22, 1875.

In 1897, new local owners assumed control of the property, which then consisted of little more than "two streaks of rust and the right of way." The reorganized company rebuilt the entire line, replacing the old iron rails with 60 pound steel rails and wooden bridges with substantial structures. They ballasted the roadbed, purchased new motive power, renovated all the rolling stock, rebuilt depots, and put up grain elevators. In 1906, the Maryland Legislature amended the company's charter so that it could extend in any direction in Frederick County, buy, lease, or consolidate with any other company, and operate by steam or

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_

Criteria: X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G

MHT Comments:

Jim Tarlton  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

11/28/05  
Date

John R. Kuntz  
Reviewer, National Register Program

11/28/05  
Date

electricity. The railroad never expanded beyond its original seven-mile track. In 1940, operations of the Emmitsburg Railroad ceased following a period of substantial decline in the use of the railroad as a means of local transportation.

The railroad ran parallel to Motters Station Road (MD 76), crossing Motters Run on a berm, pierced by a stone arch to allow the passage of the stream. Used for their strength, durability, low maintenance requirements, and aesthetic appeal, stone arch structures required extensive labor and skilled stonemasons, which made them expensive. Well-financed railroads built many of the stone arch structures in the United States. In the case of the Emmitsburg Railroad, a locally-owned and operated line, the choice to build a stone arch reflects the community's level of commitment and investment in railroad transportation. Despite its small size, the Emmitsburg Railroad played an important role in the growth and development of Emmitsburg and the surrounding rural area. A 1910 history of the railroad noted that, "While it is small it is of great importance to the community and gives more train service than any other road of its size in the State."

The arch is a segmental barrel constructed of irregularly-coursed stone masonry. While the east spandrel wall of the arch is deteriorated, the majority of the structure is in good condition. The deteriorated portion of the arch is not visible from the MD 76 roadway, but must be accessed from the adjacent private property. The west spandrel wall of the arch, which is visible from MD 76, is in good condition and shows little sign of deterioration. The wall and arch ring are constructed of squared-stone masonry. The arch spans approximately 8 feet over Motters Run and approximately 70 feet along Motters Run. The berm in which the arch is covered with vegetation. There are no visible tracks on the berm, but there is a cleared path along the former railway. There are concrete steps adjacent to the path, which were most likely associated with the railroad.

The Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm remains in its historic location. The structure's setting is rural in character, probably appearing much as it did during the era when the railroad was active. The arch's design is simple, but durable, and its historic materials are intact. High-quality workmanship is evident in the careful masonry work. The structure maintains the feeling and association of a nineteenth-century rural railroad.

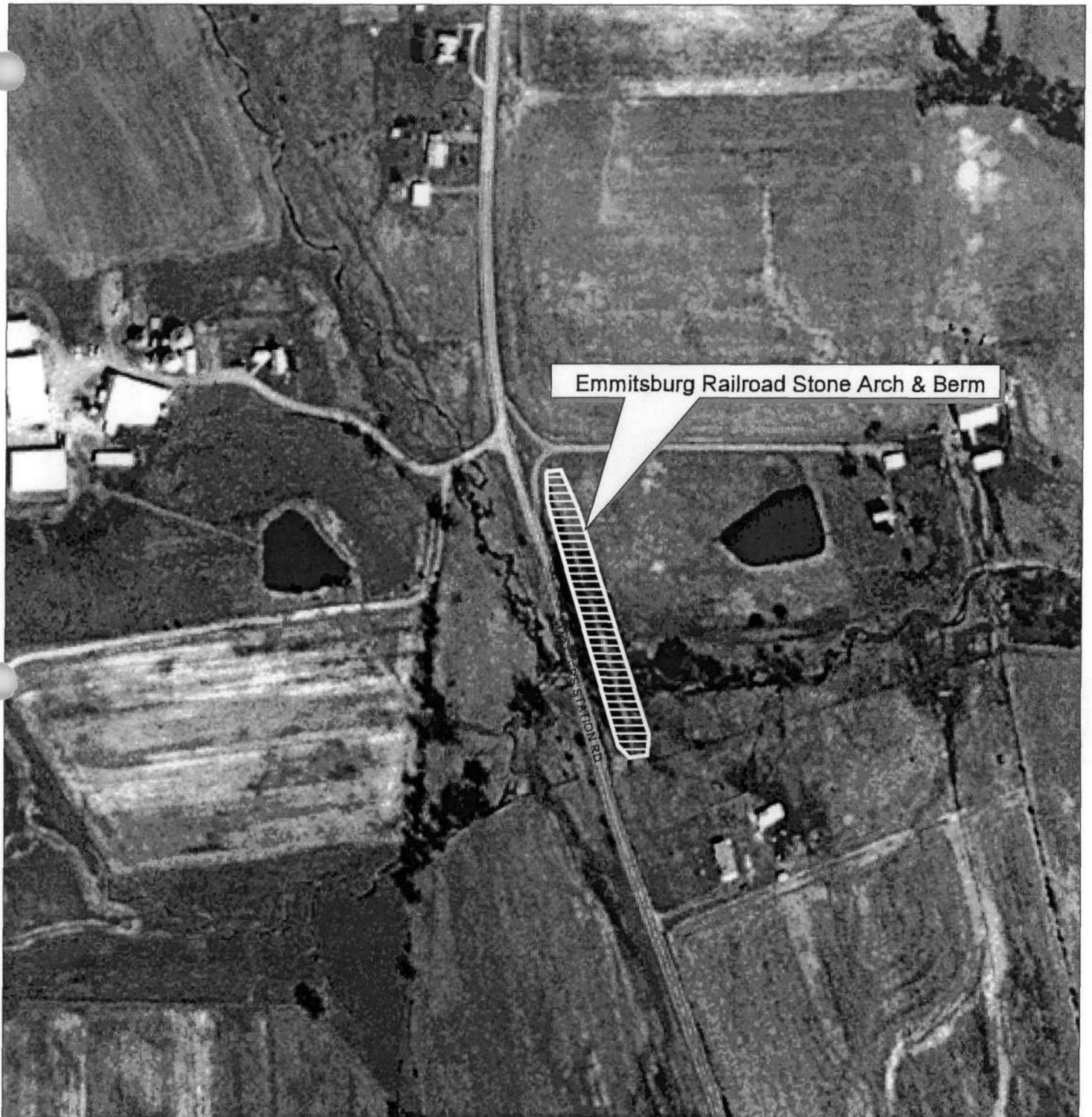
The boundary of the Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm is approximately 590 feet in length, north to south, and 75 feet in width, east to west, centering on the dirt path. The lands beyond the north and south ends of the berm, which are currently in agricultural use, no longer bear signs of the railroad and therefore are excluded from the boundary. The boundary has also been established to isolate the stone arch and berm and its immediate setting from adjacent east and west areas that are not directly associated with the history of the railroad. The property boundaries encompass the visible berm and the stone arch as determined through field survey by Melissa Hess, 17 August 2005. See the accompany aerial photograph.

The Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A for its association with the Emmitsburg Railroad Company, a significant example of a local operation that was never affiliated with a larger railroad company. The structure is among the few remaining elements of the Emmitsburg Railroad, which played an important role in the history of the town of Emmitsburg and the surrounding rural area. The structure is not associated with the lives of persons of outstanding importance to the history of the community, state, or nation (Criterion B). As stone arches and berms are fairly common features of railroads throughout Maryland, the Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm is not eligible under Criterion C. The Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch has not been evaluated under Criterion D.

Reference

Williams, T.J.C, History of Frederick County Maryland (Frederick, Maryland: L.R. Titsworth & Co., 1910; reprint, Baltimore: Regional Publishing Company, 1979), 611.

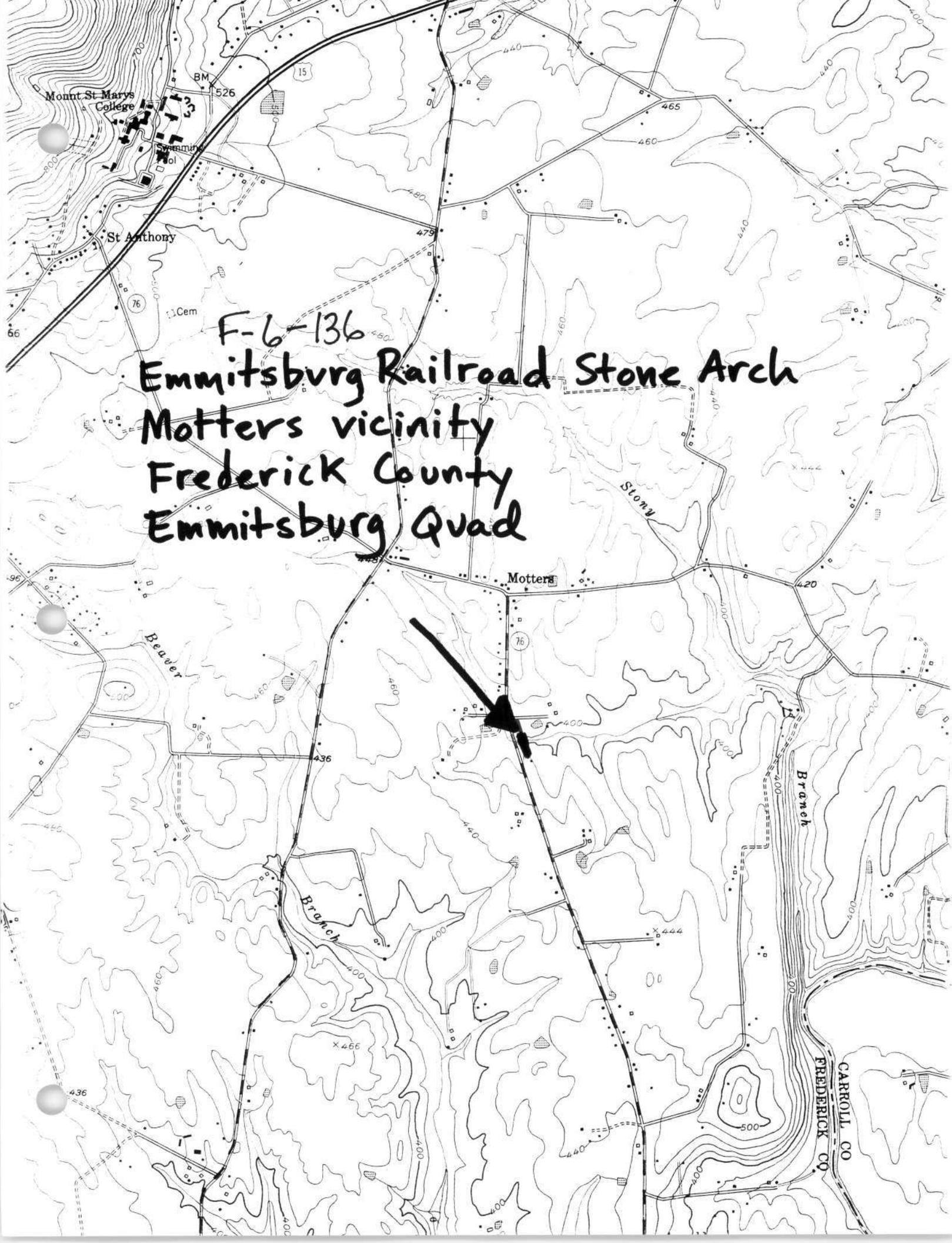
<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria:    ___ A    ___ B    ___ C    ___ D	Considerations:    ___ A    ___ B    ___ C    ___ D    ___ E    ___ F    ___ G
MHT Comments:	
_____	_____
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
_____	_____
Reviewer, National Register Program	Date



F-3-136  
Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm  
Motters vicinity  
Frederick County  
USGS Emmitsburg Quad  
Scale 1:3,000



F-6-136  
Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch  
Motters vicinity  
Frederick County  
Emmitsburg Quad





F-6-136

Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm  
East Side of MD 76 at Motters Run

Frederick County

M. Hess

June 2005

ART-2611 <No. 1 >002  
628 7817 -1 11 11-2 20 <042>0

MD SHPO

MD 76 over Motters Creek, Southbound

Photo 1 of 14



F-6-136

Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm

East side of MD 76 at Motters Run

Frederick County

M. H. S.

May 2005

MD SHPO

ART-2611 <No. 10 >015  
513 1717 -1 N N N-16 <0444>0

West Elevation

Photo 2 of 14.



F-6-136

Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm

East side of MD 76 at Motters Run

Frederick County

M. Hess

June 2005

MD SHPO

ART-2611 <No. 8 >009  
628 7817 -1 N N-3 40 <04250

West Elevation

Photo 3 of 14

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PAPER



F-6-136

Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm

East Side of MD 76 at Motters Run

Frederick County

M. Hess

June 2005

ART-2611 <No. 6 >007  
628 7817 -1 N N-3 41 (042)0

MD SHPO

West Elevation

Photo 4 of 14



F-6-136

Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm

East side of MD 76 at Motters Run

Frederick County

M. Hess

June 2005

MD SHPO

AF 1264 (No. 14) 019  
513 1717 -1 N N N-21 (044)0

West Elevation detail

Photo 5 of 14



F-6-136

Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm

East Side of MD 76 at Motters Run

Frederick County

M. Hoss

June 2005

MD SHPO

ART-2611 (No. 4) 005  
628 7817 -1 N N-3 35 (042) 6

West Elevation

Photo 6 of 14



F-6-136

Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm  
East Side of MD 76 at Motters Run  
Frederick County

M. Hess

June 2005

MD SHPO

ART-2611 <No. 5 >006  
628 7817 -1 N N-1 37 <042>0

West Elevation

Photo 7 of 14



F-6-136

Ennitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm

East Side of MD 76 at Motters Run

Frederick County

M. Hess

June 2005

MD SHPO

ART-2611 <No. 3 >884

628 7817 -1 N N-1 39 <042>0

West Elevation

Photo 8 of 14



F-6-136

Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm

East side of MD 76 at Motters Run

Frederick County

M. Hess

May 2005

MD SHPO

ART-2611 <No. 13 >B1B  
513 1717 -1 N N N-32 <B44>@

Barrel, Facing East

Photo 9 of 121



F-6-136

Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Beron

East Side of MD 76 at Motters Run

Frederick County

M. Hess

May 2005

MD SHPO

ART-2611 <No. 4 >009  
513 1717 -1 N N-1-03 <044>0

East Elevation

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F-6-136

Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm

East Side of MD 76 at Motters Run

Frederick County

M. Hess

May 2005

MD SHPO

ART-2611 <No. 6 >011  
513 1217 -1 N N-1 05 <044>0

East Elevation Detail

Photo 11 of 14



F-6-136

Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm

East Side of MD 76 at Motters Run

Frederick County

M. Hess

May 2005

MD SHPO

ART-2611 <No. 8 >013  
513 1717 -1 N N-1 17 <044>0

Railroad Berm over Stone Arch, Facing North

Photo 12 of 14



F-6-136

Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm

East Side of MD 76 at Motters Run

Frederick County

M. Hoss

August 2005

MD SHPO

ART-2611 <No. 9 >828  
241 0555 -1 N N 3-25 <04520

North end of Berm, View East

Photo 13 of 14



F-6-136

Emmitsburg Railroad Stone Arch & Berm  
East Side of MD 76 at Motters Run

Frederick County

M. Hess

August 2005

ART-2611 <No. 8 >811  
241 8555 -1 11 11-2 50 (845)3

Concrete Steps on Berm, View Southwest  
Photo 14 of 14