

E-6-7  
Fourpoints Bridge  
Motters Station  
Public

C. 1876

The Fourpoints Bridge spans Tom Creek southeast of Emmitsburg in Fourpoints on Keysville Road. It is a pratt half hip through iron truss structure in a single span 103 feet in length and 15.6 feet wide. It was built by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company, Canton, Ohio in the third quarter of the nineteenth century as indicated by a plaque located on the structure. The bridge sits on two random coursed stone abutments with adjoining wing walls. Corner blocks imprinted with "Patented November 21, 1876" are located at the top of each diagonal half hip member indicating that this particular style of truss design was patented by the company in 1876 and was installed in this location soon after that date.

The pratt truss was originally patented in 1844 by Thomas Pratt and became the most popular truss design in Frederick County as well as the rest of the country. An unusual feature about the Fourpoints Bridge is its early construction date and ornate nameplates, one of which is broken in a corner, which are located on the first cross members on either side of the bridge.

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RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Fourpoints Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Keysville Road over Toms Creek

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Emmitsburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CODE  
24

COUNTY  
Frederick

CODE  
021

**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 The Board of County Commissioners of Frederick County, Maryland  
c/o William Fout, Roads Department Engineer

STREET & NUMBER  
Winchester Hall

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21701

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Frederick County Roads Department (Bridge #0502)

STREET & NUMBER  
Montevue Lane

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland 21701

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Historic American Engineering Record

DATE

Summer, 1977

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service, 1100 L Street, NW

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Fourpoints Bridge spans Tom Creek southeast of Emmitsburg in Fourpoints on Keysville Road in Frederick County, Maryland. It is a pratt half hip thru iron truss structure in a single span 103 feet in length and 15.6 feet wide. It was built by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company, Canton, Ohio in the third quarter of the 19th century as indicated by a plaque located on the structure. The bridge sits on two random-coursed stone abutments with adjoining wing walls. Corner blocks imprinted with "Patented November 21, 1876" are located at the top of each diagonal half hip member indicating that this particular style of truss design was patented by the company in 1876 and was installed in this location soon after that date.

The pratt truss was originally patented in 1844 by Thomas Pratt and became the most popular truss design in Frederick County as well as the rest of the country. An unusual feature about the Fourpoints Bridge is its early construction date and ornate name plates, one of which is broken in a corner, which are located on the first cross members on either side of the bridge. Alterations include new planking, a coat of paint and a repaired cross member in the northwest corner of the bridge.



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

F-6-7

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .22

UTM REFERENCES

A	[ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	[ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]

B	[ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	[ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ]	[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1km

Cherilyn Widell

ORGANIZATION

Frederick County Historic Preservation

DATE

January 13, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Winchester Hall

TELEPHONE

(301) 663-8300

CITY OR TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland 21701

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Fourpoints Bridge  
Frederick County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

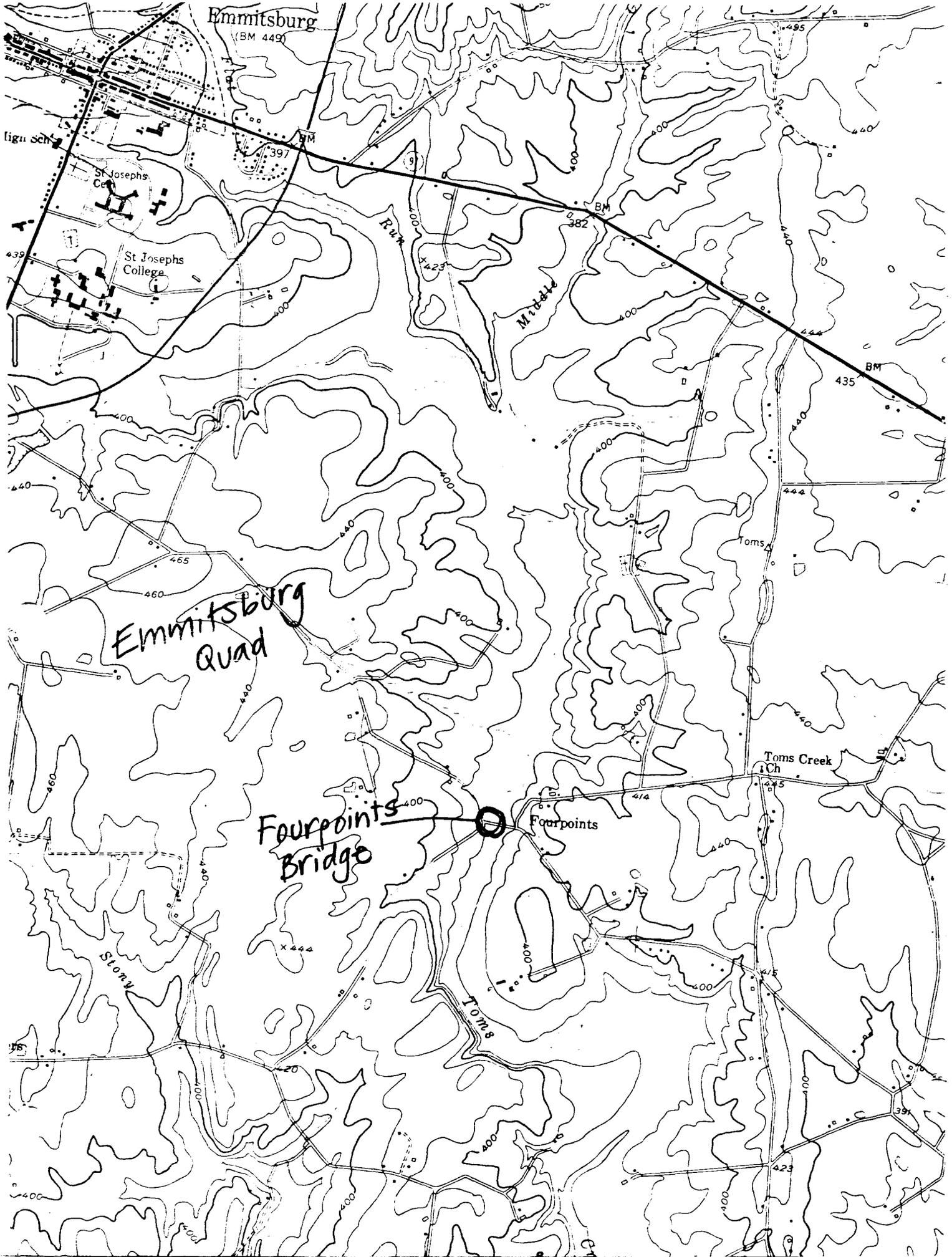
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Deibler, Dan. Metal Truss Bridges in Virginia, 1865-1932. Vol. I.  
Virginia Highway and Transportation Research Council, 1975.

Jackson, Donald. "Railroads, truss bridges and the rise of the civil  
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Meeting minutes of the Frederick County Commissioners, 1882-1889.

The Frederick Examiner, Wednesday, September 13, 1854.



Emmitsburg  
Quad

Fourpoints  
Bridge

Emmitsburg  
(BM 449)

St Josephs  
College

Fourpoints

Toms Creek  
Ch

Stones

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St Josephs  
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Fourpoints Bridge  
Frederick County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland      ITEM NUMBER 9      PAGE 1

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Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number: F-6-7

Name: FOUR POINTS BRIDGE

The bridge referenced herein was inventoried by the Maryland State Highway Administration as part of the Historic Bridge Inventory, and SHA provided the Trust with eligibility determinations in February 2001. The Trust accepted the Historic Bridge Inventory on April 3, 2001. The bridge received the following determination of eligibility.

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST</b>	
Eligibility Recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility Not Recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None	
Comments: _____ _____	
Reviewer, OPS: <u>Anne E. Bruder</u>	Date: <u>3 April 2001</u>
Reviewer, NR Program: <u>Peter E. Kurtze</u>	Date: <u>3 April 2001</u>

*Aug*

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC BRIDGES  
HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY  
MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION/  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MHT No. F-6-7

SHA Bridge No. F05-02 Bridge name Four Points Bridge

**LOCATION:**

Street/Road name and number [facility carried] Four Points-Keysville Road over Toms Creek

City/town Emmitsburg Vicinity X

County Frederick

This bridge projects over: Road  Railway  Water  Land

Ownership: State  County  Municipal  Other

**HISTORIC STATUS:**

Is the bridge located within a designated historic district? Yes  No

National Register-listed district  National Register-determined-eligible district

Locally-designated district  Other

Name of district \_\_\_\_\_

**BRIDGE TYPE:**

Timber Bridge :  
Beam Bridge  Truss -Covered  Trestle  Timber-And-Concrete

Stone Arch Bridge

Metal Truss Bridge

Movable Bridge :  
Swing  Bascule Single Leaf  Bascule Multiple Leaf   
Vertical Lift  Retractable  Pontoon

Metal Girder :  
Rolled Girder  Rolled Girder Concrete Encased   
Plate Girder  Plate Girder Concrete Encased

Metal Suspension

Metal Arch

Metal Cantilever

Concrete :  
Concrete Arch  Concrete Slab  Concrete Beam  Rigid Frame   
Other  Type Name \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIPTION:**

Setting: Urban \_\_\_\_\_ Small town \_\_\_\_\_ Rural  X

**Describe Setting:**

Bridge No. F05-02 carries Four Points-Keysville Road over Toms Creek in Frederick County. Four Points-Keysville Road runs east/west and Toms Creek flows north/south. The bridge is located at Four Points, in the Emmitsburg vicinity, and is surrounded by pasture and wooded areas.

**Describe Superstructure and Substructure:**

Bridge No. F05-02, constructed circa 1876 by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, is a single-span, 1-lane wrought iron, Pratt half-hip, thru truss bridge. The structure is 31.4 meters (103 feet) in length and has a clear roadway width of 3.88 meters (12.75 feet). The out-to-out width is 4.77 meters (15.6 feet). It has eight (8) panels with diagonal endposts. The top chord is a built-up section of channels connected by plates. The bottom chord comprises eyebars connected by pins. The floor system has timber decking with stringers and floorbeams. All verticals are built-up sections and all diagonals are eyebars; all connections are pinned. The structure has a steel pipe railing.

The substructure consists of stone abutments and wingwalls. The structure is posted at 13,500 tonnes for singles and 18,900 tonnes for combinations (30,000 pounds and 42,000 pounds respectively). The structure has a sufficiency rating of 54.7.

According to the 1997 inspection report, the overall condition of the structure is excellent, including the truss members, stringers, floorbeams, abutments and wingwalls.

**Discuss Major Alterations:**

According to the 1997 inspection report, the entire floor system, including the timber deck, galvanized stringers, floorbeams and pipe railing were reconstructed in 1997. In addition, the stone abutments and wingwalls were repointed and the truss was painted. The structure, which had been closed to traffic, was re-opened on August 6, 1997.

**HISTORY:**

WHEN was the bridge built:  circa 1876

This date is: Actual \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated  X

Source of date: Plaque  X  Design plans \_\_\_\_\_ SHA/County bridge files/inspection form  X

Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**SURVEYOR/HISTORIAN ANALYSIS:**

This bridge may have National Register significance for its association with:

A - Events  X  B- Person \_\_\_\_\_  
C- Engineering/architectural character  X

The bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in November 1978.

**SURVEYOR:****Date bridge recorded** March 1998**Name of surveyor** Dave Dick/Caroline Hall**Organization/Address** Wallace Montgomery and Associates, 110 West Road, Towson, MD 21204/  
P.A.C. Spero & Co., 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, Suite 412, Baltimore, MD 21204**Phone number** (410) 296-1635**FAX number** (410) 296-1670

Maryland Historic Highway Bridges

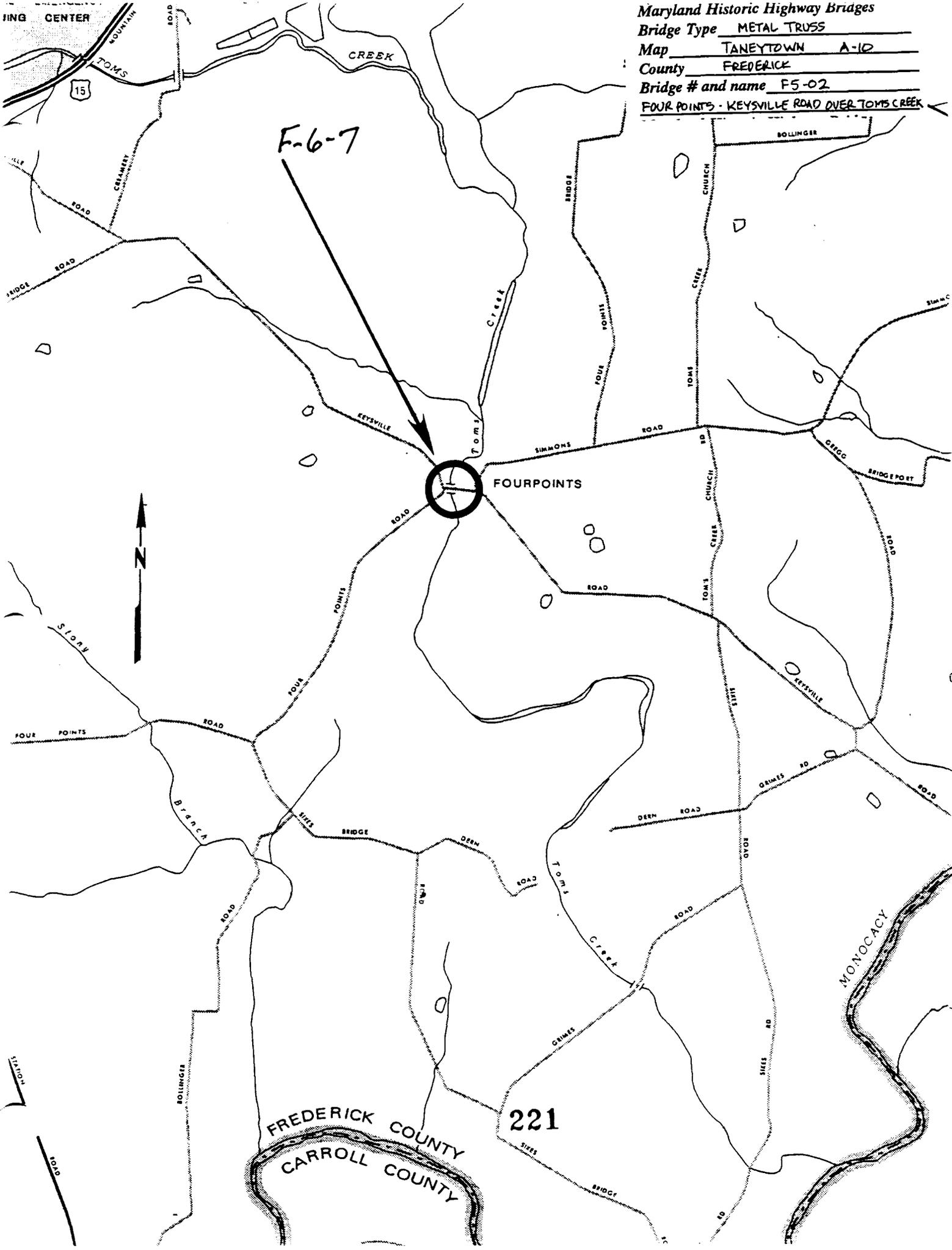
Bridge Type METAL TRUSS

Map TANEYTOWN A-10

County FREDERICK

Bridge # and name F5-02

FOUR POINTS - KEYSVILLE ROAD OVER TOMS CREEK





1. F-6-7

2. F 500, Four Points - Keysville Road over Tom's Creek

3. Fredericks County, MD

4. River Mill

5. Fall, 1920

6. No. 1012

7. Near approach

8. 1012



1. F-6-7

2. I 502, low bridge height & Road over long bridge

3. Freeway sound, mid

4. Ryan property

5. J-1, 407

6. 101 S-12

7. Newberry property

8. J-1, 10