

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	F - 2 - 5
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

Poffenberger Road Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Poffenberger Road over Catoctin Creek

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Middletown

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CODE

24

COUNTY

Frederick

CODE

021

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
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- 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

STATE

Maryland 21701

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Frederick County Roads Department (Bridge #2203)

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 I Street, NW

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C. 20240

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 Poffenberger Road Bridge crosses the Catoctin Creek at Poffenberger Road near Middletown, in Frederick County, Maryland.

It is an iron single span, double intersection pratt or Whipple thru truss bridge, built in 1878 (probably) by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio. The bridge is set on two random-coursed stone abutments with wing wall approaches which appear to date from 1878. The original decking has been replaced in recent years with wood planking.

The Poffenberger Bridge is an unusually large structure for its location; it was probably built in part to service the business generated by nearby Lewis Mill.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

F-2-5

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			Industrial archeology

SPECIFIC DATES 1878

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Wrought Iron Bridge Co. (?)
Canton, Ohio

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1854 the weekly Frederick Examiner announced that wrought iron was being used as a bridge material and 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 Pittsburg Bridge Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, constructed bridges throughout the county. Iron truss bridges were an innovative step toward good bridge engineering design in the 19th century and were the pride of every community.

The Poffenberger Road Bridge is one of two double intersection Pratt or Whipple bridges still standing in Frederick County. (The other is Harney Road Bridge.) The Poffenberger Bridge is also one of the earliest dated bridges in the region, having been built in 1878.

The Poffenberger Road Bridge is extremely important as a representative example of 19th century iron truss bridges in Frederick County, not only because of its very early date, but also because of its unusual double intersection Pratt design.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre
UTM REFERENCES 122.3 ft by 13.3 ft.

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

1 km

NAME / TITLE: Cherilyn Widell

ORGANIZATION: Frederick County Historic Preservation DATE: January 17, 1978

STREET & NUMBER: Winchester Hall; 12 East Church Street TELEPHONE: (301) 663-8300

CITY OR TOWN: Frederick STATE: Maryland ZIP: 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	DATE _____
ATTEST	DATE _____
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

F-2-5

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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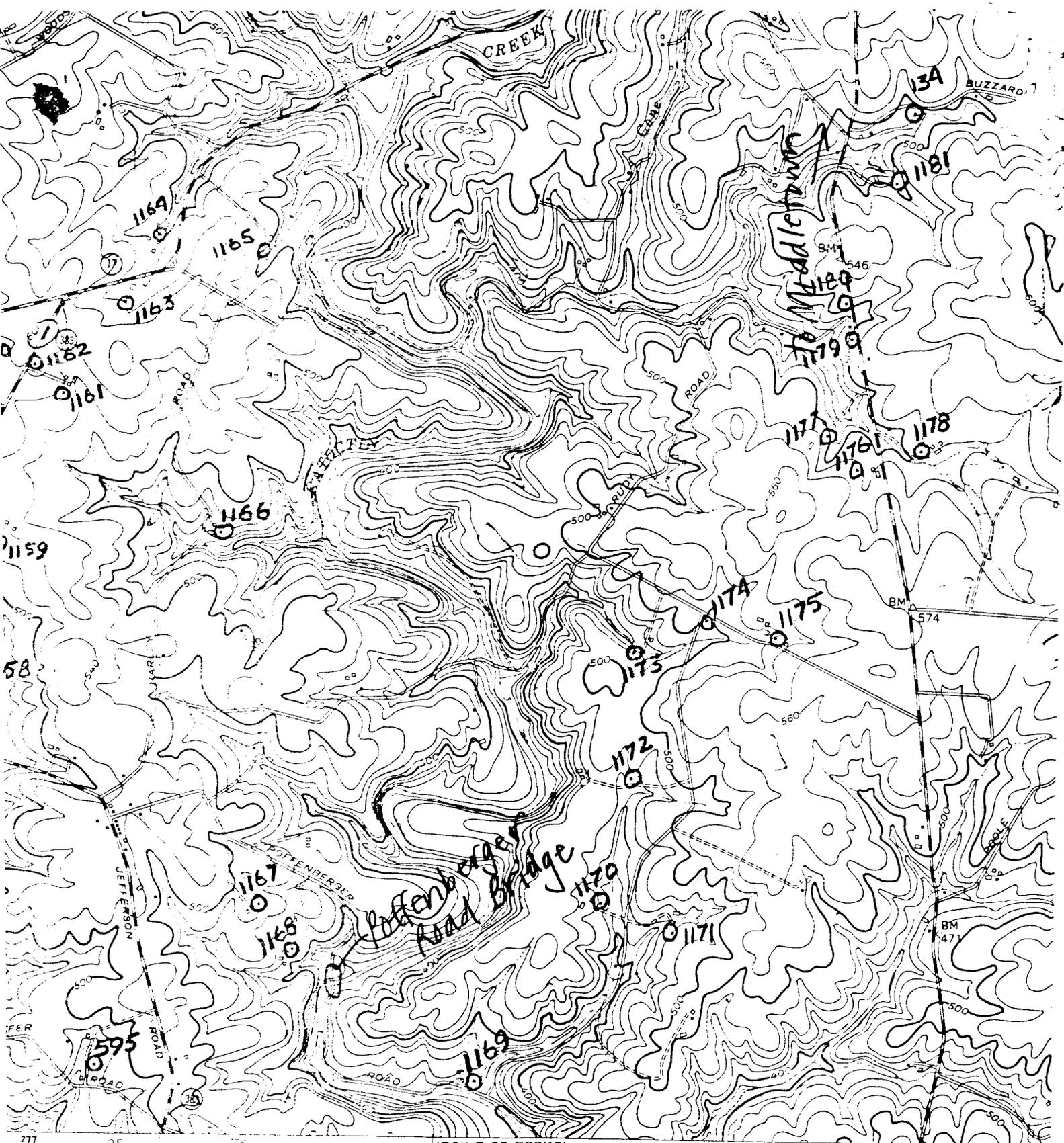
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Poffenberger Road Bridge
Frederick County

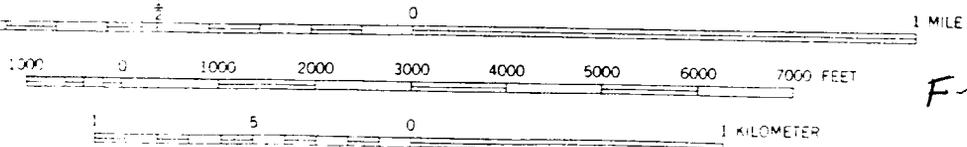
CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 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 engineer."
Civil Engineering (October, 1977), 97-101.
- Meeting minutes of the Frederick County Commissioners, 1882-1889.
- The Frederick Examiner, Wednesday, September 13, 1854.



JEFFERSON 3 MI. POINT OF ROCKS 10 MI. (POINT OF ROCKS) 5462 1 SE SCALE 1:24000 JEFFERSON 1 MI. 0.8



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

Middletown Road

F-2-5





Inventory # F-2-5

Name FL 203-POFFENBERGER RD OVER CATCTIN CREEK

County/State FREDERICK COUNTY/MD

Name of Photographer FRANK JULIANO

Date 2/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description APPROACH NORTH

Number 1 of 346



Inventory # F-2-5

Name F2203-PFFENBERGER RD OVER CATOCTIN CREEK

County/State FREDERICK COUNTY | MD

Name of Photographer FRANK JULIANO

Date 2/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description ELEVATION LOOKING WEST

Number ²30 of 346



Inventory # F-2-5

Name F2203-POFFENBERGER RD OVER CATOCTIN CREEK

County/State FREDERICK COUNTY/MD

Name of Photographer FRANK JULIANO

Date 2/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description ELEVATION LOOKING EAST

3
Number 31 of 34 6



Inventory # F-2-5

Name F2203-POTTENBERGER RD OVER CATCOTTIN A ^{CREEK}

County/State FREDERICK COUNTY / MD

Name of Photographer FRANK JULIANO

Date 2/95

Location of Negative SNA

Description A APPROACH SOUTH

Number 4 ³² of 34 ⁶



RESTRICTED BRIDGE

SINGLE UNIT
6,000 LBS GVW

COMBINATION UNIT
6,000 LBS GCW

Inventory # F-2-05

Name F2203-POFFENBERGER RD OVER CATOCTIN CREEK

County/State FREDERICK COUNTY / MD

Name of Photographer FRANK JULIANO

Date 2/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description WEIGHT SIGN

Number 5 of 34 6



NO VEHICLES
OVER 10,000 LBS
WEIGHT
OR OVER 10 FEET
LONG
OR OVER 10 FEET
WIDE
OR OVER 10 FEET
HIGH

Inventory # F-2-5

Name F2203-POFFENBERGER RD OVER CATOCTIN M CREEK

County/State FREDERICK COUNTY/MD

Name of Photographer FRANK JULIANO

Date 2/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description APPROACH NORTH

Number 6 of 34 6