

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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

CITY, TOWN

Emmitsburg

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

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

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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		

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.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

F-6-7

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) industrial archeology
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1876

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Wrought Iron Bridge Company  
Canton, Ohio

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fourpoints Bridge is an excellent example of the well-designed bridges constructed by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, one of the largest manufacturers of iron truss bridges in the 19th century. It is one of three bridges still existing in Frederick County, Maryland known to have been built by the Company. One of these bridges was damaged in a flood in 1973 and is scheduled for demolition in the near future. The third bridge is a double intersection Pratt truss, also nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (the Poffenberger Road Bridge).

The Wrought Iron Bridge Company was formed from a foundry originally owned and run by John Laird as early as 1840. By 1867 the company became known as the wrought iron works of John Laird and Company and expanded its production to include iron buildings. The company was incorporated as the Wrought Iron Bridge Company in 1871 by the patenters of a wrought iron arch bridge named David Hammond and Job Abbot. By 1881 the company employed 270 men and had erected bridges in twenty-five states. Between 1899 and 1902 the outfit was taken over by the American Bridge Division of the United States Steel Corporation.<sup>1</sup> Since all bridges made by the company were constructed by 1899 most examples of bridges made by the Wrought Iron Bridge Company have been replaced.

The Fourpoints Bridge has survived for almost 100 years as a functional part of the Frederick County landscape and deserves continued attention and preservation as a fine example of iron truss bridge construction.

<sup>1</sup> Dan Deibler, Metal Truss Bridges in Virginia, 1865-1932, Vol. I. Virginia Highway and Transportation Research Council, 1975, p.49.

# 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

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

1km

NAME / TITLE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

Fourpoints 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.

Emmitsburg  
BM 449

High Sch

St Josephs  
Ch

St Josephs  
College

Run

Middle

Emmitsburg  
Quad

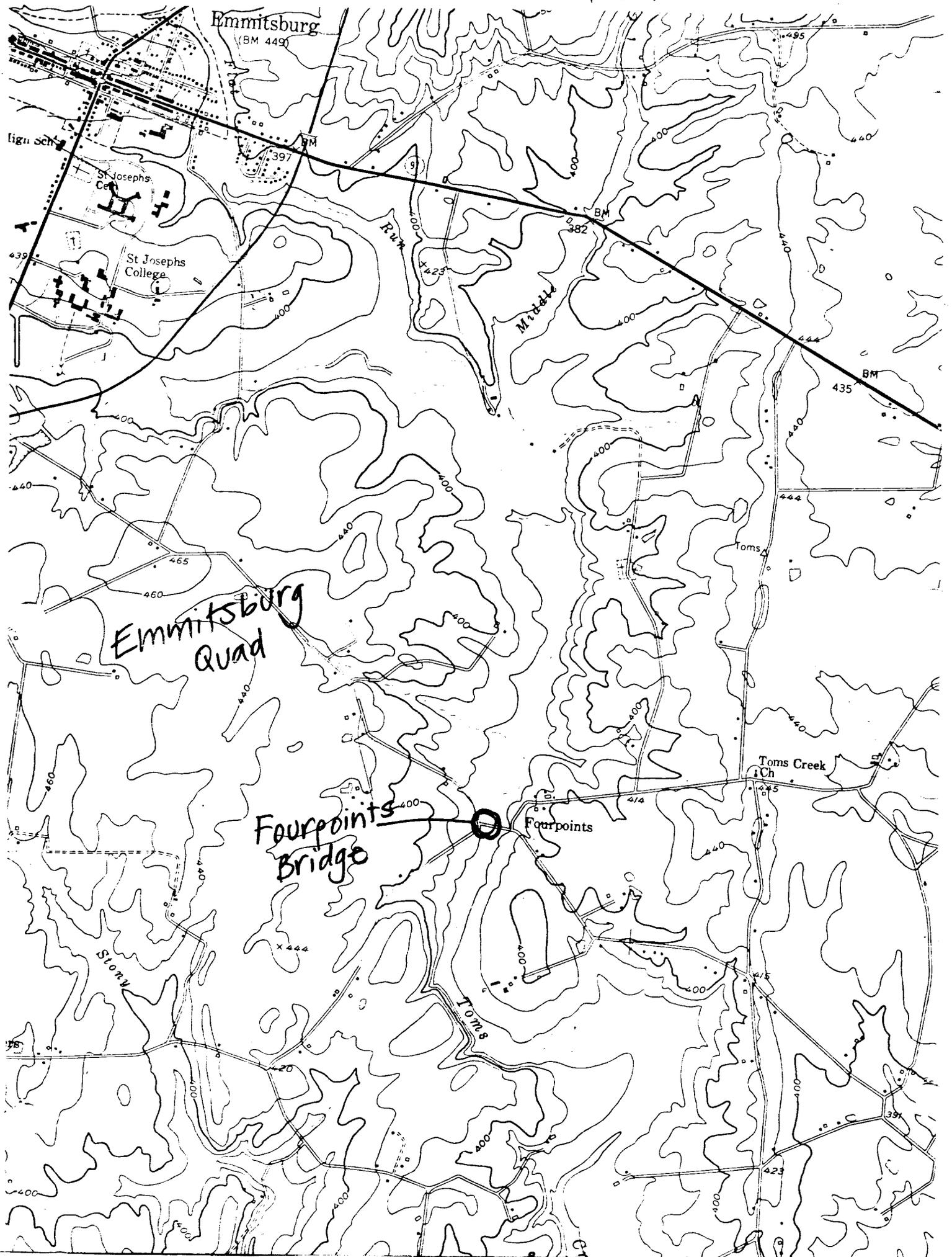
Fourpoints  
Bridge

Fourpoints

Toms Creek  
Ch

Stony  
Creek

Toms  
Creek



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

F-6-7

<b>FOR NPS USE ONLY</b>
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

Fourpoints 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.



1. F-6-7
2. F500, Four Points - Keysville Road over Tom's Creek
3. Frederick's County, Md
4. Ryan McKay
5. Jul, 1997
6. MD 5-10
7. Water approach
8. lot 2



1. F-6-7

2. I 507, Iowa Springs. Keyhole Road over Tams Creek

3. Frederic's Camp

4. Ryan's Camp

5. July 2nd

6. July 3rd

7. Description of terrain

8. July 4th