

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Number: ~~WA-I-732~~ WA-I-104

Name: Old Forge Rd over Antietam Crk (W2382)

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 bridged received the following determination of eligibly.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility Recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	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>

*gms*



Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties  
 Historic Bridge Inventory  
 Maryland State Highway Administration  
 Maryland Historical Trust

MHT No. WA-I-104Name and SHA No. Old Forge Bridge (W2382)**Location:**Street/Road Name and Number: Old Forge Road over Antietam CreekCity/Town: Hagerstown  vicinityCounty: WashingtonOwnership:  State  County  Municipal  OtherThis bridge projects over:  Road  Railway  Water  LandIs the bridge located within a designated district:  yes  no NR listed district  NR determined eligible district locally designated  other

Name of District \_\_\_\_\_

**Bridge Type:** Timber Bridge Beam Bridge  Truss-Covered  Trestle  Timber-and-Concrete Stone Arch 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:****Describe Setting:**

*Old Forge Bridge carries Old Forge Road over Antietam Creek in a east-west direction approximately three miles to the northeast of Hagerstown. Antietam Creek flows under the bridge running generally north-south. Old Forge Farm, a National Register of Historic Places complex containing a stone house dating to 1764, a stone end barn, a stone shed and a stone tenant house, is located to the northeast of the bridge (Maryland Historical Trust site WA-I-54). Two unoccupied dwellings, said to be part of the former Hughes family holdings, are situated to the southeast of the bridge, on a high hill overlooking the creek. Another working farm complex is located to the west of the bridge on both sides of Old Forge Road, while a mobile home is situated directly to the northwest of the bridge. Archaeologists have recorded three prehistoric sites along the creek in this vicinity, one directly to the north of the bridge, on the east side of the creek near Old Forge Farm (Maryland archaeological site 18-WA-172), and two on either side of the creek slightly downstream from the bridge (Maryland archaeological sites 18-WA-238 and 18-WA-441).*

**Describe Superstructure and Substructure:**

**(Discuss points identified in Context Addendum, Section C)**

*This three-arch stone span is constructed from coursed local limestone, and measures 188 feet in total length. Its three arches are graduated in size, ranging from 34 to 40 feet in span. Each arch is lined with carefully cut radiating voussoirs, with no apparent keystone. The westernmost arches span the creek, while the eastern arch spans the creek bank, and was intended as a cattle path. The walls are relatively straight, flaring only slightly at the abutments, which extend for some distance at either end of the structure as dry laid flat stones. Piers on both sides of the bridge exhibit a rounded shape. Two stone tablets are embedded in the interior parapets. One reads "1863/COUNTY COMMISSIONERS/JOHN RICHARDS, PRST./DANIEL STARTZMAN/MICHAEL NEWCOMER/LANCELOT JACQUES/WILLIAM RULETT/Wm H. EIRLEY BUILDER." The second inscription says "REBUILT 1893/County Commissioners/G.C. SNYDER, President/JACOB FRIEND/WILFRED STOUFFER/R.P. STOTTLEMEYER/ALEX. W. DAVIS/JOSIAH HILL BUILDER." The roadway is an asphalt surface measuring 16.5 feet wide. It carries one lane of traffic.*

**Discuss major alterations:**

*In 1893 Old Forge Bridge was "rebuilt," although it is unknown what exactly this action entailed. It is likely that little, if any, significant structural changes were made to the bridge at this time. At some point in the past, the stone walls were capped with concrete. According to the Washington County Engineer's Office, the bridge was completely renovated in 1978.*

**History:****When Built:** 1863/rebuilt in 1893**Why Built:** *unknown***Who Built:** *W.H. Eirley/rebuilt by Josiah Hill***Who Designed:** *unknown***Why Altered:** *stabilization of structure***Was this bridge built as part of an organized bridge building campaign:** *no***Surveyor Analysis:****This bridge may have NR significance for association with:** A Events  B Person C Engineering/Architectural Character**Was the bridge constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history?**

*As with many stone arch bridges in Washington County, Old Forge Bridge was erected near a mill site, which operated during the 19th century and may have provided the impetus for the construction of the bridge. According to Helen Ashe Hays in her 1910 book entitled The Antietam and Its Bridges, the mill was "...three stories high, a square massive building, now unhappily deserted and beginning to fall to pieces...". Today there are no extant remains of this structure. The mill was situated at a site already teeming with industry and at an established shallow fording of the creek. Old Forge Bridge is named for the "old forge" that once sat to the southwest of the bridge along Antietam Creek. This iron works was operated by the Hughes family during the late 18th century, and their various iron plants were said to have provided materials to troops during the American Revolution.*

*Milling and agriculture were the primary industries of the county. A large number of mills were built along significant waterways such as Antietam Creek and Conococheague Creek, as well as near smaller tributaries. Many of the region's major roadways led to and serviced these mill sites, which also served as centers for trade and social meetings. Bridges such as Old Forge Bridge facilitated travel to and from these mills.*

**When the bridge was built and/or given a major alteration, did it have a significant impact on the growth and development of the area?**

*With its key position in proximity to a mill, Old Forge Bridge played an important role in stimulating transportation and commerce throughout the area. Its presence helped promote growth and development on both a local and regional level.*

**Is the bridge located in an area which may be eligible for historic designation and would the bridge add to or detract from the historic and visual character of the possible district?**

*Old Forge Bridge is located immediately adjacent to Old Forge Farm, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Although not mentioned specifically in the listing, the bridge would be a significant addition to both the historic and visual character of the district.*

**Is the bridge a significant example of its type?**

*Old Forge Bridge is a well preserved example of a stone arch bridge.*

**Does the bridge retain integrity of the important elements described in the Context Addendum?**

*This bridge retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Despite the minimal alterations discussed above, Old Forge Bridge still possesses integrity of nearly all of its original components, including the stone arch rings and barrels, spandrel walls, abutments, wing walls, and piers. In general, the bridge is in good to excellent condition.*

**Is the bridge a significant example of the work of the manufacturer, designer, and/or engineer and why?**

*This is the only stone arch bridge positively identified as the work of W.H. Eirley. Additionally, no other bridges are attributed to Josiah Hill. As the sole example of bridges by these two men, Old Forge Bridge is potentially eligible under Criterion C for its manufacture.*

**Should this bridge be given further study before significance analysis is made and why?**

*Old Forge Bridge has been well documented in both written and photographic form. In 1975, it was included in a comprehensive survey of Washington County's stone arch bridges that culminated with the preparation of National Register nomination forms for the bridges. These nomination forms have never been submitted to the National Register. It is listed in the Maryland Historical Trust's Inventory. No further study is recommended.*

**Provide black and white prints and negatives and color slides of bridge, details, and setting labeled according to NR Bulletin 16A and Maryland Supplement to Bulletin 16A.**

**Provide a photocopy USGS map illustrating the location of the bridge.**

**Surveyor:**

<b>Name:</b>	<u>Alice Crampton/Julie Abell</u>	<b>Date:</b>	<u>11/15/94</u>
<b>Organization:</b>	<u>Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.</u>	<b>Telephone:</b>	<u>(703) 591-7575</u>
<b>Address:</b>	<u>10521 Rosehaven Street</u>		
	<u>Fairfax, Virginia 22030-2899</u>		

MAGI # 2206803517

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Old Forge Bridge

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Old Forge Road and Antietam Creek

CITY OR TOWN:  
Hagerstown vicinity

STATE: Maryland      COUNTY: Washington

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Board of County Commissioners of Washington County

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Court House Annex

CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown      STATE: Maryland

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	<div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered &lt; 50%    <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered           </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site           </div> </div>
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>The Old Forge bridge carries Old Forge Road across the Antietam Creek about three miles northeast of Hagerstown in Washington County, Maryland. The bridge is a three-arched span constructed of coursed native limestone. The arches appear to be nearly equal in size and are lined with finely cut radiating voussoirs. The walls are relatively level and are topped with concrete. At the abutments the walls flair slightly. The piers are rounded both up and downstream.</p> <p>Tablets set in the bridge walls indicate that the structure was built in 1863 by W. H. Eierly with the County Commissioners listed as John Reichard, President; Daniel Startzman, Michael Newcomer, Lancelot Jacques and William Roulette. A second tablet relates that the bridge was rebuilt in 1893 by Josiah Hill, under contract with County Commissioners, G. C. Snyder, President, Jacob Friend, Wilfred Stouffer, K. Z. Stottlemeyer and Alex W. Davis.</p> <p>At the east end of the bridge the abutments extend for some distance, consisting of flat stones lain in dry walls. A lapse in these walls forms a tunnel for cattle to pass under Old Forge Road.</p> <p>The bridge appears to be in good to excellent condition.</p>	
#8 SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)	
<p>the National Pike across the Conococheague and Antietam Creeks. It is said by historians that stone bridges because of their greater durability were used for the National Pike at the insistence of the Maryland legislature.</p> <p>According to local historians, General Robert E. Lee crossed Old Forge Bridge on his retreat from Gettysburg. At that time the bridge is said to have narrowly escaped destruction by Confederates who decided not to disturb the structure since the creek was easily forded there.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) built 1863, rebuilt 1893			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>Old Forge Bridge is significant for its architecture, for its contribution to commerce and transportation in Washington County, as an example of the engineering capabilities of 19th century bridge builders and for incidents which are said to have occurred there during the Civil War.</p> <p>Architecturally, the bridge is an example of some thirty stone arched structures still in use on Washington County roads. Most of the bridges were constructed between 1820 and 1850 and appear to be part of a trend in building with stone which was prevalent during the first half of the 19th century. The Old Forge Bridge is the most recent of the dated bridges over the Antietam and Conococheague Creeks. Although it was rebuilt in 1893, it does not differ in design from its predecessors in the county.</p> <p>The bridge is also significant for its contribution to commerce and transportation in Washington County. Like many of Washington County's stone bridges, the Old Forge span was situated near a mill. According to Helen Ashe Hays in her book, <u>The Antietam and Its Bridges</u>, within a stone's throw from the bridge "is a large stone mill as different as possible from the quaint rambling mill at Trovingers (WA-I-071). This is three stories high, a square massive building, now unhappily deserted and beginning to fall to pieces..."<sup>1</sup> No evidence of the structure remains today. The mill appears to have been in operation when this bridge was constructed in 1863 and possibly occasioned the building of the bridge which would have facilitated transportation to and from the mill. The bridge was built at a place where the Antietam was easily forded which could explain why the stone span was put there at such a late date. Long before the bridge was built, an iron forge was in operation just southwest of the bridge. Run by the Hughes family, the iron works, a nail forge was established well before the Revolution. The several iron producing operations in the county owned by the Hughes family are said to have supplied cannon and ammunition to the American army during the Revolution.</p> <p>Old Forge Bridge is also important as an example of the engineering abilities of the 19th century bridge builders. Like the earlier stone bridges, it is carrying a greater amount of traffic than it had been designed to accommodate. This is the only bridge in Washington County known to have been built by W. H. Eierly. No other bridges have been attributed to Josiah Hill who rebuilt the Old Forge span. Prominent among the county's bridge builders were a Pennsylvania firm, the Lloyds, John and George Weaver and Silas Harry. The two oldest stone bridges in the county carry</p> <p><sup>1</sup>Helen Ashe Hays, <u>The Antietam and Its Bridges</u>, New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, (1910), p. 165.</p>			
(CONTINUED ON OPPOSITE PAGE.)			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hays, Helen Ashe, The Antietam and Its Bridges, New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1910.  
 Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, "Bridges: Our Legacy in Stone," exhibition catalog, August-September, 1965.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Washington County Historical Sites Survey      DATE: March, 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Court House Annex

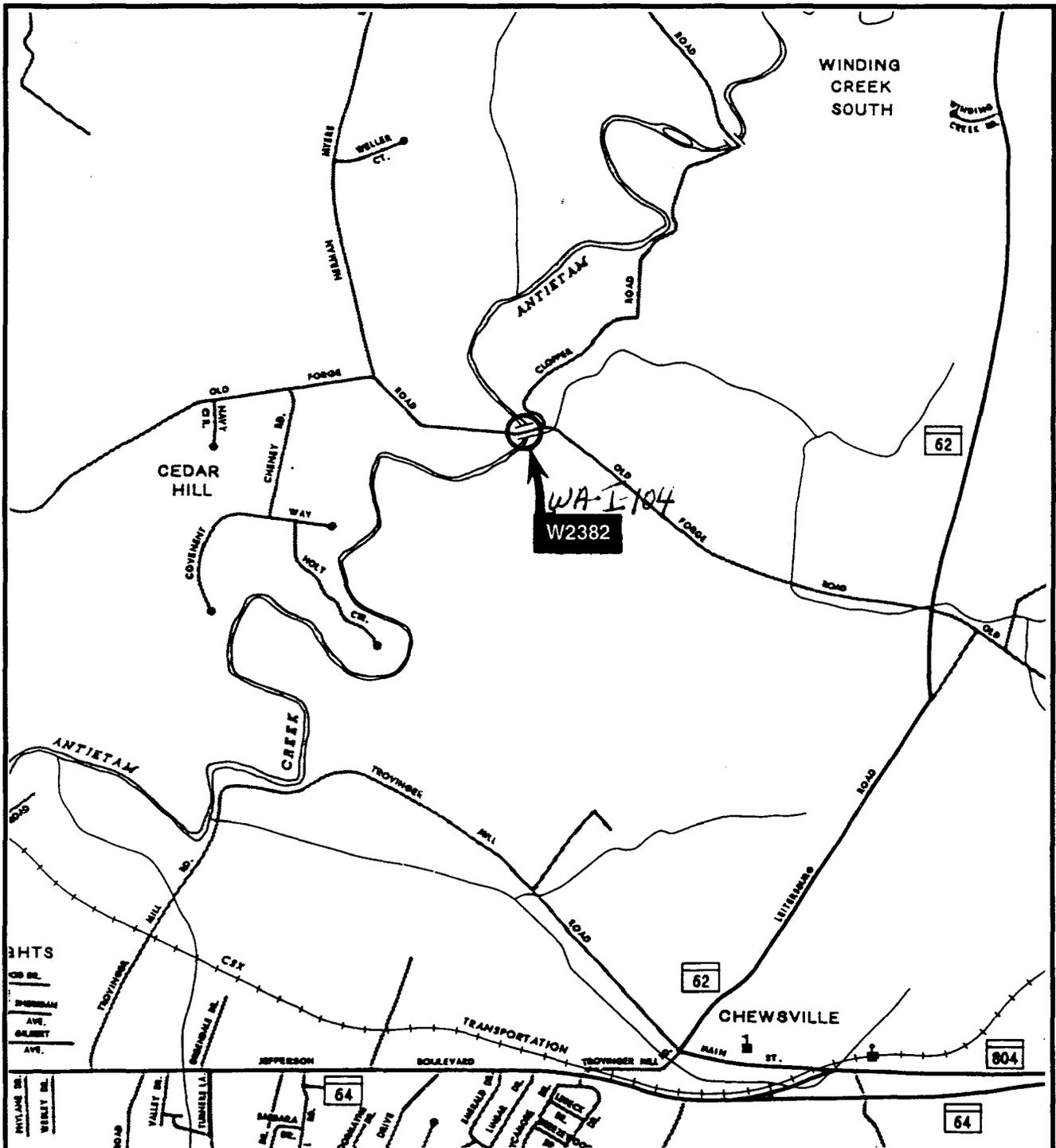
CITY OR TOWN: Hagerstown      STATE: Maryland

**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:

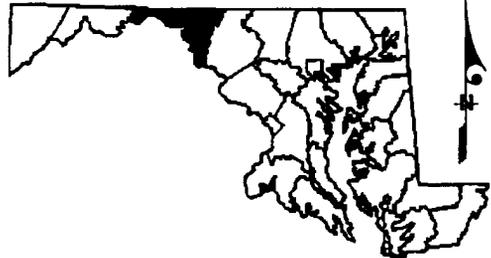
National       State       Local

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

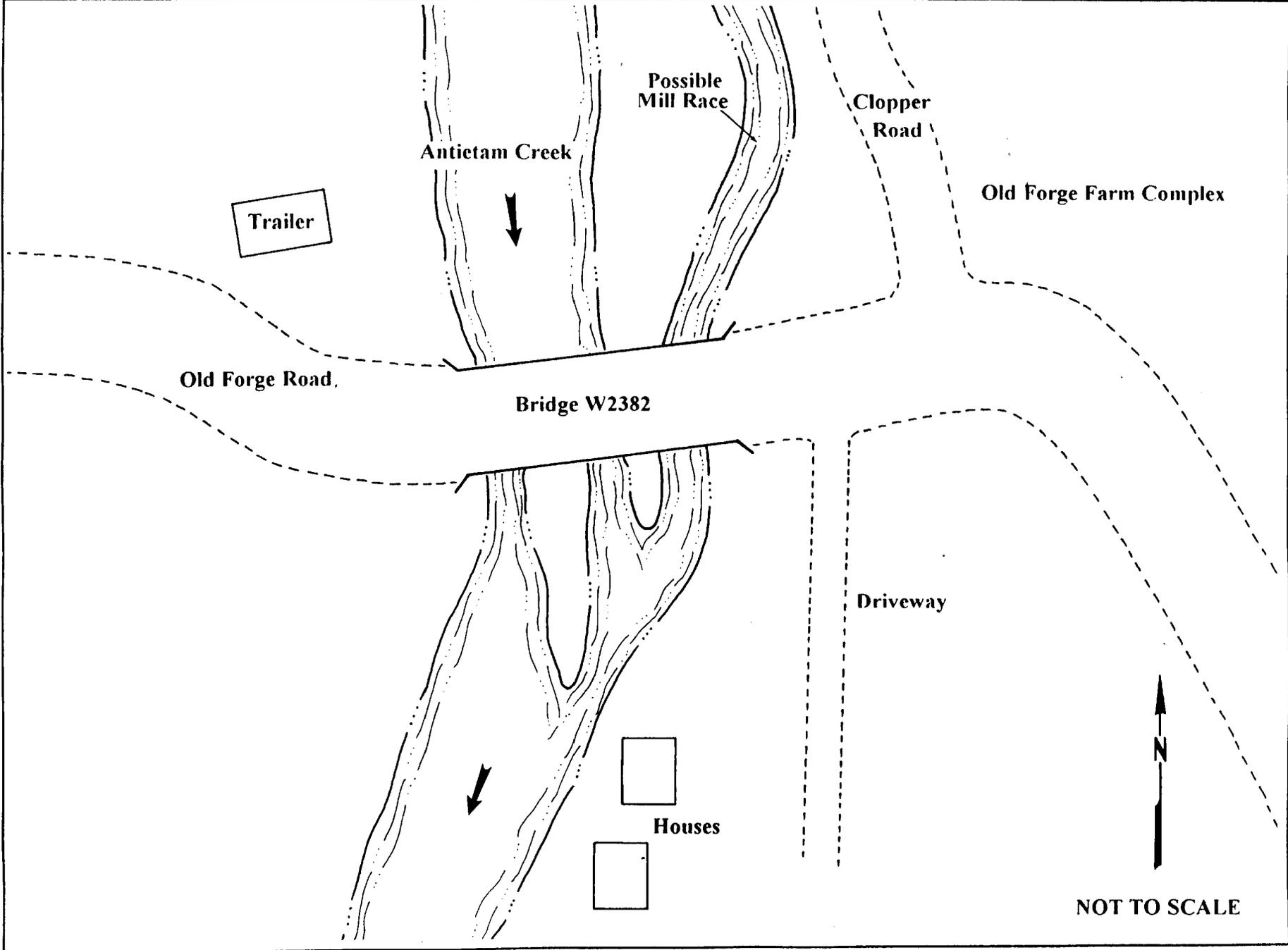


**Washington County - Bridge Number W2382**

Old Forge Road over Antietam Creek



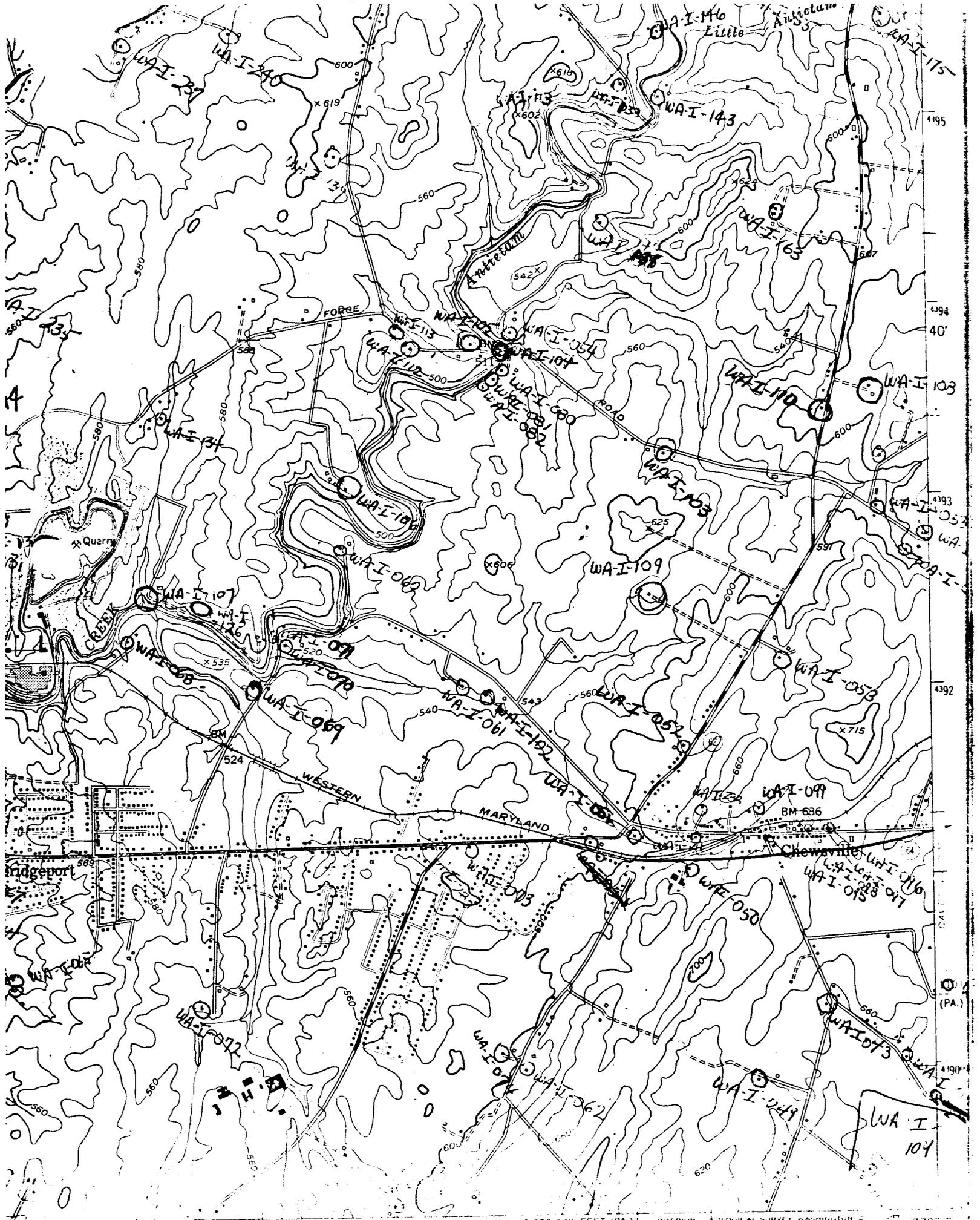
Scale 0 1000 2000 feet  
0 0.5 kilometer



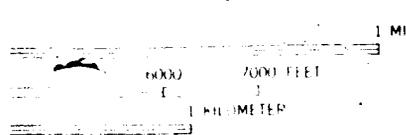
IV-302

WAR-104

NOT TO SCALE



270 271 40' 72 2030 000 FEET (P.A.) U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON 274100m E 77°3'



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy duty Light duty
- Medium duty Unimproved dirt
- U. S. Route State Route
- Interstate



QUADRANGLE MAP

HAGERSTOWN, MD. PA.  
 NW/4 HAGERSTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N3937.5--W7737.5/7.5

CURACY STANDARDS  
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
 DLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revised to show all points of interest and to show all points of interest, from  
 aerial photographs taken in 1953. The map is printed on a special paper  
 which is resistant to fading and discoloration.

1953  
 PHOTOGRAPHIC  
 AMS 5463 II NW SERIES V435

WA-I-104

Old Forge Bridge (W2382)

Washington County, Maryland

Julie Abell

11/15/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

North elevation

1 of 5



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Old Forge Bridge (W2382)

Washington County, Maryland

Julie Abell

11/15/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

North elevation, detail

2 of 5



WA-I-104

Old Forge Bridge (W238C)

Washington County, Maryland

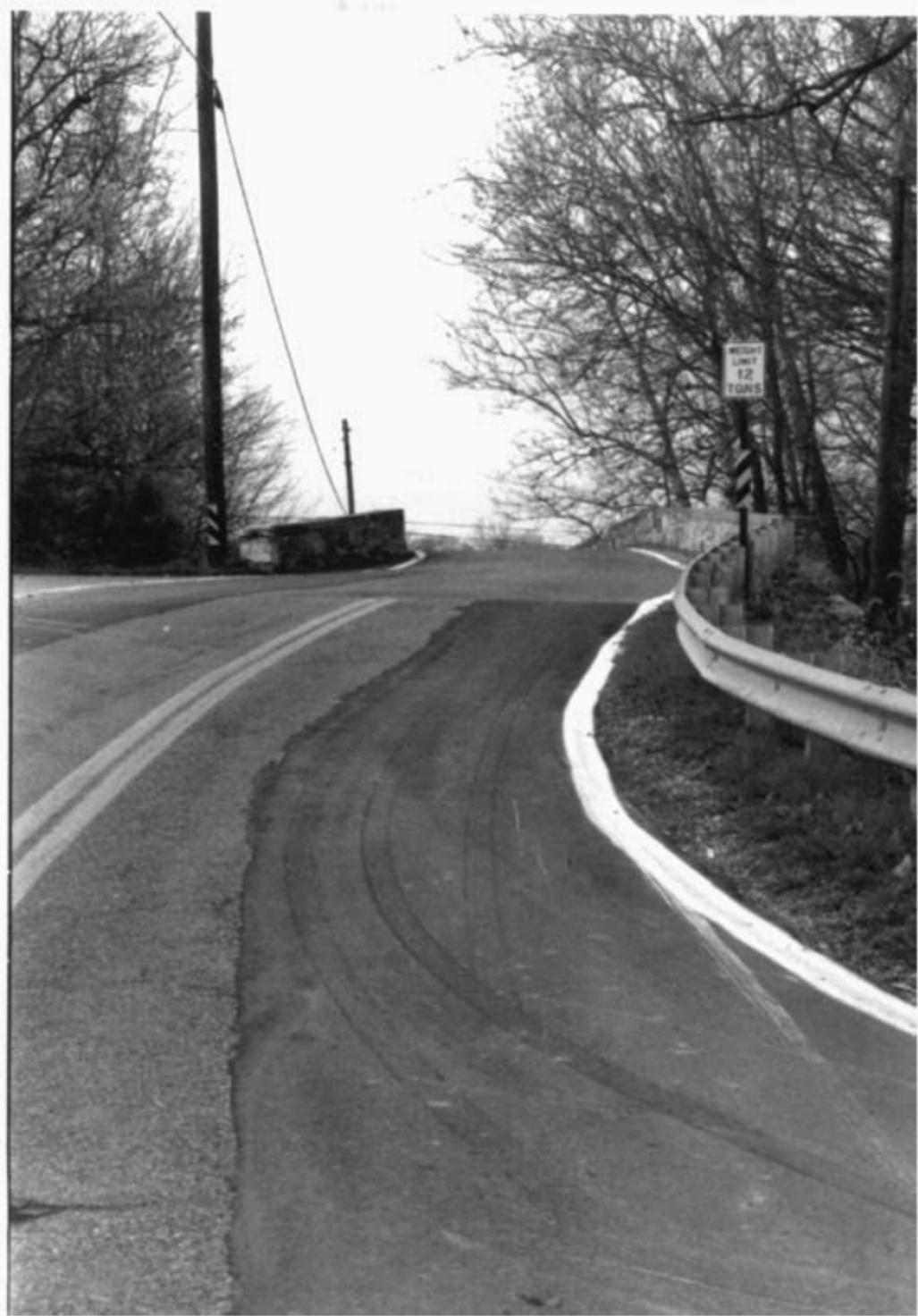
Julie Abell

11/15/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

South elevation

3 of 8



WEIGHT  
LIMIT  
12  
TONS

WA-I-104

Old Forge Bridge (W2382)  
Washington County, Maryland

Julie Abell

11/94

Maryland State Highway  
Administration

Approach looking west

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Old Forge Bridge (W2382)

Washington County, Maryland

Julie Abell

11/15/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

Approach looking east

5 of 8

65  
LANCELOT JACQUES  
WILLIAM WILLETTE  
W<sup>TH</sup> HIRLEY BULDE

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Old Forge Bridge (W2382)

Washington County, Maryland

Julie Abell

11/15/94

Maryland State Highway  
Administration

1863 stone plaque on  
interior parapet

6 of 8

REBUILT 1893

Company of Builders

F. C. [unclear] President

JACOB [unclear]

WILFRED [unclear] STOFFER

R. F. [unclear] GLENNYER

ALEX. W. DAVIS

JOSIAH HILL BUILDER

WA-I-104

Old Forge Bridge (W2382)

Washington County, Maryland

Julie Abell

11/15/94

Maryland State Highway  
Administration

1893 stone plaque on  
interior parapet

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WA-I-104

Old Forge Bridge (W2382)

Washington County, Maryland

Julie Abell

11/15/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

Old Forge Farm, South Side

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147 F 01

N.E.

PAULA STONER DICKEY  
CONSULTANT, WASHINGTON CO.  
HISTORICAL SITES SURVEY