

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **MAY 24 1978**
DATE ENTERED **NOV 29 1978**

**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

S of Middletown
STREET & NUMBER
Poffenberger Road over Catoctin Creek
CITY, TOWN
Middletown VICINITY OF Sixth
STATE Maryland CODE 24 COUNTY Frederick CODE 021
 NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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.
STREET & NUMBER
Frederick County Roads Department (Bridge #2203)
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 Catoclin 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

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 1878

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Penn Bridge Company
Beaver Falls, PA*

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 18 | 278500 | 4362070
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [] | [] | []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [] | [] | []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D [] | [] | []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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

NAME / TITLE

1 km

Cherilyn Widell

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Frederick County Historic Preservation

January 17, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Winchester Hall; 12 East Church Street

(301) 663-8300

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Frederick

Maryland 21701

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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

John N. Pearce 5/19/78

TITLE

DATE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

1/29/78

ATTEST:

Bill Lebovich

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

Nov 26, 1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Poffenberger Road Bridge
Frederick County
Maryland

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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.

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

POFFENBERGER ROAD BRIDGE
MD-35

DATE: 1878

LOCATION: Spanning Catoctin Creek on Poffenberger Road,
Middleton Vicinity, Frederick County, Maryland

ENGINEER: Penn Bridge Company

OWNER: Frederick County

SIGNIFICANCE: This bridge is a well preserved example of a wrought iron Double-Intersection Pratt Through Truss. It is pin-connected at the bottom chord connections and at the upper chord portal connections. Its diagonals are joined to the other top chord connections by screw connections. The structure is supported on random coursed stone abutments that appear to date at least to 1878. Aside from new decking, the bridge appears to retain all of its historic integrity. Because of design features such as twin pins at the upper chord portal connections it is believed the Poffenberger Road Bridge was fabricated by the Penn Bridge Co. However, there is no nameplate on the structure.

It is the oldest surviving truss bridge in Frederick County, and one of the oldest iron bridges in Maryland.

HISTORIAN: Donald C. Jackson, Engineer, 1983

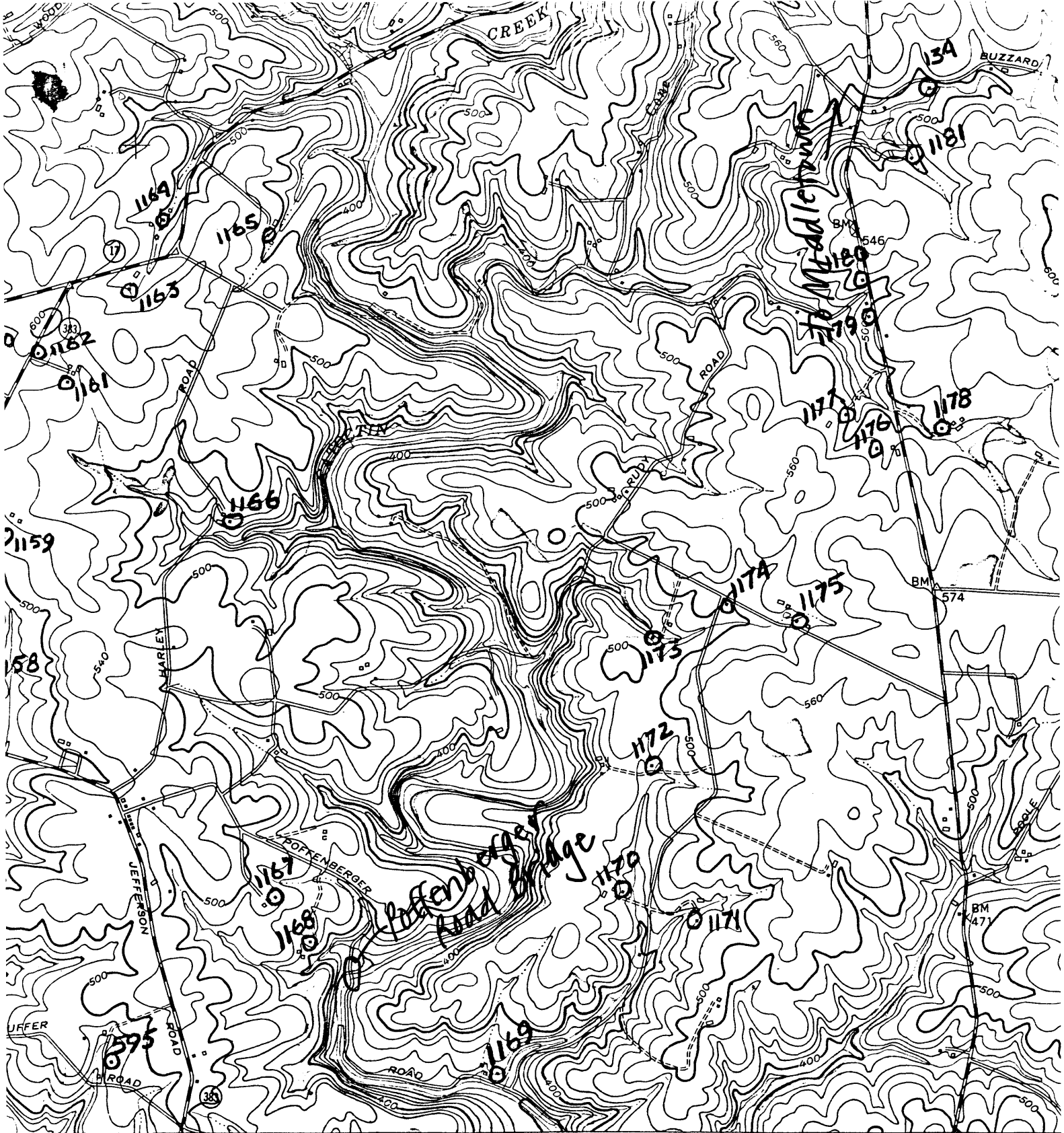
TRANSMITTED BY: Monica E. Hawley, Historian, 1983

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Spanning Catoctin Creek
Middletown Vic., Maryland
Frederick County

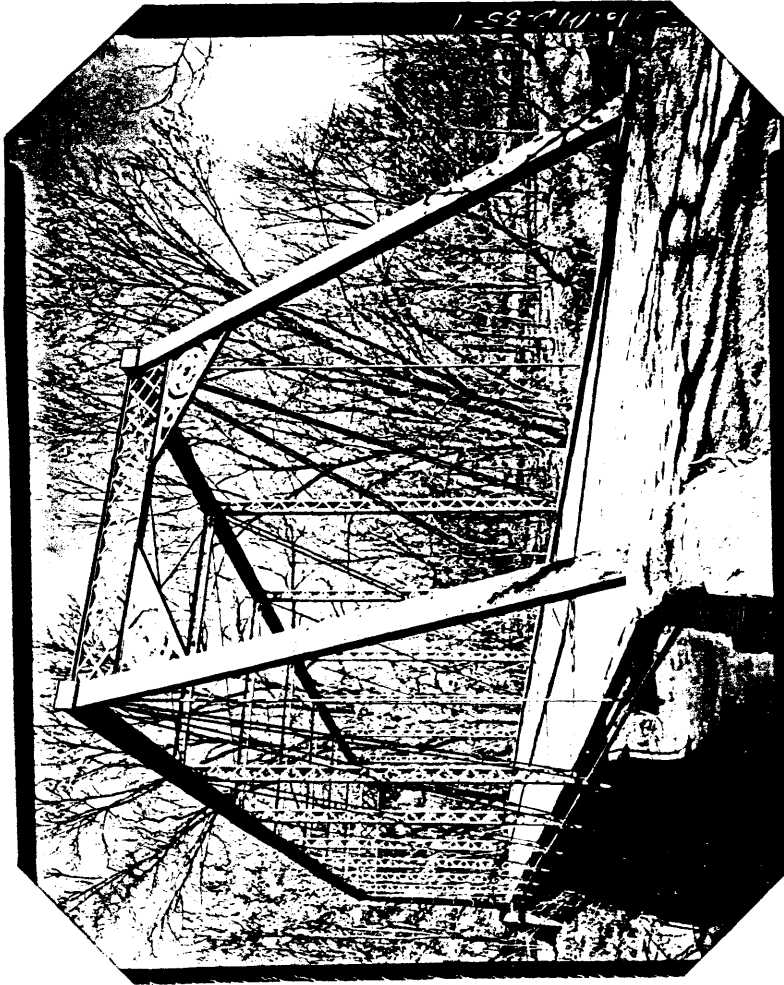
- MD-35-1 GENERAL VIEW LOOKING NORTH SHOWING WEST TRUSS AND SOUTH PORTAL
- MD-35-2 "BARREL-SHOT" LOOKING WEST
- MD-35-3 GENERAL VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST WITH STONE ABUTMENT IN FOREGROUND
- MD-35-4 GENERAL SIDE ELEVATION VIEW LOOKING WEST
- MD-35-5 DETAIL VIEW LOOKING NORTH SHOWING WOODEN DECK AND UPPER CHORD CROSS BRACING
- MD-35-6 DETAIL VIEW OF NORTHERN END OF BRIDGE LOOKING EAST. STONE ABUTMENT IS AT FAR LEFT. THE VIEW SHOWS DIAGONAL TENSION MEMBERS EXTENDING ACROSS TWO PANELS AND THAT TWO PINS ARE USED AT THE UPPER CHORD PORTAL CONNECTION
- MD-35-7 DETAIL VIEW OF UPPER CHORD PORTAL CONNECTION LOOKING UP FROM BRIDGE DECK. THE DECORATIVE FEATURES OF THE PORTAL BRACING ARE ALSO SHOWN
- MD-35-8 DETAIL VIEW OF UPPER CHORD CONNECTIONS TAKEN FROM BRIDGE DECK
- MD-35-9 DETAIL VIEW LOOKING SOUTH SHOWING "CAMBER" OR ARCH OF BOTTOM CHORD ON EAST SIDE OF BRIDGE
- MD-35-10 DETAIL VIEW OF THE HIP VERTICAL'S BOTTOM CHORD CONNECTION
- MD-35-11 DETAIL VIEW OF BOTTOM CHORD CONNECTION AT SECOND PANAL POINT IN FROM ABUTMENT
- MD-35-12 DETAIL VIEW OF BOTTOM CHORD CONNECTION AT THIRD PANAL POINT IN FROM ABUTMENT. NOTE THAT THE BOTTOM CHORD IS CONTINUOUS ACROSS THE CONNECTION
- MD-35-13 DETAIL VIEW SHOWING BOTTOM CHORD U-BOLT (OR HANGER) CONNECTION AND ATTACHED FLOORBEAM. ALSO NOTE THE WOODEN STRINGERS THAT RUN PARALLEL TO THE BOTTOM CHORD AND SUPPORT THE BRIDGE DECK



277 35' 278 (POINT OF ROCKS) 280 32'30" 304
 JEFFERSON 3 MI. POINT OF ROCKS 10 MI. SCALE 1:24000 JEFFERSON 114
 1 1/2 0 1 MILE
 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
 1 5 0 1 KILOMETER
 38' MAGNETIC NORTH
 MILS OF SHEET
 RECEIVED
 MAY 24 1978
 NATIONAL
 REGISTER
 Middleton
 Quad
 CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

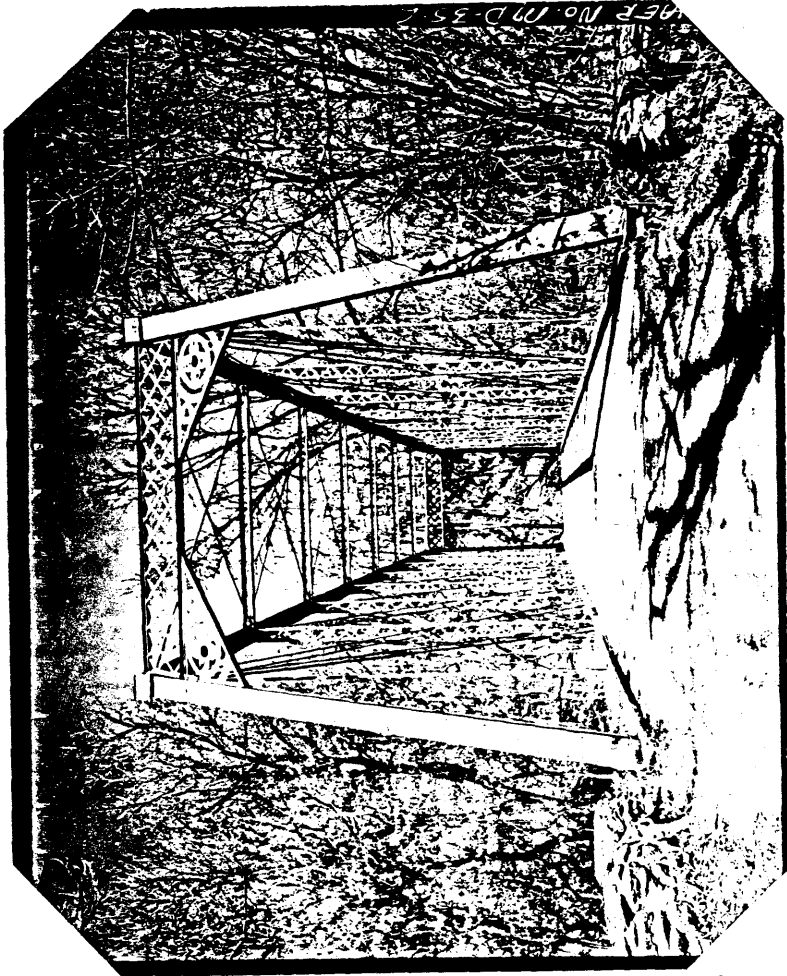
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SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

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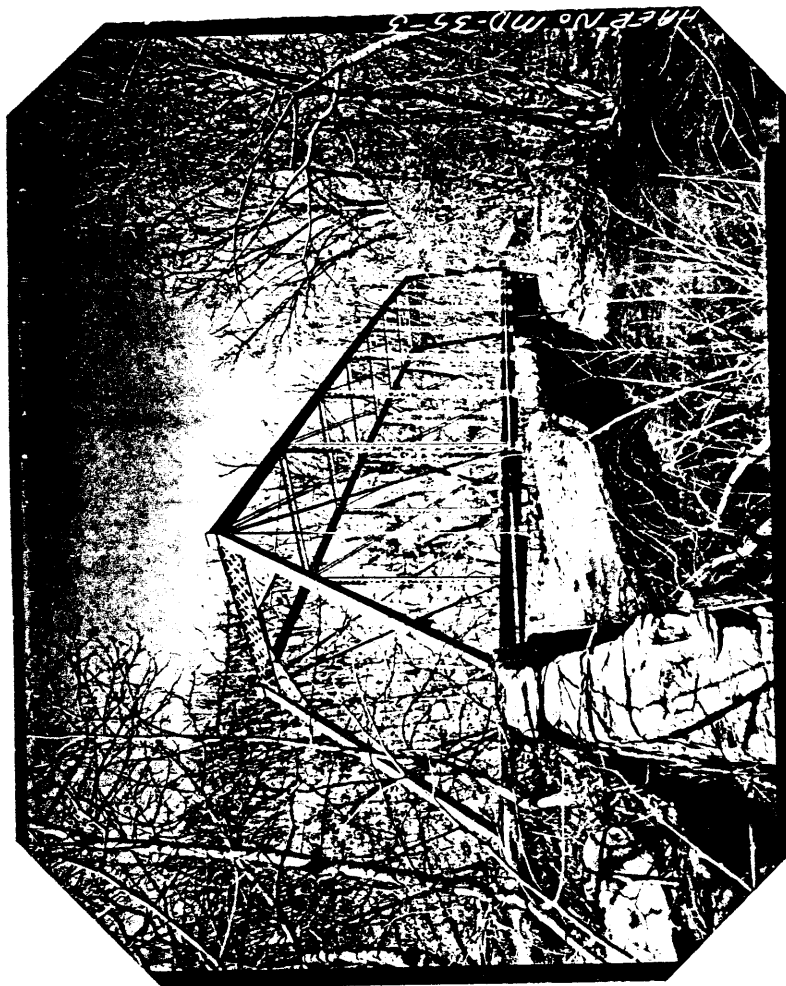
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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
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HAER No. MD-353



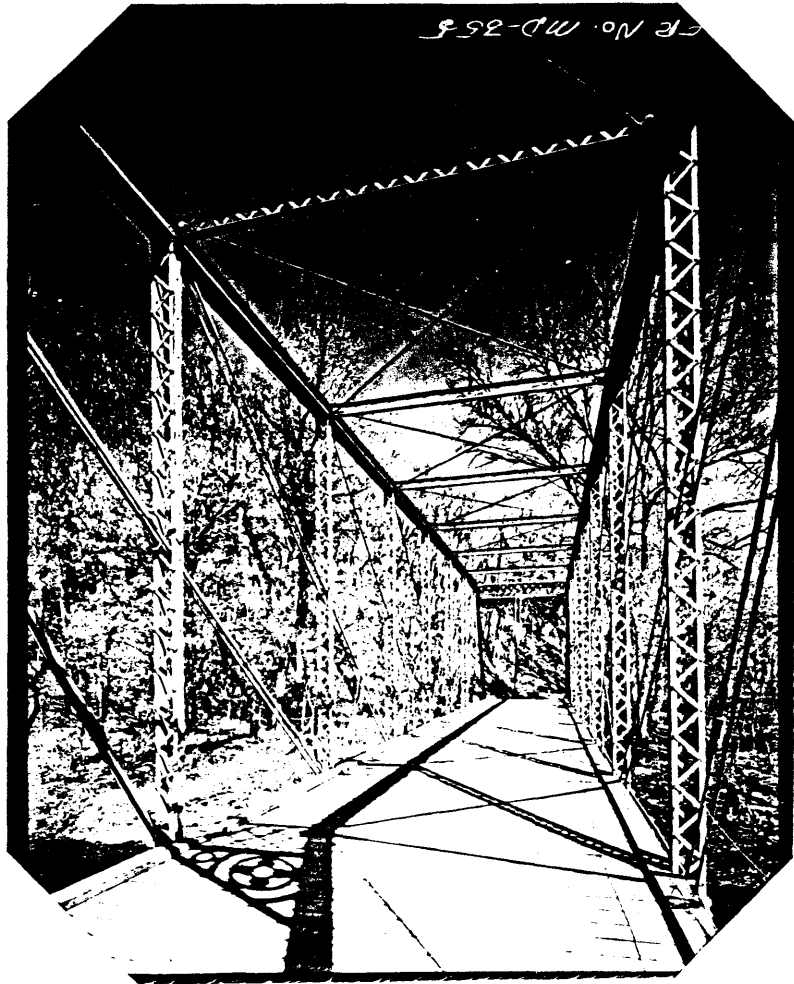
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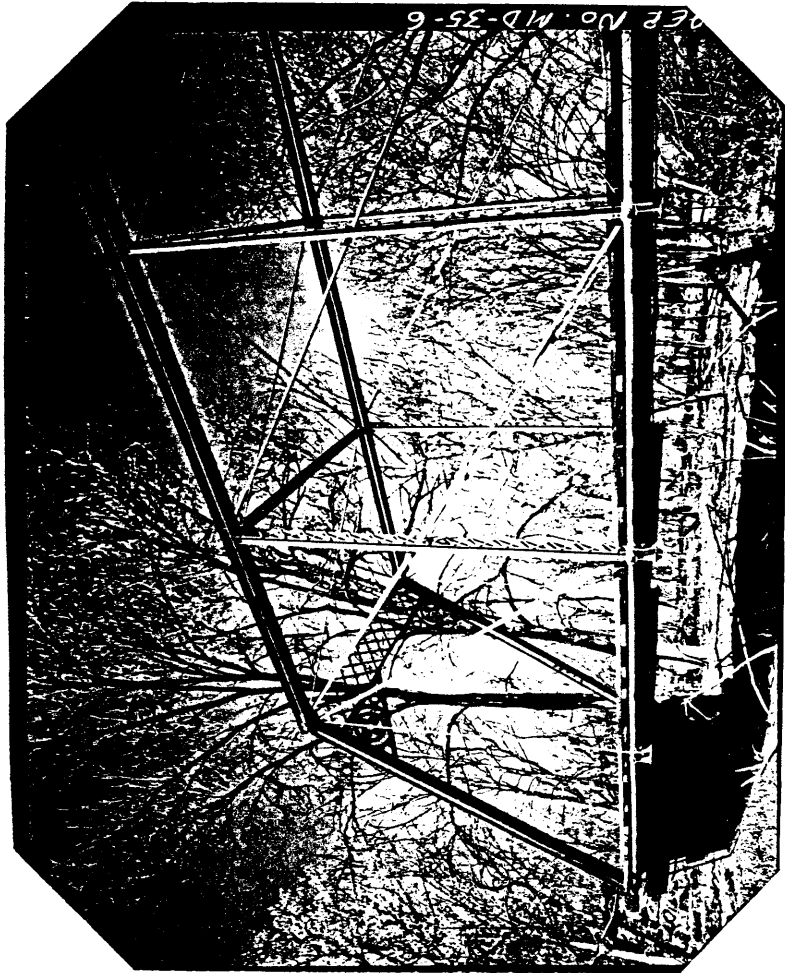
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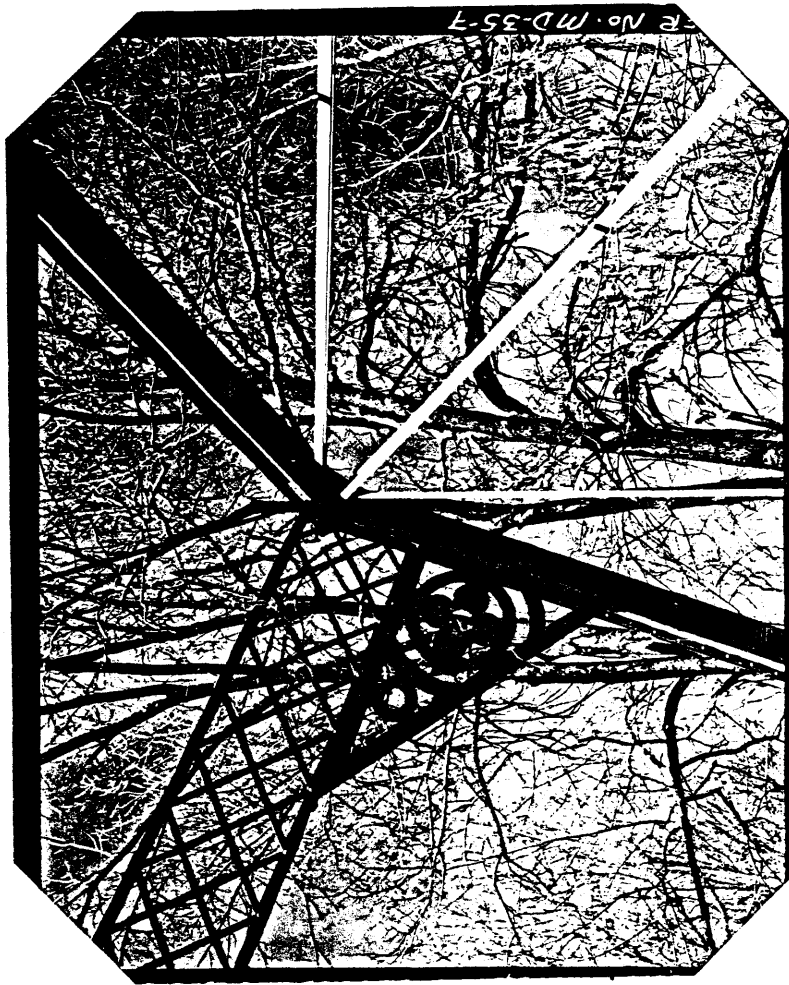
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HAER No. 11D-35 E



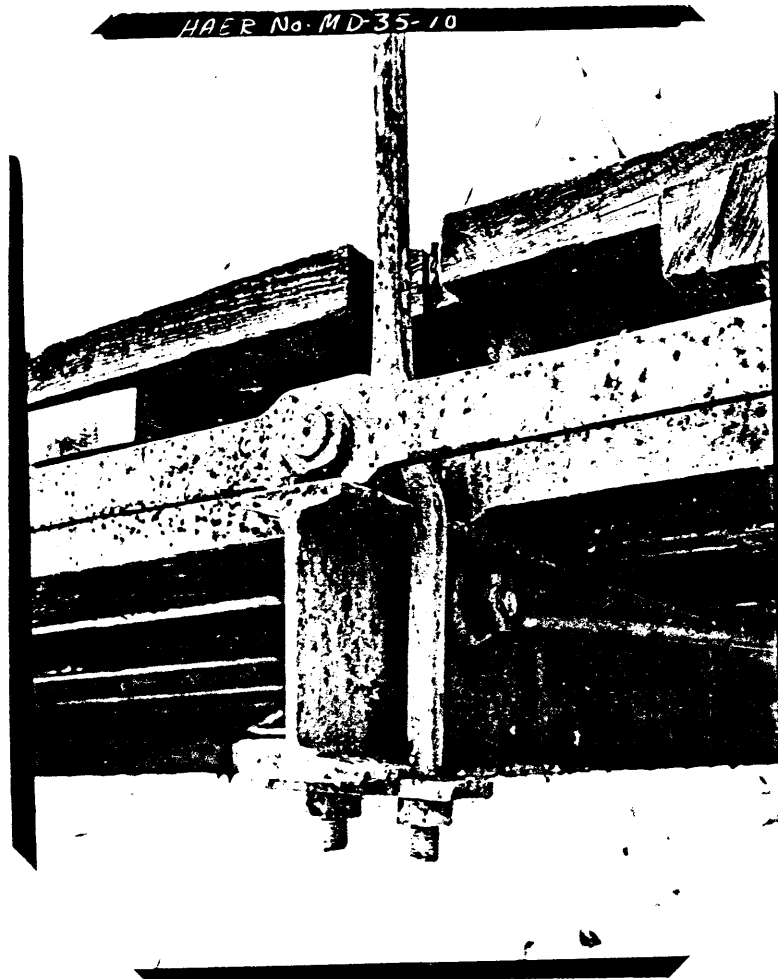
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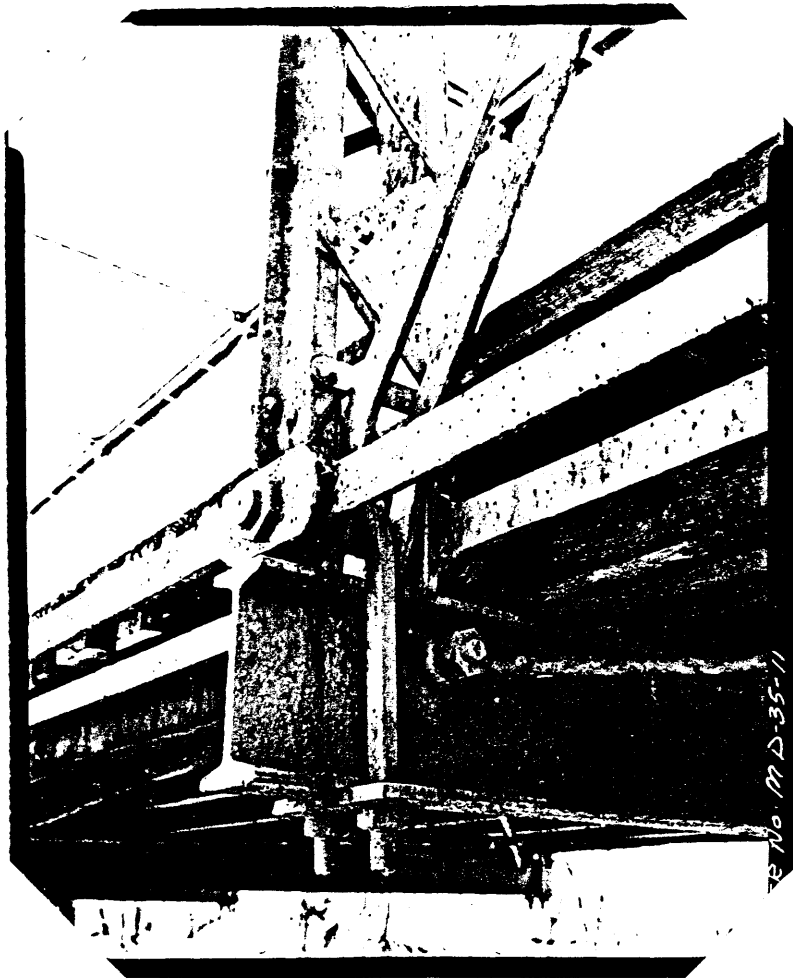
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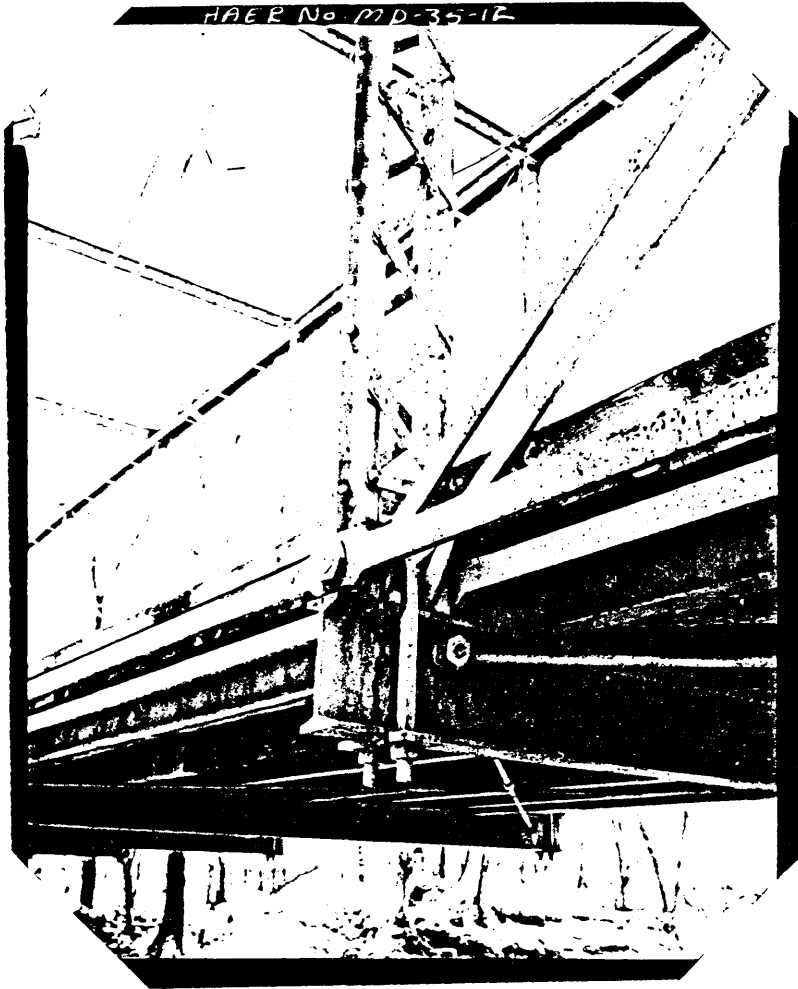
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