

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUL 3 1978  
DATE ENTERED 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 Bullfrog Road Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Bullfrog Road over the Monocacy River

CITY, TOWN Taneytown VICINITY OF Sixth

STATE Maryland CODE 24 COUNTY Frederick CODE 021

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"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

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 Maryland 21701

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Frederick County Roads Department (Bridge #0506)

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 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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bullfrog Road Bridge crosses the Monocacy River on Bullfrog Road in upper Frederick County east of Emmitsburg, Maryland. The bridge is a rare Parker iron thru truss structure in a single span of 183 feet in length and 16 feet 5 inches in width. It was built by the York Bridge Company of York, Pennsylvania in 1908, according to a nameplate on the Bridge.

The bridge is set on two random coursed stone abutments with wing walls. The east abutment is located across the Monocacy River in Carroll County, Maryland.

The bridge is a steel truss structure with riveted joints and a wood plank deck. The Parker Truss is a Pratt truss bridge with polygonal top chord similar to the camelback truss, but the level of the top chord changes at every panel.<sup>1</sup> The patent for the Parker Truss was made in the late 19th century, and was illustrated in James A. L. Waddall's book of Bridge Engineering.

<sup>1</sup> Dan Deibler, Metal Truss Bridges in Virginia, 1865-1932.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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      1908

BUILDER/ARCHITECT York Bridge Company  
York Pennsylvania

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Iron Truss Bridges were the most popular form of bridge construction in Frederick County, Maryland between the 1870's and the 1930's. The Bullfrog Road Bridge is an example of a twentieth century bridge, built by the York Bridge Company of York, Pennsylvania, a company which built at least twenty different bridges for the county in the early 1900's. Most of the bridges remaining, however, are the small pony pratt or thru pratt trusses. The Bullfrog bridge is unusual in that it is based on the Parker design, the only example of that style truss in Frederick County. Also, this is one of only four bridges which have survived the floods which have frequented the Monocacy River Valley for more than fifty years and the new bridge construction which is planned for many of the crossings.

According to Polk's York City Directory, the York Bridge Company was most active between the years 1902 and 1917, advertising as "bridge builders, iron and steel structural work, etc." By 1917 the company had changed its name to the York Bridge and Construction Company.

Because of its unique and rare design, the Bullfrog Road Bridge should be protected as an example of developing bridge engineering design.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 233' x 50' less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	8	3	0	7	9	0	0	4	3	9	6	1	6	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Maryland	24	Carroll County	013
Maryland	24	Frederick County	021

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

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 21701

1 km

## 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

John N. Pearce 6/29/78

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles A. ...  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

11.21.78

ATTEST:

Lynn A. Beebe

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

Nov. 17, 1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Bullfrog Road Bridge  
Frederick County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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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.

