

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

MAY 24 1978

DATE ENTERED

NOV 29 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1** NAME

HISTORIC

Fourpoints Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Keysville Road over Toms Creek

CITY, TOWN

Emmitsburg

 VICINITY OF

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

CODE
24

COUNTY

Frederick

CODE

021 ✓

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

STATE

Maryland 21701

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 LOCALDEPOSITORY 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 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

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.¹ 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.

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

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .22

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 302620 4393610
 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

1 km

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 X

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

DATE

5/19/78

TITLE

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

ATTEST: Bill Lebourich

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/29/78

DATE

NOV 28, 1978

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Fourpoints Bridge
Frederick County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

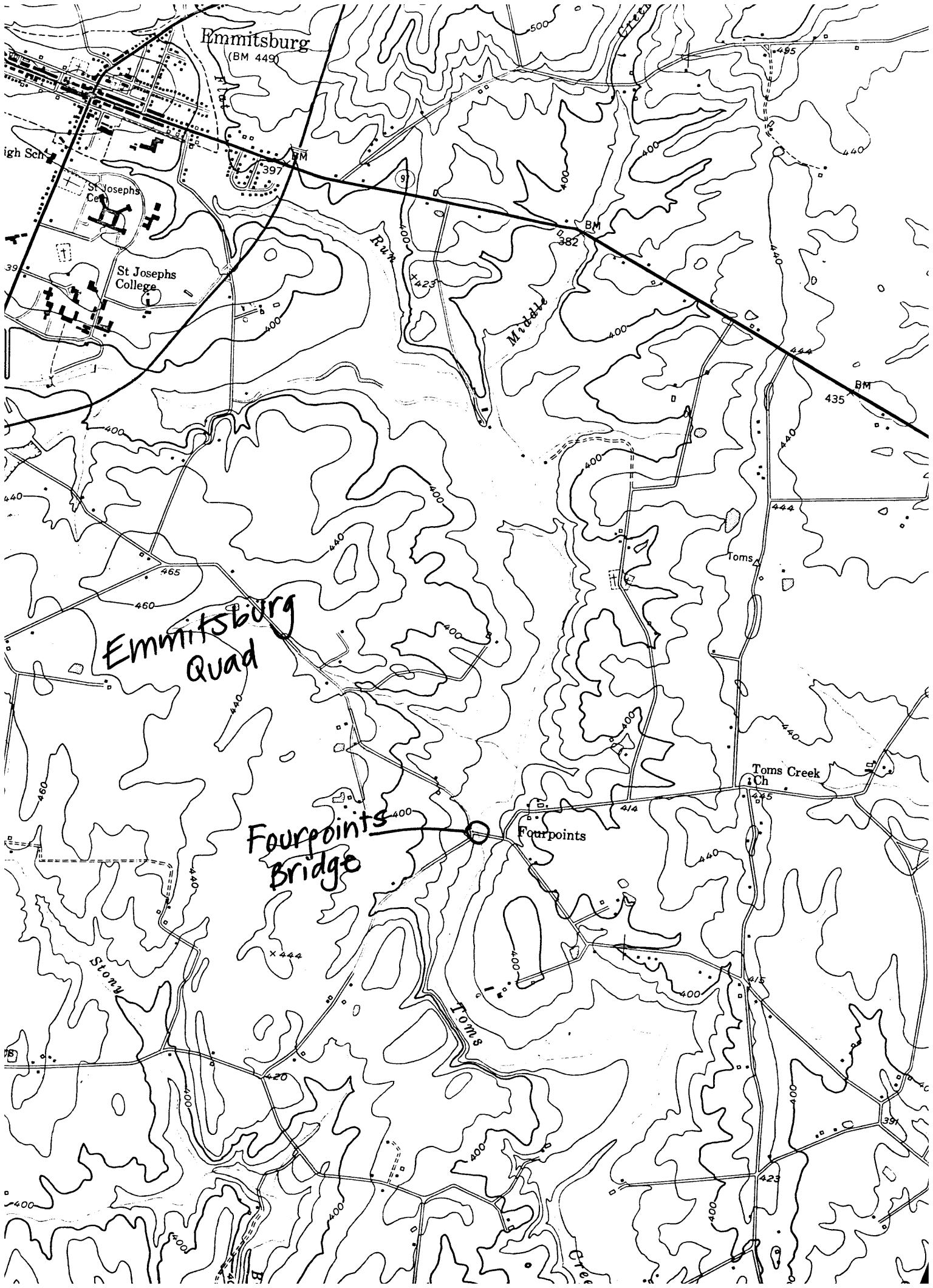
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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)

igh Sch

St Josephs
Ce

St Josephs
College

Emmitsburg
Quad

Fourpoints
Bridge

Fourpoints

Toms Creek
Ch

St. John's

TOMS

Toms Creek