

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 12 978

DATE ENTERED

MAR 7 1979

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

Old Mill Road Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

W of Rocky Ridge on  
Old Mill Road over Owens Creek

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Rocky Ridge

X VICINITY OF Loys

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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 #0405)

STREET & NUMBER

Montevue Lane

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Engineering Record

DATE

Summer, 1977

X 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

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR  
 DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Mill Bridge spans Owens Creek southwest of Rocky Ridge on Old Mill Road. It is a Pratt ~~half~~ thru iron truss structure in a single span 69 feet in length and 16 feet wide. It was built by the Pittsburgh Bridge Company, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1882.

The structure is set on two random coursed stone abutments with wing walls, and is located in a rural setting. A truss design similar to many bridges in the county, including Sixes and Fourpoint Bridges, it is important as one of the oldest dated such structures and the only one known to have been built by the Pittsburgh Bridge Company in Frederick County. It is likely, however, that the company built other bridges here, though they are no longer in existence. According to Dan Deibler's Metal Truss Bridges in Virginia, "the smaller county highway bridges . . . would have been a standard 65 foot or 100 foot span built from plans kept in large supply in company files and sent to local officials on request. The large bridge companies were less likely to undertake these relatively minor projects contracted on an individual basis unless a number of such structures were involved."<sup>1</sup>

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

# 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      1882      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      The Pittsburgh Bridge Company,  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Mill Bridge, although constructed of a common truss design, is one of the few 19th century iron truss bridges remaining intact in the State of Maryland.

At one time there were over twenty companies manufacturing iron truss bridges represented in the Maryland and Virginia area. Usually once a community had determined the need for a bridge, the County Commissioners advertised for bids in the local newspaper. A particular bridge design or style was chosen from a book of designs by the manufacturing company and a bid was submitted. A note in the Frederick County Commissioners minutes dated Thursday, August 17, 1882, records the awarding of the Old Mill Bridge as follows: "The proposals for Iron Bridges were opened and after examination the bid of the Pittsburgh Bridge Company were excepted [sic] -- this company was represented by T. M. Nelson Esquire, of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania . . . ."<sup>1</sup> After the bid was awarded the parts of the bridge were made at the site of the company (most of which were located in the Midwest and Northeast), and then sent to the bridge site and pinned or riveted together by local construction crews under the supervision of the company representative.

Companies which provided bridges to Frederick County, Maryland in the 19th century include the Wrought Iron Bridge Company of Canton, Ohio, the King Iron Bridge and Manufacturing Company of Cleveland, Ohio, and the Groton Bridge Manufacturing Company of Groton, New York. Most of the bridges constructed in the 20th century in this county were manufactured by the York Bridge Company of York, Pennsylvania.

<sup>1</sup> Frederick County Commissioners Minutes, 1882-1889, Thursday, August 17, 1882, p. 77.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .20 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	29,9	2,0,0	4,3	8,5	9,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING			
C						

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The acreage includes the bridge and stone abutments and wing walls at each end of the bridge and is a rectangle roughly 75' long by 25' wide. This stretches across Owens Creek 75' from east to west.

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 17, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Winchester Hall; 12 East Church Street

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

*J. Miller*

12-5-78

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Charles Starnes*

DATE

3-7-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

ATTEST:

*Luan A. Reese*

DATE

Mar 5, 1979

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 12 1978
DATE ENTERED	MAR 7 1979

Old Mill Road 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.