

F-3-5
Opossumtown Pike Bridge
Mountandale
Public

1895

The Opossumtown Pike Bridge is a single span iron pony truss bridge of Pratt design, fifteen feet four inches wide and twenty-nine feet in length which spans Tuscarora Creek.

There are three iron truss bridges in Frederick County known to have been built by the Groton Bridge and Manufacturing Company. They are the Opossumtown Pike Bridge, the Crow Rock Bridge, and the Ellerton Road Bridge.

All are small pony pratt truss bridges with wooden decks and elaborate name plates on either side of the center of the bridge which list both the manufacturing company and current county commissioners in office when the bridge was constructed.

Little information is available about the Groton Bridge and Manufacturing Company but an advertisement is listed in a 1900 edition of Engineering News stating that the company is able to furnish plans and estimates for steel bridges and buildings.

All three bridges in Frederick County predate this advertisement, the Opossumtown Pike Bridge and Ellerton Road Bridge having been built in 1895 and the Crow Rock Bridge in 1897.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Opossumtown Pike Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Opossumtown Pike near junction w/ Sundays Lane

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

E.D. 20

STATE

COUNTY

3 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"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Frederick County Roads Dept.

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER Montevue Lane,

CITY, TOWN

Frederick

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
MD 21701

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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 Opossumtown Pike Bridge is a single span iron pony truss bridge of Pratt design which spans Tuscarora Creek on Opossumtown Pike, northwest of Frederick, Maryland.

The single lane bridge which is set upon random stone abutments is 15.4 feet wide and 29 feet in length with six original stringers. The original wood plank deck has been replaced.; joints of the bridge are secured with pinned connections. The name plate in the center of the north side states "Built in 1895 by Groton Bridge & Manufacturing Company, Groton, New York." Half hip end posts are at either end of the bridge.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

F-3-5

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 type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Groton Manufacturing Co.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There are three iron truss bridges in Frederick County known to have been built by the Groton Bridge & Manufacturing Company. They are the Oppossumtown Pike Bridge, the Crow Rock Bridge, and the Ellerton Road Bridge.

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¹Dan Deibler, Metal Truss Bridges in Va., 1865-1932., p. 32.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deibler, Dan. Metal Truss Bridges in Va., 1865-1932. Va. Highway and Transportation Research Council, 1975.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Cherilyn Widell, Site Analyst		8/77
ORGANIZATION	Frederick County Office of Historic Preservation		DATE
STREET & NUMBER	Winchester Hall, East Church Street		TELEPHONE
CITY OR TOWN	Frederick	MD 21701	STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

