

F-4-24
Old Harmony Road Bridge
Middletown vicinity
Private

Ca. 1895

The Old Harmony Road Bridge is a circa 1895 steel Pratt truss bridge with three chords, pinned connections, and a wood deck located over Little Catoclin Creek off Harmony Road just north of the I-70 overpass of Harmony Road. The bridge is now privately owned and not open to traffic. The bridge has inclined end posts and stone abutments. No identifying plaque is on the structure, but it is similar in design to others in Frederick County built by the Groton Bridge Company and the York Bridge Company during the 1890's and early 1900's. There were many of these small pony truss bridges erected beginning in the last quarter of the 19th century in response to the need for stronger bridges to carry the heavy wagons taking increasingly abundant agricultural produce to central transportation links.

F-4-24
Old Harmony Road Bridge
Middletown
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Industrial Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes
Transportation

Resource Types:

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Transportation/road-related/bridge

Known Design Source: None

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form****1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Harmony Road Bridge

and/or common

2. Locationstreet & number Little Catoclin Creek near Harmony Road not for publicationcity, town Middletown vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mrs. James P. Grossnickle

street & number 9120 Harmony Road telephone no.:

city, town Middletown state and zip code Md. 21769

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-24

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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 of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

The Old Harmony Road Bridge is a circa 1895 steel Pratt truss bridge over Little Catocin Creek just north of the Interstate 70 overpass of Harmony Road near Middletown, Frederick County, Maryland. The bridge is on private land on the west side of Harmony Road, which was relocated when I-70 was built, isolating the bridge from public use. The bridge is currently used for infrequent pedestrian and private vehicle traffic.

The bridge is a pony type with inclined end posts and three chords held with pinned connections. The deck is wood and is somewhat deteriorated. Along the sides of the trusses are lattice railings. The abutments are stone. Although no identifying plaque is on the structure, the configuration matches that of other bridges in Frederick County of the same type which were built by the Groton Bridge Company of Groton, Connecticut during the 1890's and by the York Bridge Company of York, Pennsylvania during the first two decades of the 20th century. A similar, but probably later, example of the type is the current Harmony Road Bridge (F-4-6) located about 1/4 mile north on the same road.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Ca. 1895 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Old Harmony Road Bridge is a good example of the small Pratt truss bridges which were built beginning in the 1880's and continuing until about 1920 in Frederick County. These bridges usually replaced wood and/or covered wood bridges which were generally deteriorated or had been destroyed in floods. The county's agricultural expansion of the post-Civil War period resulted in a need for stronger, more stable bridges to carry the increasingly heavy wagon traffic from farms to central transportation links. The Pratt truss type with three chords was a common design, although on longer spans a through truss was sometimes used. The narrow width of Little Catocin Creek along Harmony Road led to the placement of several of these small bridges in the vicinity.

As more County-owned bridges are replaced, the number of 19th century and early 20th century steel bridges declines. The construction of I-70 over Little Catocin Creek near the Old Harmony Road Bridge resulted in the relocation of Harmony Road, probably to facilitate construction traffic, and the old bridge was transferred to James P. Grossnickle, the owner of the property on the west side of the creek. Although only occasionally used by pedestrians and vehicles, the bridge is easily visible from relocated Harmony Road and, with the remaining bridges in the Harmony vicinity still in use, suggests the importance of the structures in the transportation history of Frederick County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-24

"Bridge Truss Types", American Association for State and Local History Technical Leaflet 95, History News, Vol. 32, No. 5, May 1977.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Middletown, Md.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing	

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing	

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 100-ft. diameter circle encompassing the structure and its abutments and immediate approaches on Tax Map 46, Parcel 30.

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 Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date February, 1992

street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone

city or town Frederick state Maryland 21701

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
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600



F 4 11

Old Dartmouth Road

Fredrick

Kaplan

Fabian

11th St, New York

New York

1/2



F. 4. 20

Old Harmony School Building

Episcopal Church

1901 - 1902

1903 - 1904

1905 - 1906

1907 - 1908

1909