

Poffenberger Road Bridge
Spanning Catoctin Creek
Middletown Vic., Maryland
Frederick County

HAER No. MD-35

HAER
MD,
11 - MIDTOWN,
1 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

POFFENBERGER ROAD BRIDGE
MD-35

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DATE: 1878

LOCATION: Spanning Catoctin Creek on Poffenberger Road,
Middleton Vicinity, Frederick County, Maryland

ENGINEER: Penn Bridge Company

OWNER: Frederick County

SIGNIFICANCE: This bridge is a well preserved example of a wrought iron Double-Intersection Pratt Through Truss. It is pin-connected at the bottom chord connections and at the upper chord portal connections. Its diagonals are joined to the other top chord connections by screw connections. The structure is supported on random coursed stone abutments that appear to date at least to 1878. Aside from new decking, the bridge appears to retain all of its historic integrity. Because of design features such as twin pins at the upper chord portal connections it is believed the Poffenberger Road Bridge was fabricated by the Penn Bridge Co. However, there is no nameplate on the structure.

It is the oldest surviving truss bridge in Frederick County, and one of the oldest iron bridges in Maryland.

HISTORIAN: Donald C. Jackson, Engineer, 1983

TRANSMITTED BY: Monica E. Hawley, Historian, 1983