

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Greensprings Road Toll Bridge Survey Number: AL-II-B-017

Project: Repair Old Town Toll Bridge Agency: COE

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Based on the available information, the Greensprings Road Toll Bridge, also known as the Oldtown Toll Bridge, located on Route 51 over the north branch of the Potomac River, adjacent to the C & O Canal, meets the National Register Criteria for listing under criterion A for commerce. The 11 span, steel stringer bridge was constructed in 1937-1938. Its appearance is marked by its massive concrete piers, timber deck, lack of parapets and narrow width. It is only 12 feet wide and 360 feet long. The bridge was constructed by Melvin R. Carpenter, variously described as a local sawmill operator or a tie inspector for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. He constructed the bridge as a public service to help residents in Oldtown, Maryland to reach work just across the river in Green Spring, West Virginia. Green Spring was, and still is, the home of a railroad tie manufacturing plant and several other small industries. Although in a remote location, the bridge was crossed over 100,000 times by trucks, cars, pedestrians and bicyclists in 1992. Users pay a toll ranging from 20 cents to \$1.50. The bridge was recently determined to be in hazardous condition and was closed to vehicular traffic, awaiting repairs. Minor repairs are scheduled for 1996.

The bridge is of great importance of to the area, promoting communication between the towns of Greenspring and Oldtown and ensuring access to work for many. It has attained landmark ^{Status} in the community. As the only private toll bridge in Maryland and one of only a handful in the country, it is a late and rare surviving example of a private toll facility. Privately owned bridges, ferries, roads and canals were a common and necessary feature of the 18th and 19th centuries before governments assumed responsibility for building and maintaining the transportation infrastructure. We have little information regarding its construction, but assume that the bridge utilizes construction methods that were common for the period, if crudely applied. Thus, based on available information, do not believe the bridge to be eligible under criterion C for engineering.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project File, Maryland Inventory form AL-II-B-017, article, Baltimore Sun (8/4/94), John Sherwood's Vanishing Maryland

Prepared by: Inventory form: John Nelson, Steve Beale, Joan Baldwin (9/1/76)

Elizabeth Hannold January 16, 1996
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

R program concurrence: yes no not applicable
Alan B. Pridmore 1-16-98
Reviewer, NR program Date

Handwritten initials

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (prehistoric historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Structure

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Transportation--vehicular, pedestrian

Known Design Source: Melvin R. Carpenter

AL-II-B-017

GREENSPRINGS ROAD TOLL BRIDGE
Greensprings Road over Potomac River
Oldtown, Maryland
1938

The Greensprings Road Toll Bridge runs across the Potomac River from Oldtown, Maryland to Green Spring, West Virginia, and has the distinction of being the only privately owned toll bridge in the United States which is engaged in inter-state traffic. It's overall length is approximately 200 feet, and is 10 feet wide, accommodating only one direction of travel at a time. Ten concrete columns supply the major support for the bridge, with steel beams covered with wooden planking comprising the rest of the construction. The toll booth is located on the Maryland side of the river.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0101544817
 AL-II-B-017

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Greensprings Road Toll Bridge

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Greensprings Road over Potomac River

CITY, TOWN

Oldtown

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Charles O. Walters

Telephone #: 395-5183

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Oldtown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 441

Folio #: 199

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-II-B-017

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 Greensprings Road Toll Bridge runs across the Potomac River, north - south, from Oldtown, Maryland to Green Spring, W. Va. It's approximately 200 feet long and 10 feet wide, and may accommodate only one direction of travel at a time.

The bridge is supported by 10 concrete columns running the width of the bridge and evenly spaced. Along the concrete columns are steel beams, which in turn support the wooden planking of the actual surface of the bridge. Guard rails line each side of the bridge.

Being constructed in 1938, the bridge retains its original construction materials and is still quite sound. Pedestrians as well as vehicles are charged to cross the bridge. The toll booth itself is located on the Maryland side of the river.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

AL-II-B-017

8 SIGNIFICANCE

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

ARCHAEOLOGY	ART	1500-1599
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	1600-1699
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	1700-1799
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	1800-1899
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	1900-1999
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	2000-2099
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	2100-2199
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	2200-2299
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	2300-2399
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	2400-2499
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	2500-2599
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	2600-2699
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	2700-2799
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	2800-2899
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	2900-2999
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	3000-3099
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	3100-3199
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	3200-3299
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	3300-3399
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	3400-3499
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	3500-3599
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	3600-3699
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ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	4000-4099
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ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	4800-4899
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	4900-4999
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	5000-5099
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	5100-5199
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	5200-5299
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ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	9000-9099
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	9100-9199
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	9200-9299
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	9300-9399
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	9400-9499
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	9500-9599
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	9600-9699
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	9700-9799
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	9800-9899
ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	ART	9900-9999

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____ SPECIFIC DATES _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
Bridge crosses Potomac River from Maryland to West Virginia.	
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	DATE
John Nelson, Steve Beale, Joan Baldwin	9/1/76
ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE
Allegany County Historical Site Survey	777-8991
STREET & NUMBER	STATE
507 National Highway	Maryland
CITY OR TOWN	
Lavale	

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

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

1. STATE Maryland
 COUNTY Allegany Potomac River
 TOWN Oldtown VICINITY Md..W.Va.
 STREET NO.
 ORIGINAL OWNER Melvin R. Carpenter
 ORIGINAL USE to cross Potomac River
 PRESENT OWNER Charles Walters
 PRESENT USE to cross Potomac River
 WALL CONSTRUCTION
 NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 INVENTORY AL-106

2. NAME TOLL BRIDGE--OLDTOWN, MD.
 DATE OR PERIOD built
 STYLE Aug.11,1936
 ARCHITECT began operation 1938
 BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

1936--Aug.11--began construction of "high-water" bridge

1938--began operation

Mr. Walters has been operator for years.

1970--Sept. Charles Walters purchased the bridge from Melvin R. Carpenter (80 years of age)

SAID TO BE "THE ONLY PRIVATELY OWNED TOLL BRIDGE IN U.S. INVOLVED IN INTERSTATE TRAFFICE 2,500,000 vehicles used this bridge since 1938 or the average of 214 vehicles a day, between Oldtown, Md. and Greenspring, West Virginia.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior Excellent



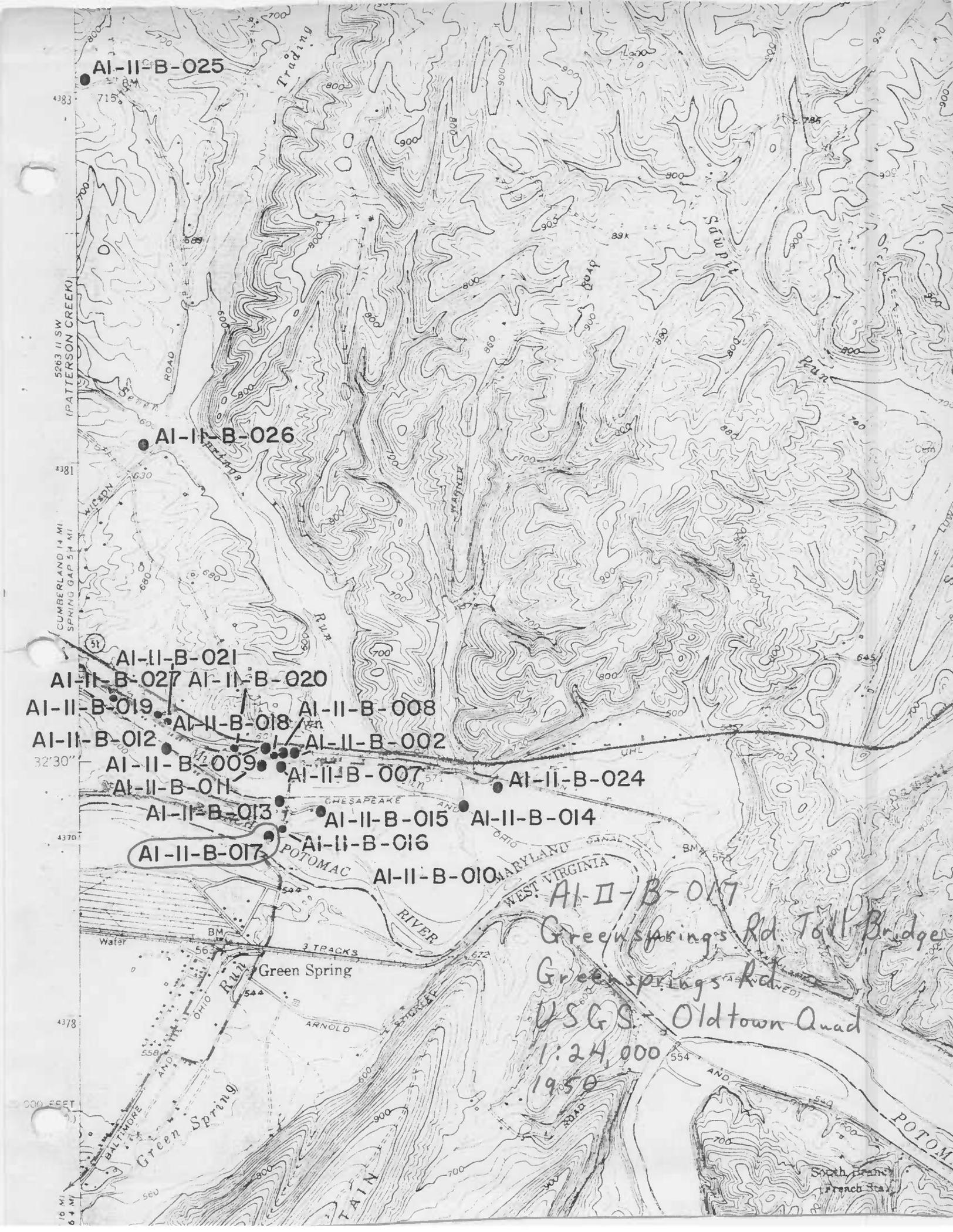
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.
 Research, News clipping,
 Sept. 1970 by
 Phyllis Riggelman Brotemarkle

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER typed by
 Hazel Groves Hansrote, V.Chairman
 Maryland Historical Trust and
 Sec. Preservation Society
 Allegany County
 DATE OF RECORD Oct. 21, 1970

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



AI-II-B-025

AI-II-B-026

AI-II-B-021

AI-II-B-027 AI-II-B-020

AI-II-B-019

AI-II-B-018

AI-II-B-008

AI-II-B-012

AI-II-B-009

AI-II-B-002

AI-II-B-011

AI-II-B-007

AI-II-B-024

AI-II-B-013

AI-II-B-015

AI-II-B-014

AI-II-B-017

AI-II-B-016

AI-II-B-010

AI-II-B-017

Greensprings Rd. Toll Bridge

Greensprings Rd.

USGS - Oldtown Quad

1:24,000

1950

5263 II SW (PATTERSON CREEK)
CUMBERLAND 14 MI
SPRING GAP 54 MI

4370

4378

16 MI
6.4 MI

Trading

Stump

Run

River

CHESAPEAKE

OHIO

MARYLAND

WEST VIRGINIA

Water

Green Spring

ARNOLD

Green Spring

South Branch
French Sta.

POTOMAC



AW-II-B-017

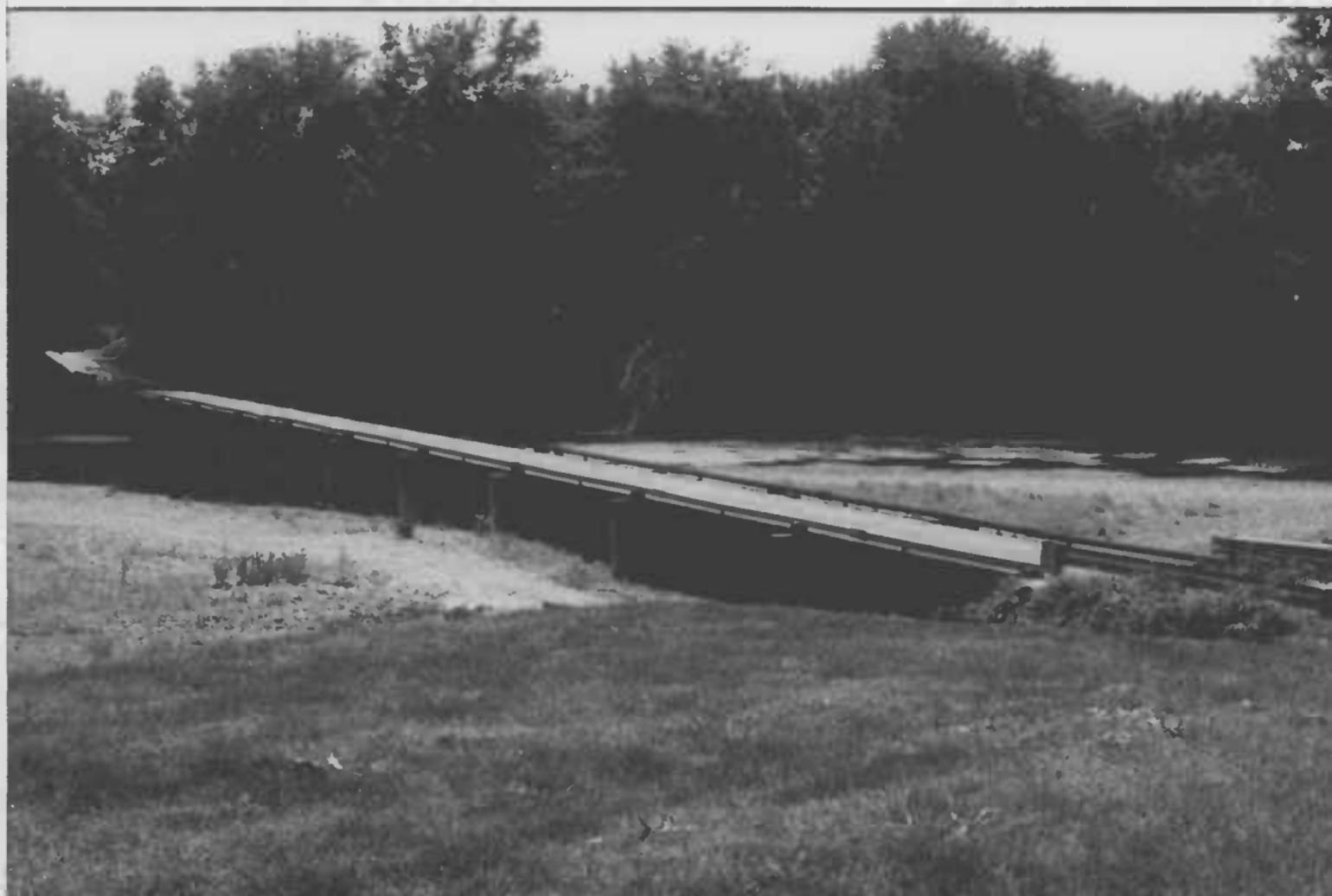


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GREENSPRINGS ROAD TOLL BRIDGE

AL-II-B-017

Greensprings Road over Potomac
River

Oldtown

John Nelson

8/4/76

SOUTH WEST