BA- **354** **BUNKER HILL COVERED BRIDGE (SITE)** - 1880 - Bunker Hill Road, over Gunpowder Falls, 1.1 mile northwest of Hereford. Timber bridge, 107 feet long, built in 1880 and refurbished in 1947. Destroyed by fire in 1961 and rebuilt by Baltimore County Department of Public Works using old methods. Destroyed again by vandals in August 1971 and not scheduled for replacement.

03C35-4917

BA 354
Bunker Hill Covered
Bridge.

Maryland Historical Society
Board voted (I believe on 8/11 ??) in support
of reconstruction (according to Matilda
Lacey); Balti County Hist. Soc. Pres (1971)
John McGrain is also writing Albert B.
Kaltenbach (BA Director of Public Works)
in support of reconstruction ...

Alice Martin (Mrs. Clyde)
11.26.71

the route impractical for heavy wagons until the builders of the turnpike tamed the grades and built bridges at the river crossings.

Early Travel

It is difficult for us today to imagine the amount and type of traffic that went up and down the roads of yesteryear. Rags for the making of paper were brought north from Baltimore and the finished product was returned. Flour from the grist mills went down to the city; stocks of imported food such as coffee, molasses and dried fruits were brought out from the port, as were imported household furnishings. In 1802 William Hutchins and others from the My Lady's Manor vicinity, in asking for better roads stated that corn, buckwheat flour, rye and other produce went down to the markets in Baltimore on a regular basis. The first carriers were pack mules and horses; later came the wagons, described as being so big that only the top of a man's head was visible when he stood in the wagon bed. There were some wealthy travelers with coaches of their own and a public stage coach, but in the Eighteenth and early Nineteenth Centuries the average man rode horseback.

The abandoned road to York is not the only road in this area that now appears as only a faint trail in the woods or a double line of old trees striking off through a field. The close observer can often see traces of where a road went many years ago. However, it must also be admitted that many of our roads still follow ancient trails, some of them probably made by a herd of cows! Often the turns and twists can be figured out by inspecting the border lines of old land grants. One such road is Wesley Chapel Road on My Lady's Manor whose angles conform to the boundary lines of lots drawn on the 1797 plat of the manor.

Bridges

Mention has been made of the fords along the Gunpowder Falls. Few, if any, bridges were built prior to 1800, and the wagons and horses needed a shallow, rock-free spot at which to cross a river or stream. Despite our sentimental memories of the old covered bridges, these quaint structures were apparently not the first bridges built. The first bridge at Miller's Ford on Bunker Hill Road was an open one, constructed about 1850. It was not until this bridge weakened and allowed a four-horse team and a load of cordwood to fall into the Gunpowder that the first covered bridge was built. This was around 1875.

There is no exact record of the number of covered bridges in our area. There was one at Corbett Road still in use around 1940, and one at the town of Phoenix around the early part of this century. The covered bridge at Bunker Hill was destroyed by vandals and rebuilt by the county road department in 1961. A few years ago the restored bridge was again vandalized. Now there is no bridge at Miller's Ford. Alas; automobiles cannot ford rivers with the ease of ancient wagons!

North Baltimore Countians have proved to be quite adament about their old bridges. In recent years the iron bridge with a plank road bed that spanned the Gunpowder at Monkton has been replaced with a sleek modern concrete span. It had been weakened in two floods and damaged in an automobile crash. The passing of the old bridge was mourned by area residents who actually opposed the construction of the new bridge. In Glencoe a similar bridge was slated for replacement and the local people fought the move. When a flood in 1975 accomplished what the county could not do . . . took away the old bridge, the people then demanded and got a simple, narrow Baily bridge to replace it! Residents of the Belfast Road area near Butler are also resisting the county's proposal for a new wider bridge over Western Run.

Monkton Bridge Before Removal, 1975

As to the conditions of the old roads north of Cockeysville many years ago, they were quite miserable, especially after the spring rains. One has only to read the community notes in the newspapers of those days to hear the complaints of past generations. In 1904 only ten percent of the highway system in

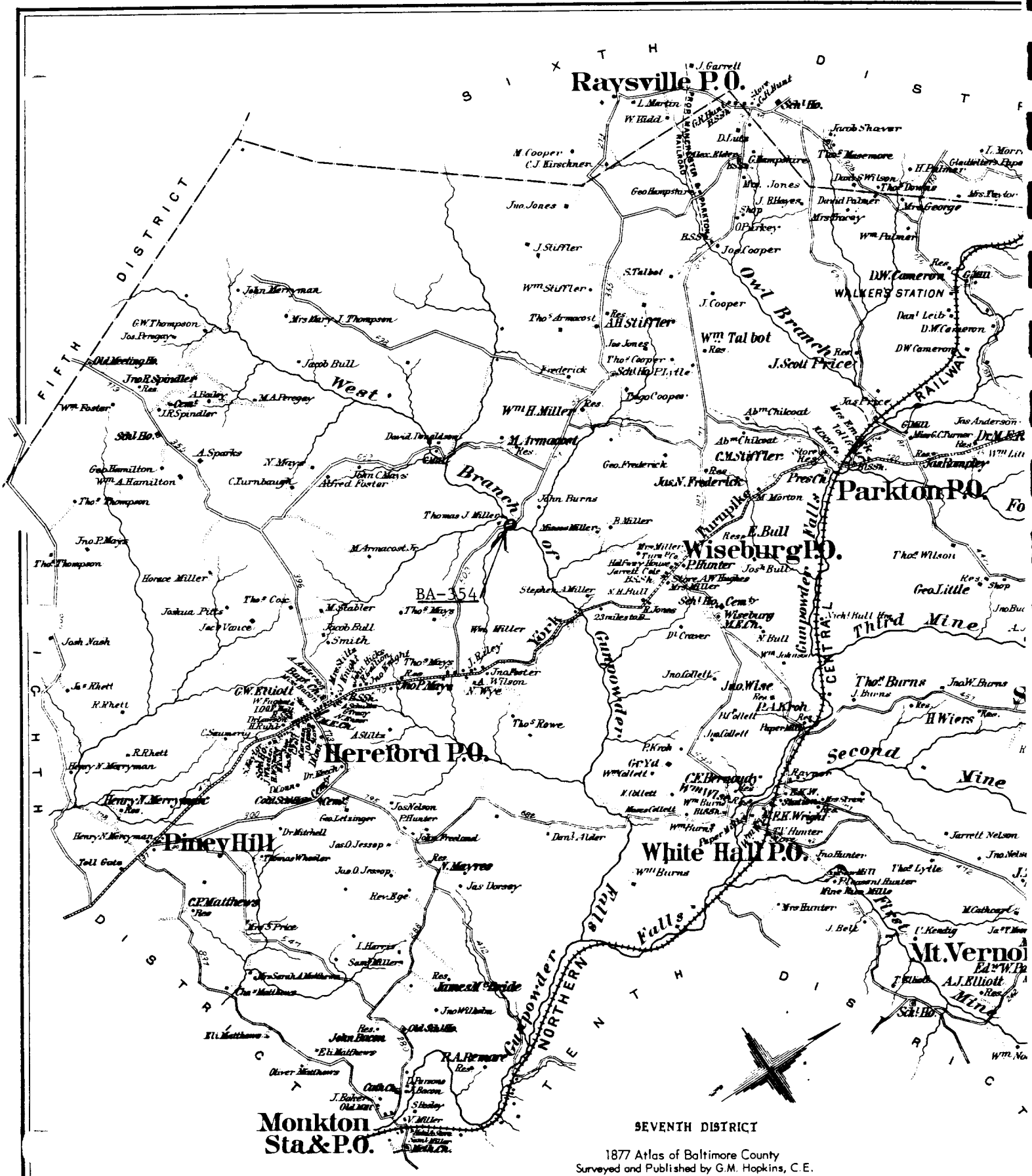
Clemens, S.B. and C.E. Clemens
1983 (Revised Ed.) From Marble Hill to Maryland Line: an informal History of Northern Baltimore County.

66 BLACK ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH - 1828 - Falls Road, Butler. A simple graystone church was built on an acre of ground donated by Richard Johns, costing $600. This was said to be "the birthplace of the hard-shelled Baptists," organized March 29, 1828. Burial ground donated by Evan Davis, 1882. The church has been renovated.

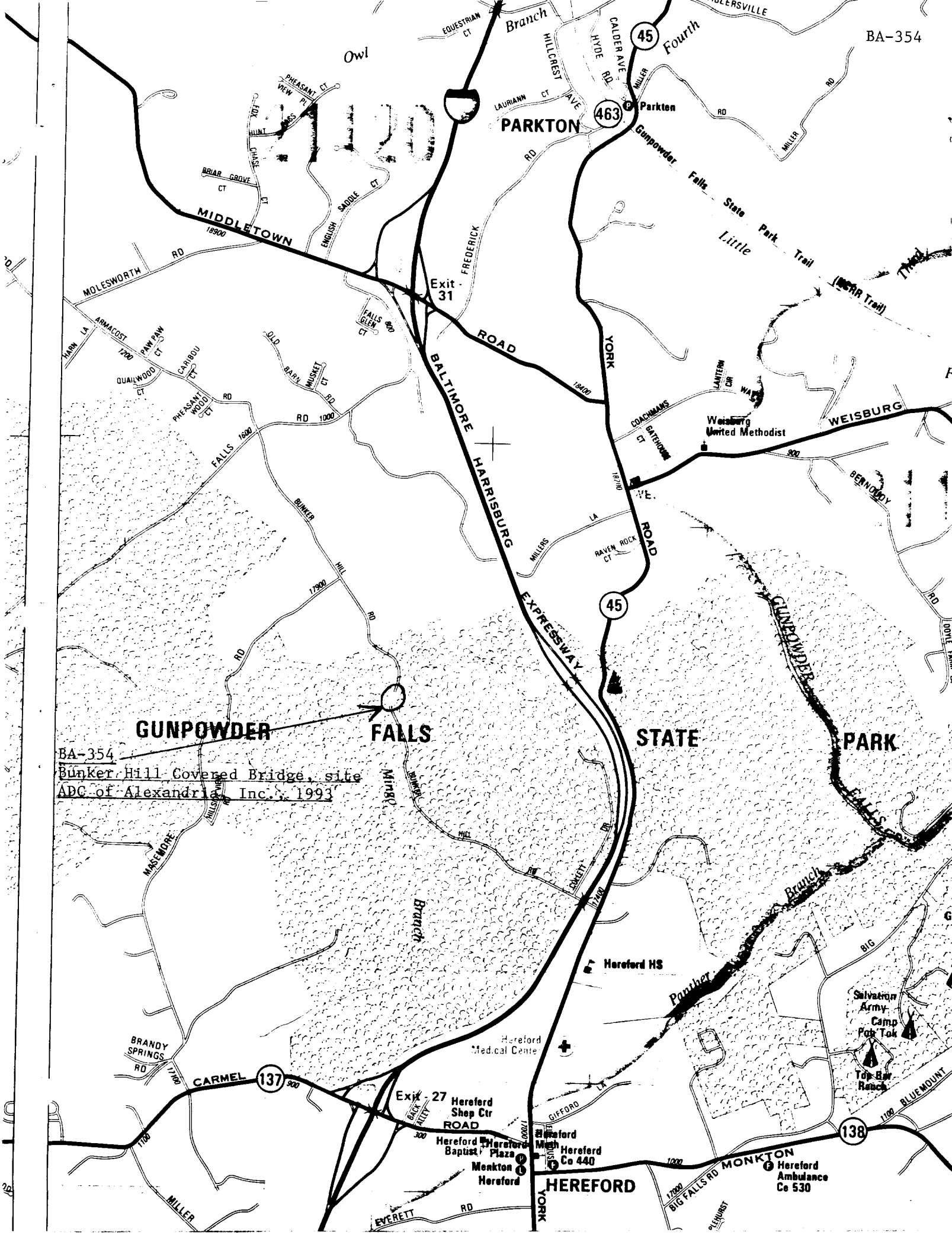
67 BUNKER HILL COVERED BRIDGE – 1880 – Bunker Hill Road, west of Old York Road in Hereford. Wooden, board and batten type structure built originally in 1880 and restored in 1947; destroyed by fire in 1961 and rebuilt in 1963. Located in scenic surroundings, it measures 107 feet and is the largest serviceable covered bridge in Maryland.

WEISBURG INN

Offutt, E. Frances
1971 Baltimore County Landmarks. Board of Library Trustees for Baltimore County, Maryland.



1877 Atlas of Baltimore County
Surveyed and Published by G.M. Hopkins, C.E.


GUNPOWDER
FALLS
STATE
PARK
BA-354
Bunker Hill Covered Bridge, site
ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1993
PARKTON
Parkten
Owl
Branch
Fourth
Branch
Little
Gunpowder Falls State Park Trail
MIDDLETOWN
ROAD
BALTIMORE HARRISBURG EXPRESSWAY
YORK
ROAD
Exit 31
Exit 27
Hereford HS
Hereford Medical Center
Hereford Shop Ctr
Hereford Baptist
Hereford Plaza
Menkton
Hereford
Hereford Mun
Hereford Co 440
Hereford Ambulance Co 530
HEREFORD
MONKTON
CARMEL
BLUEMOUNT
WEISBURG
Weisburg United Methodist
Salvation Army Camp Pok Tok
Top Bar Ranch
Panther Branch
Minke Branch
GUNPOWDER FALLS
BUNKER HILL RD
MILLERS LA
MOLESWORTH RD
FREDERICK RD
BRANDY SPRINGS RD
MILLER RD
EVERETT RD
BIG FALLS RD
GIFFORD LA
BERNOODY
DOYLE
MASEMORE
HILLSBORO
COXETT
BACK ALLEY
HILLCREST AVE
HYDE RD
CALDER AVE
LAURIANN CT
EQUESTRIAN CT
PHEASANT VIEW PL
FOX HUNT CT
BRIAR GROVE CT
ENGLISH SADDLE CT
FALLS GLEN CT
OLD BARN CT
MUSKET CT
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QUAILWOOD CT
PHEASANT WOOD CT
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LANTERN CIR
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GATEHOUSE CT
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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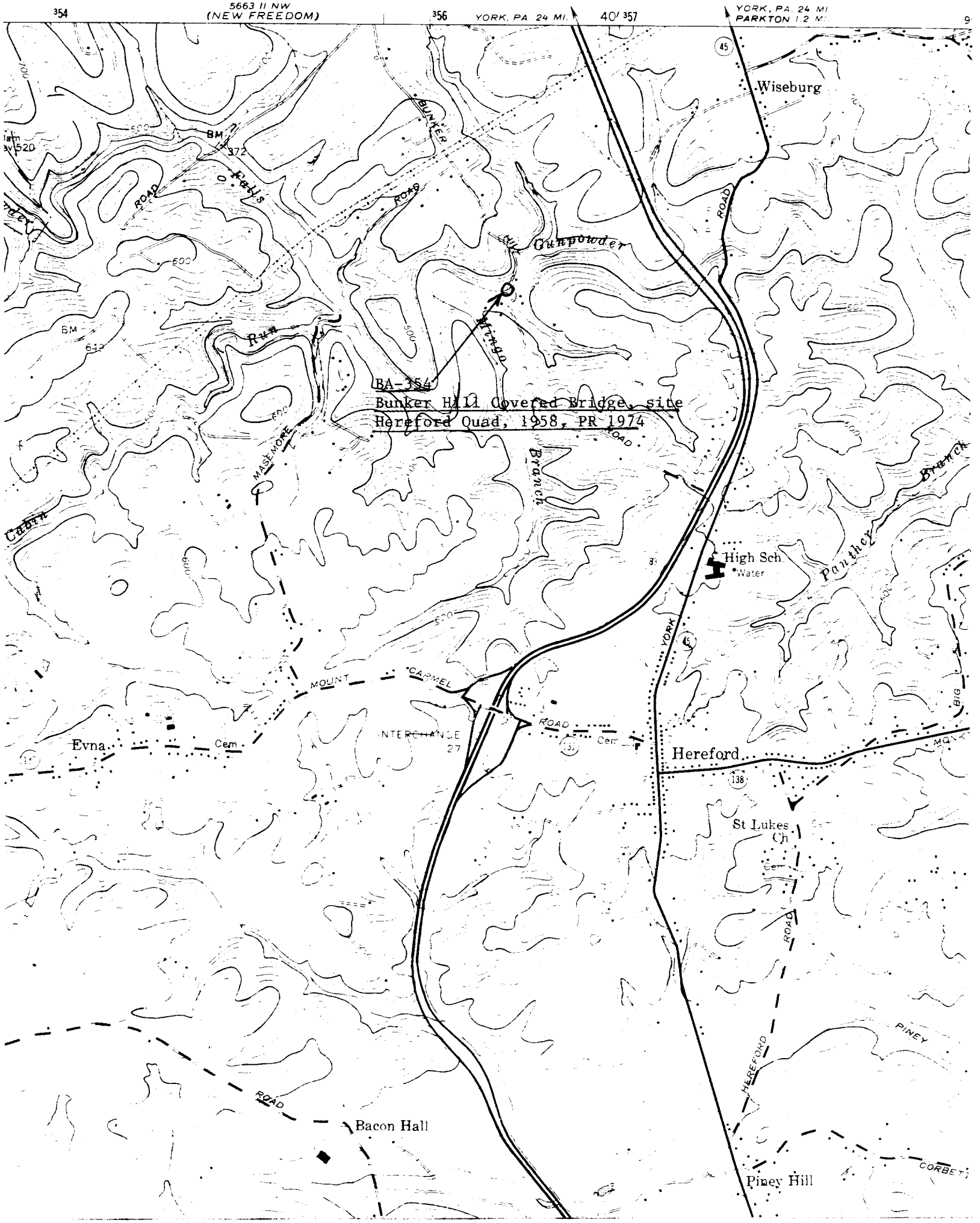
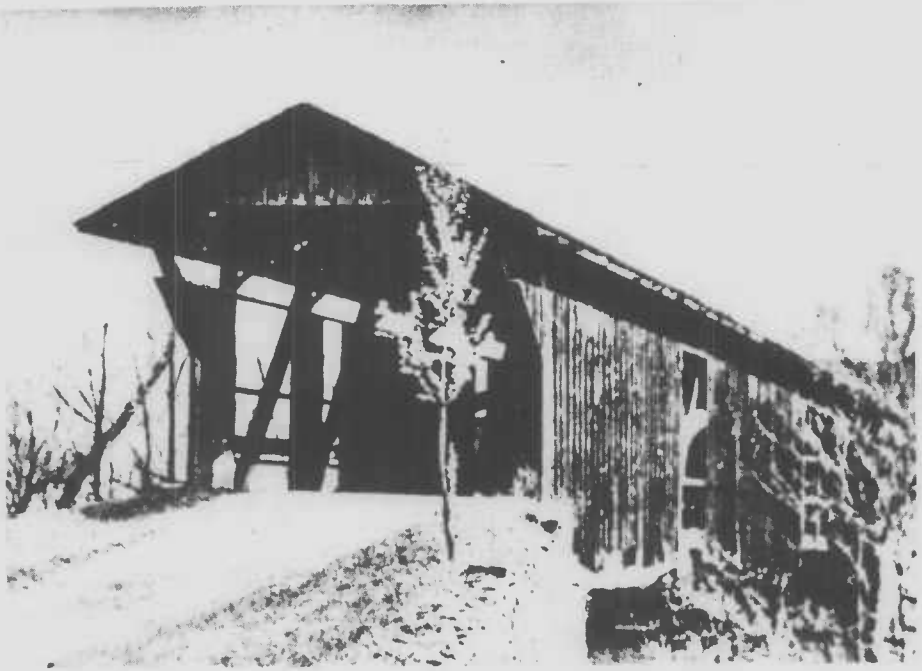
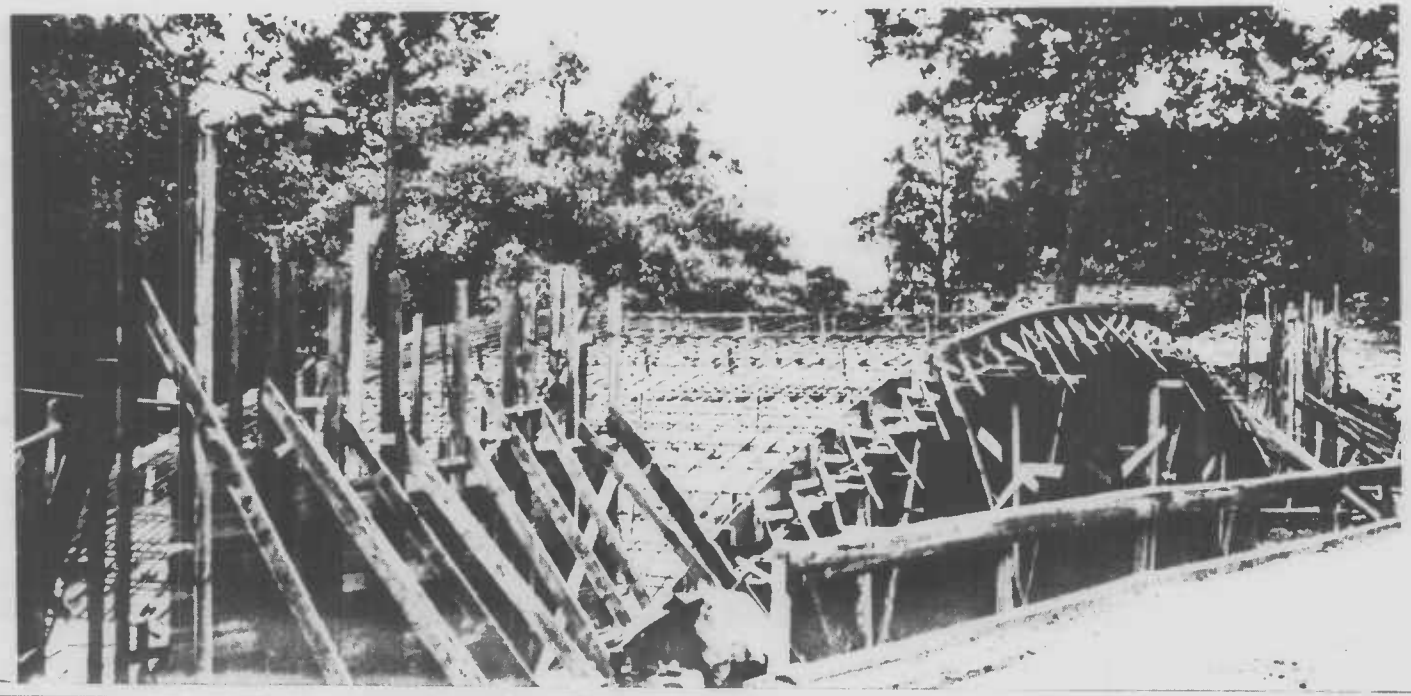


Brooks, Neal A. and Richard Parsons
1988 Baltimore County Panorama. Norfolk/Virginia Beach: Bunker Hill Covered Bridge, site
The Donning Company, p. 167.

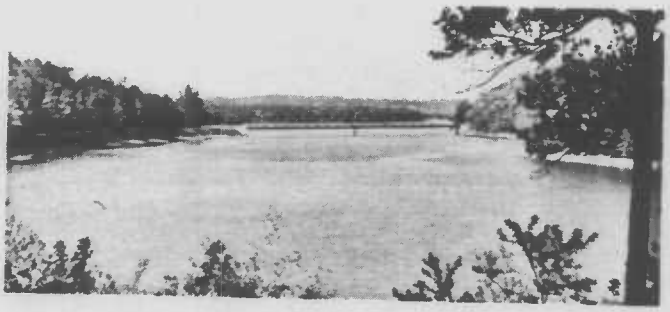


The first covered bridge at Bunker Hill Road over the Gunpowder Falls, 1.1 miles northwest of Hereford, was built in 1880 and survived until 1961, when it was destroyed by fire. Rebuilt by the Baltimore County Department of Public Works using the old methods, it was destroyed again by vandals in August 1971 and was not replaced. The view here dates from the 1920s.



Maryland State Police Headquarters, in Pikesville, was built as an arsenal shortly after the War of 1812, and later was used as a home for Maryland Confederate Veterans of the Civil War. Now, although thoroughly modernized and serving as headquarters of the Maryland State Police, the physical countenance of the building has been maintained so that the structure remains historically appealing.

Social Security Building, the fifth largest Federal office building in the United States, located on Security Boulevard (off Beltway Exit 17) in Woodlawn, is the national administrative and record-keeping headquarters for the world's largest social insurance system. For those interested in learning how their social security system operates, guided tours are conducted Mondays through Fridays and can be arranged by calling 944-5000, Extension 2984.



Bunker Hill Covered Bridge, located in scenic splendor and quiet, natural beauty just west of Old York Road, on Bunker Hill Road, in Hereford. The original bridge was constructed in 1880 and restored in 1947. It was destroyed by fire in 1961 and reconstructed by Baltimore County's Department of Public Works in 1963. The new bridge, dedicated June 23, 1963, is as nearly as possible an exact replica of the old bridge. It measures 107 feet and is the largest serviceable one of its kind in the State.

Hampton House, on Hampton Lane, east of Dulaney Valley Road, in Towson, is a "must" for those interested in the charm and elegance typical of the late Georgian style of architecture. One of the great post-Revolution mansions of America, Hampton was built during the period 1783 - 1790. There are guided tours of the mansion and the grounds Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The visitor can make purchases in the antique shop and refreshments are served in the tearoom.

Loch Raven, Pretty Boy and Liberty Reservoirs, near Towson, Parkton and Reisterstown respectively, are all sources of water supply for Baltimore City and Baltimore County's Metropolitan District. All three offer the sightseer the beauty of wilderness and natural splendor as well as the amenities of good roads, picnicking, hiking and fishing. There are boats for rent at Loch Raven Reservoir.

Anderson, Dale, Baltimore County Executive
1970 Baltimore County at a Glance.

BUNKER HILL COVERED BRIDGE

Offutt, E. Frances
1971 Baltimore County Landmarks. Board of Library Trustees for Baltimore County, Maryland.