

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
 Historic Bridge Inventory
 Maryland State Highway Administration
 Maryland Historical Trust

MHT No. BA-2648Name and SHA No. Loch Raven Road Bridge (BC6509)**Location:**Street/Road Name and Number: Loch Raven Road over Towson RunCity/Town: Carney vicinityCounty: BaltimoreOwnership: State County Municipal OtherThis bridge projects over: Road Railway Water LandIs the bridge located within a designated district: yes no NR listed district NR determined eligible district locally designated other

Name of District _____

Bridge Type: Timber Bridge Beam Bridge Truss-Covered Trestle Timber-and-Concrete Stone Arch Metal Truss Bridge Movable Bridge Swing Bascule Single Leaf Bascule Multiple Leaf Vertical Lift Retractable Pontoon Metal Girder Rolled Girder Rolled Girder Concrete Encased Plate Girder Plate Girder Concrete Encased Metal Suspension Metal Arch Metal Cantilever Concrete Concrete Arch Concrete Slab Concrete Beam Rigid Frame Other Type Name _____

Description:**Describe Setting:**

Bridge BC6509 carries Loch Raven Road over Towson Run in the Loch Raven Reservoir area of Baltimore County. Loch Raven Road runs in a generally north-south direction at this location; Towson Run flows west-east. The creek drains into a retention pond for the Loch Raven Reservoir. This bridge is situated just north of Bridge BC6508 and just south of the Loch Raven Dam, along the west side of the reservoir. The area is relatively undeveloped, although a small park service dwelling and related outbuildings are located just to the southwest of this bridge.

Describe Superstructure and Substructure:

(Discuss points identified in Context Addendum, Section C)

Bridge BC6509 is a single-span stone arch bridge measuring 30 feet in total length. Its eastern, or downstream, side exhibits a voussoir of carefully cut and molded stones with a very prominent keystone. The wing walls flare at oblique angles to the line of the bridge and are topped with segmental sloping capstones. A concrete parapet bears the inscription "1879" on its exterior side. On the western, or upstream, side of the bridge, the arch has been obscured by a steel conduit encased in concrete, 10 feet in diameter, which carries water. The roadway supports two lanes of traffic.

Discuss major alterations:

In 1914, a steel conduit was constructed connecting the new Loch Raven Dam with the tunnel to Lake Montebello located at the old dam approximately one-half mile to the south. This conduit measures 10 feet in diameter and is housed in a rectangular shaped concrete chamber. The conduit and its housing were appended to the upstream sides of the bridges over Shanghai Creek and Towson Run during this episode of construction. It is likely that the concrete parapets and other concrete reinforcements were added at the same time.

History:

When Built: 1879

Why Built: as part of construction of Loch Raven Road

Who Built: City of Baltimore/alterations by Mason, Hilton & Co. of New York

Who Designed: unknown

Why Altered: to accommodate steel pipe conduit

Was this bridge built as part of an organized bridge building campaign: yes

Nine stone arch bridges, including bridges BC6508 and BC6509, were constructed along the perimeter of Loch Raven Reservoir during the late 1870s as part of the carriage access road. As related structures, these bridges together are potentially eligible under Criterion A for their role in providing access to the City of Baltimore's dam and waterworks at Loch Raven Reservoir.

Surveyor Analysis:

This bridge may have NR significance for association with:

- A Events B Person
 C Engineering/Architectural Character

Was the bridge constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history?

Bridges BC6508 and BC6509 were built to span the carriage access road surrounding the Loch Raven Reservoir. In all, nine of these stone arch bridges were constructed along Loch Raven Road, three on the east side of the lake and six on the west side. The Loch Raven Reservoir area, including 21 miles of the Gunpowder River from tide-water to Meredith's Bridge and 1600 acres of land, had been purchased by the City of Baltimore as early as 1866. In 1874, an ordinance was passed creating a permanent water supply for the city at Loch Raven. Construction of the dam and waterworks began in 1875 and was completed in 1881. The water supply system consisted of the dam and lake at Loch Raven, and a tunnel along the line of Harford Street about 2 miles north of the city limits connecting Loch Raven with a distributing reservoir called Lake Montebello, and a second pipeline connecting Lake Montebello with Lake Clifton near the Johns Hopkins estate.

By 1908, plans were underway to create a new dam at Loch Raven. It would be located approximately 1/2 mile upstream from the earlier dam. This dam was completed in 1914. As mentioned above, a steel conduit was constructed at this time to link the new dam with the tunnel to Lake Montebello. The conduit was placed along the upstream side of Bridges BC6508 and BC6509, thereby blocking the access to the lake from these streams.

When the bridge was built and/or given a major alteration, did it have a significant impact on the growth and development of the area?

Loch Raven Reservoir is both a municipal water supply and a recreational area. This reservoir provides areas for fishing, boating, hiking, and picnicking, and has encouraged development of the area surrounding the reservation. This bridge has facilitated access to Loch Raven and has promoted growth of the whole area.

Is the bridge located in an area which may be eligible for historic designation and would the bridge add to or detract from the historic and visual character of the possible district?

The Loch Raven Reservoir area may be eligible for historic designation, and the bridge would add to both the historic and visual character of the possible district.

Is the bridge a significant example of its type?

Since a good portion of this bridge has been altered since its original construction to include concrete materials, it may no longer be considered a significant example of a late 19th century stone arch bridge.

Does the bridge retain integrity of the important elements described in the Context Addendum?

This bridge retains historic integrity of location, setting, workmanship, and association. However, its integrity of design, materials and feeling has been lost due to the alteration of the upstream side of the bridge and the addition of concrete parapets. The bridge possesses integrity of nearly all its major components on its downstream side, including the stone arch ring, barrel, abutments, and wing walls.

Is the bridge a significant example of the work of the manufacturer, designer, and/or engineer and why?

Before their alterations, Bridges BC6508 and BC6509 would have been together potentially eligible under Criterion C as significant examples of the City of Baltimore's engineering work in developing a series of stone arch bridges to carry the access road at Loch Raven Reservoir. However, due to the changes these bridges have undergone from their original state, they appear to be no longer eligible under Criterion C.

Should this bridge be given further study before significance analysis is made and why?

No further evaluation is necessary to determine National Register significance. However, additional research concerning the history of this bridge and its relationship to the surrounding landscape may be useful in providing a more complete picture of the bridge's background.

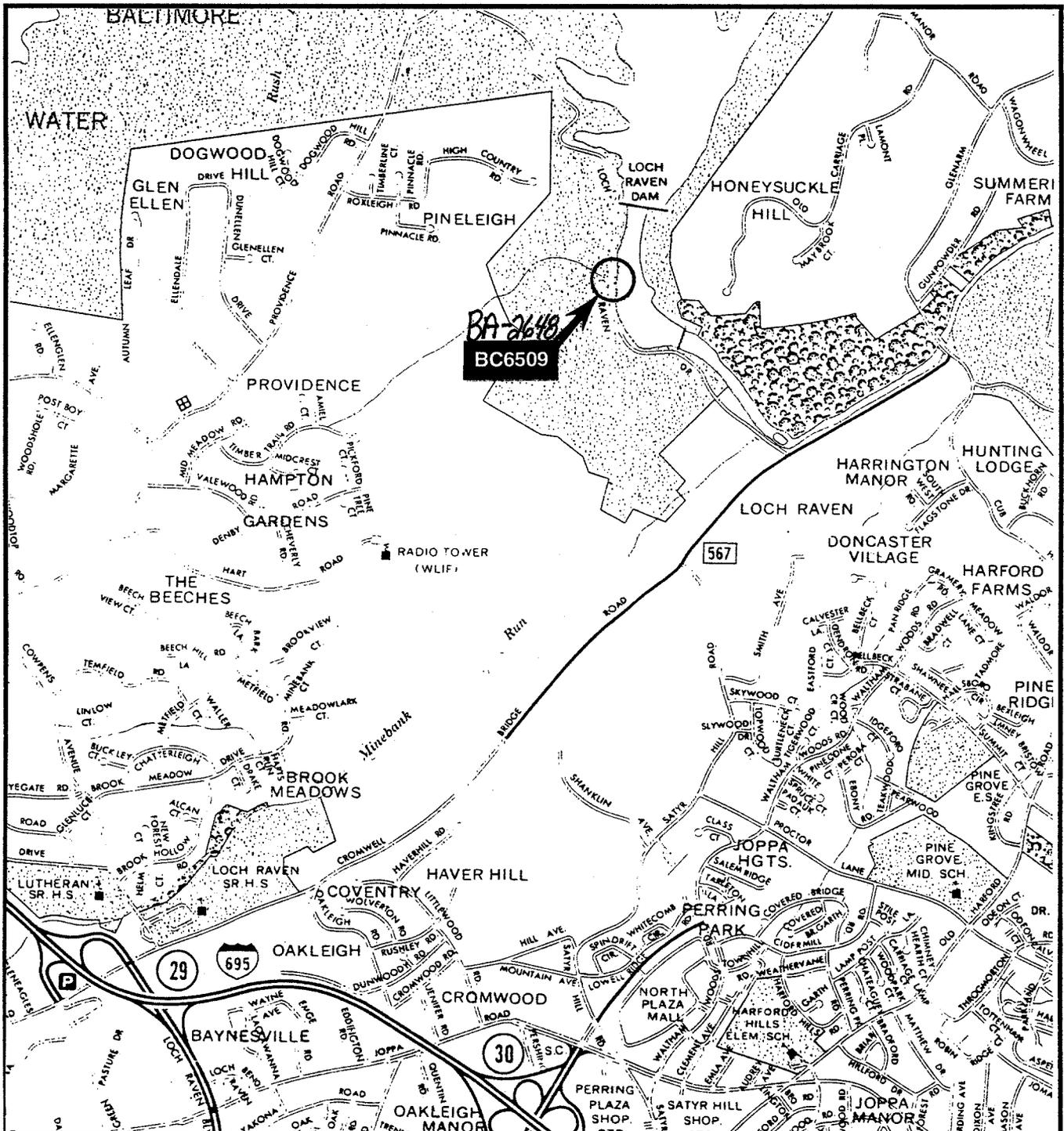
Provide black and white prints and negatives and color slides of bridge, details, and setting labeled according to NR Bulletin 16A and Maryland Supplement to Bulletin 16A.

Provide a photocopy USGS map illustrating the location of the bridge.

Surveyor:

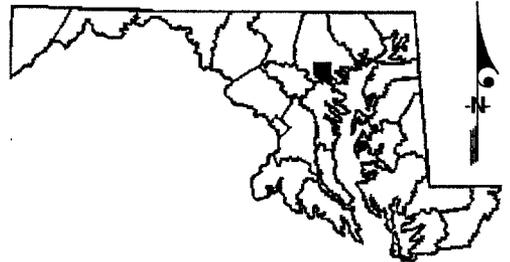
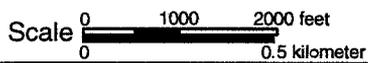
Name: Alice Crampton/Julie Abell
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Address: 10521 Rosehaven Street
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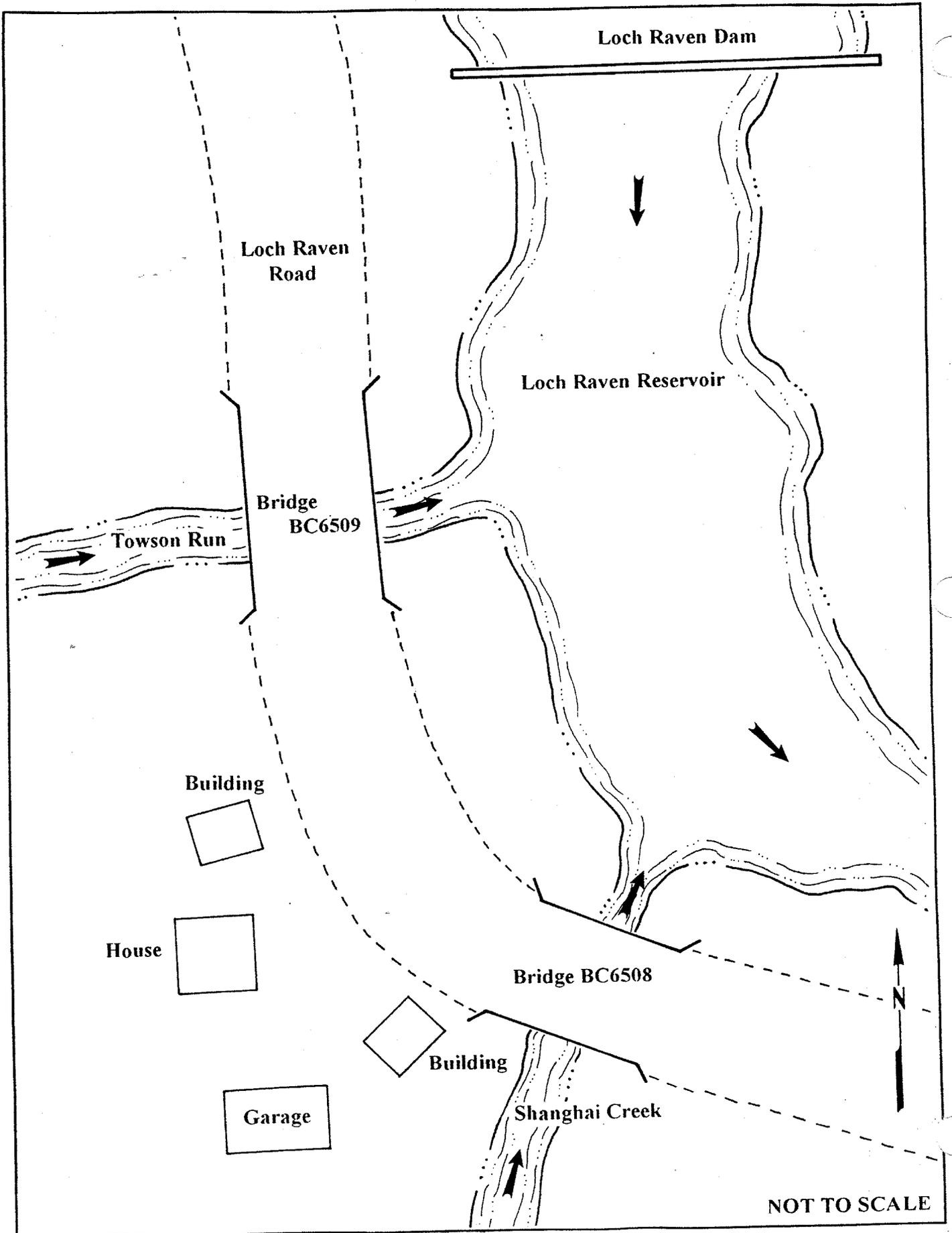


Baltimore City - Bridge Number BC6509

Loch Raven Road over Towson Run



BA 2648





BA-2648

Loch Raven Road Bridge (BC6509)

Baltimore County, Maryland

Julie Abell

12/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

East elevation

1 of 5

A black and white photograph of a stone archway. The arch is constructed from large, rectangular stone blocks. A small, rectangular stone marker is embedded in the upper part of the arch, containing the year '1879'. The arch is set against a dark background, and the lighting highlights the texture of the stone and the shadow of the arch's opening.

1879

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Loch Raven Road Bridge (BC6509)

Baltimore County, Maryland

Julie Abell

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East elevation, detail

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Loch Raven Road Bridge (BC6509)

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West elevation

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Loch Raven Road Bridge (BC6509)

Baltimore County, Maryland

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Approach looking north

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Loch Raven Road Bridge (BC6509)

Baltimore County, Maryland

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Approach looking south

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