

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number: CT-1137

Name: MD 261 OVER FORDS CREEK

The bridge referenced herein was inventoried by the Maryland State Highway Administration as part of the Historic Bridge Inventory, and SHA provided the Trust with eligibility determinations in February 2001. The Trust accepted the Historic Bridge Inventory on April 3, 2001. The bridge received the following determination of eligibility.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility Recommended <u> X </u>	Eligibility Not Recommended <u> </u>
Criteria: <u> </u> A <u> </u> B <u> X </u> C <u> </u> D	Considerations: <u> </u> A <u> </u> B <u> </u> C <u> </u> D <u> </u> E <u> </u> F <u> </u> G <u> </u> None
Comments: _____ _____	
Reviewer, OPS: <u> Anne E. Bruder </u>	Date: <u> 3 April 2001 </u>
Reviewer, NR Program: <u> Peter E. Kurtze </u>	Date: <u> 3 April 2001 </u>

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

MHT Number CT-1187

Name and SHA No. 4011 over Fishing Creek

Location:

Street/Road Name and Number: MD 261 over Fishing Creek

City/Town: Chesapeake Beach Vicinity X

County: Calvert

Ownership: X State ___ County ___ Municipal ___ Other

This bridge projects over: ___ Road ___ Railway X Water ___ Land

Is the bridge located within a designated district: ___ yes X 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

___ Movable Bridge

___ Swing

___ Bascule Single Leaf ___ Bascule Multiple Leaf

___ Vertical Lift ___ Retractable ___ Pontoon

X Metal Girder

X 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 No. 4011 carries Maryland Route 261 north-south over Fishing Creek in Calvert County, Maryland. It is located approximately midway between Chesapeake Beach and West Beach. The shore line of Fishing Creek has been intensively modified by development. The area around the bridge is set along a modern waterfront, with residences and condominiums visible on the north side of the bridge, and a marina is located west of the bridge.

Describe Superstructure and Substructure:

Bridge No. 4011 is a simple three span bridge. It was built in 1940 and consists of two 27' long spans, and one of 62' long span, for a total structure length of 116'6" and clear roadway width of 26'. The superstructure is composed of steel beams supporting a concrete deck. The substructure consists of timber bulkheads at the abutments, and bents composed of timber caps and timber piles. The bridge deck is overlaid with a blacktop surface which carry 2 lane of traffic. The railing is an ornamental metal balustrade.

Discuss Major Alterations:

The only modifications known to have been made to this structure is the placement of a buried cable in a 4" steel conduit attached underneath the east side of the bridge.

History:

When Built: 1940

Why Built: Part of the statewide road improvement campaign and to meet local transportation needs.

Who Built: Unknown

Why Altered: Bridge has not been significantly altered.

Was this bridge built as part of an organized bridge building campaign: Yes this bridge was built as part of the Statewide road improvement program

Surveyor Analysis:

This bridge may have NR significance for association with:

A Events Person

C Engineering/Architectural

Was this bridge constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history:

Bridge No. 4011 was not the first to cross Fishing Creek at this location. Map research indicates that another bridge built before 1910 stood at the same location. At that time there was little development north of the bridge, but south of the bridge, the town of Chesapeake Beach was already in existence. Chesapeake Beach was a popular resort beach in the early 20th century. The Chesapeake Beach Railroad carried commuters to its terminus in Chesapeake Beach. Automobile access via the bridge across Fishing Creek may have directly led to the decline of the Chesapeake Beach Railroad, and may have stimulated the economic development of the resort towns of Chesapeake Beach.

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?

When this bridge was built, it or its predecessor may have facilitated the economic development of northern Calvert County.

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

This bridge is not located in an area eligible for historic designation.

Is the bridge a significant example of its type?

This bridge is a significant example of its type. The ornamental metal railing and concrete balusters is a unique engineering and architectural feature.

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

This bridge retains its integrity as defined in the Context Addendum. No known modifications have been made to this bridge.

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

No further study of this bridge is recommended. This bridge has been determined to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C.

Bibliography:

Greiner, Inc.

1995 Maryland Inventory of Historic Bridges.

Spero, P.A.C. & Company, and Louis Berger & Associates

1994 Historic Bridges in Maryland: Historic Bridge Context.

State Highway Administration

v.d. Bridge Inspection files.

United States Geological Survey

1953 7.5' North Beach Quadrangle, Photorevised 1979.
United States Geological Survey
1910 15' Prince Frederick Quadrangle.

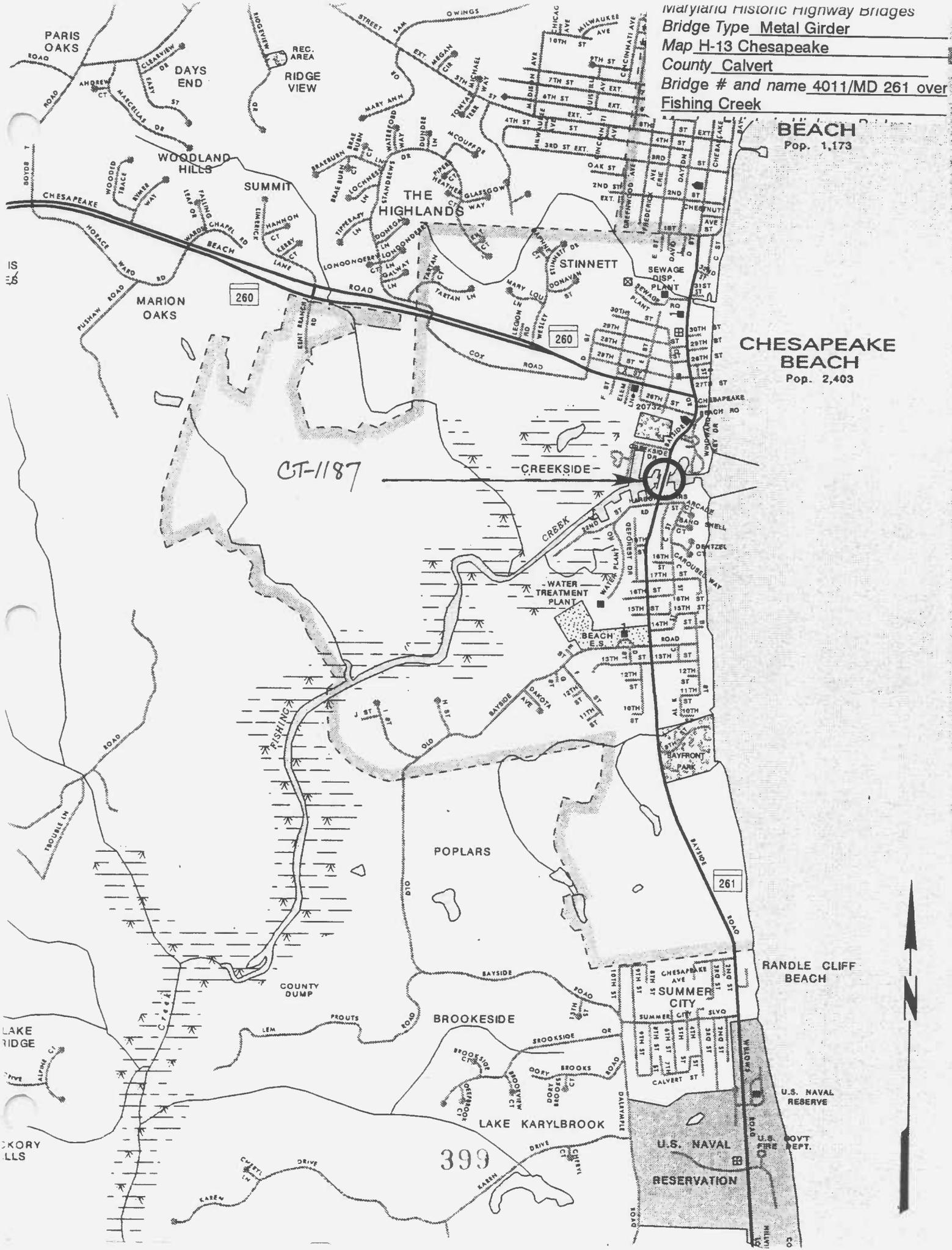
Surveyor:

Name: Jason D. Moser **Date:** September 1995

Organization: State Highway Admin. **Telephone:** (410) 321-2213

Address: 2323 West Joppa Road Brooklandville, MD 21022

Maryland Historic Highway Bridges
Bridge Type Metal Girder
Map H-13 Chesapeake
County Calvert
Bridge # and name 4011/MD 261 over
Fishing Creek



BEACH
Pop. 1,173

CHESAPEAKE
BEACH
Pop. 2,403

CT-1187

CREEKSIDE

399

261

260

260

U.S. NAVAL
RESERVE

U.S. NAVAL
RESERVATION

U.S. GOVT
FIRE DEPT.





1 OF 4

CT-1187
CALVERT COUNTY
D. BHAUMIK
1-31-95

~~MARYLAND SHPO SHA~~

MD 261 OVER FISHING CREEK
LOOKING SOUTH ON MD 261
(BRIDGE 4011)



2 OF 4

CT-1187

CALVERT COUNTY

D. BHAUMIK

1-31-95

~~MARYLAND SITPO~~ SHA

MD 261 OVER FISHING CREEK

LOOKING NORTH ON MD 261

(BRIDGE 4011)



CT-1187
CALVERT COUNTY

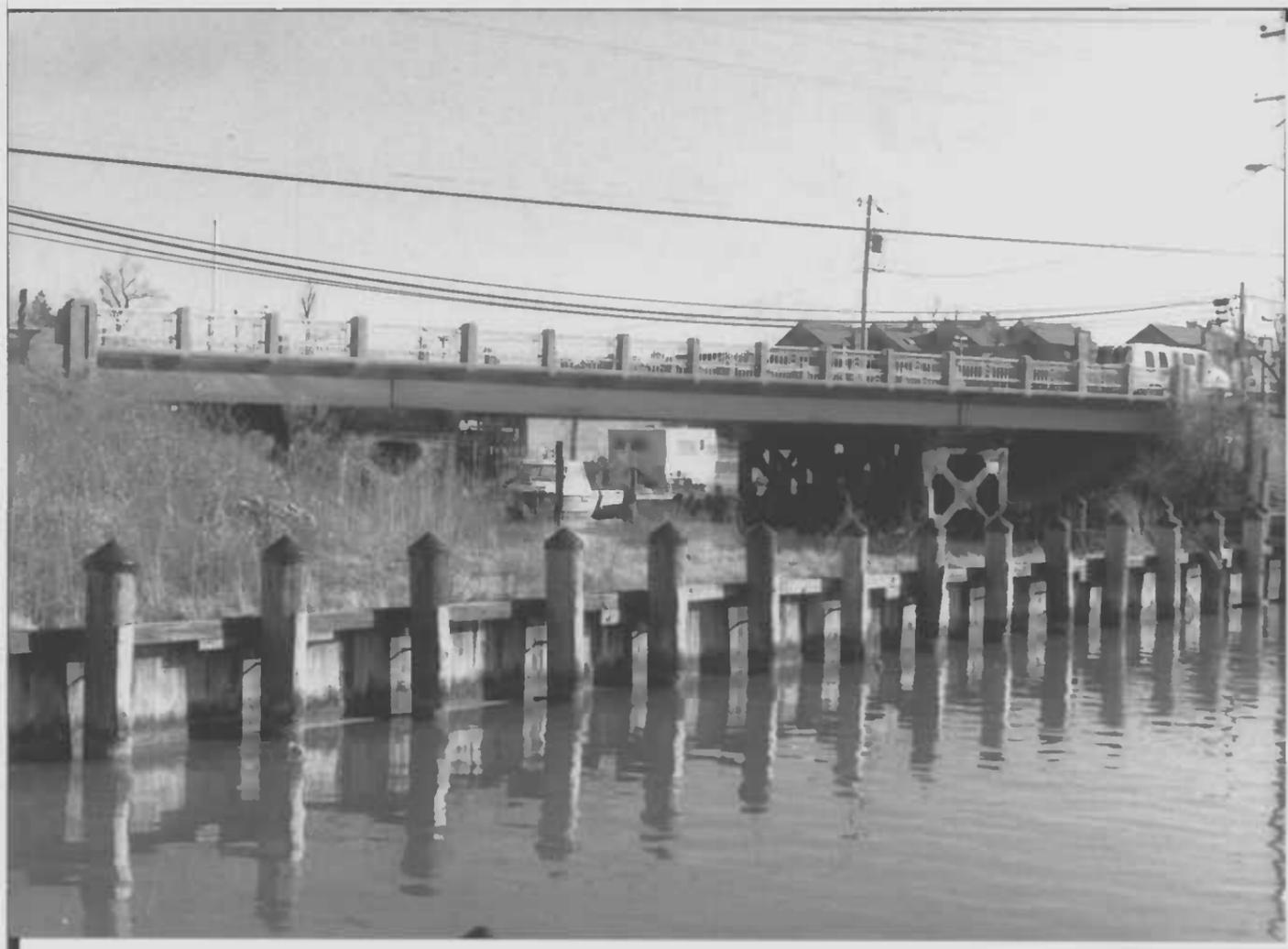
D. BHAUMIK
1-31-95

~~MARYLAND SHPO STA~~

MD 201 OVER FISHING CREEK

LOOKING WEST (DOWNSTREAM
FACE)

(BRIDGE 4011)



CT-1187
CALVERT COUNTY
D. BHAUMIK
1-31-95

~~MARYLAND SHPO~~ SHA

MD 201 OVER FISHING CREEK
LOOKING EAST (UPSTREAM FACE)
(BRIDGE 4011)