

9302790

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

Property/District Name: Bridge 22009, MD 991 over Wicomico River Survey Number: WI-117

Project: Repair of Bridge 22009 Agency: SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: X no yes Name Date

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended

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

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

Based on information provided by SHA, Bridge 22009 does meet the National Register Criteria for individual listing. The double leaf bascule bridge constructed in 1929 is one of eight Chicago (or simple) trunnion structures currently extant on Maryland's highways. It also retains the original bridge tenders house, with its classically derived decorative treatment. Only one other historic moveable bridge retains its original tenders house. The bridge is significant as one of a few remaining historic moveable bridges in Maryland and as one of only eight extant Chicago trunnion structures. The moveable bridge represents an important transportation development allowing both vehicular and maritime movement and illustrates the economic importance of that the state's waterways had in the early 20th century, particularly on the Eastern Shore.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project file, WI-117

Prepared by: Rita Suffness, John Hnedak

Elizabeth Hannold December 22, 1993
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: X yes no not applicable
[Signature] 1-6-93
Reviewer, NR program Date

[Handwritten mark]

Survey No. WI-117

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

Known Design Source: NA

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Number: WI-117

Name: MD991 OVER Wicomico River (#22009)

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 bridged received the following determination of eligibly.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility Recommended <u> X </u>	Eligibility Not Recommended <u> </u>
Criteria: <u> A </u> <u> B </u> <u> C </u> <u> D </u>	Considerations: <u> A </u> <u> B </u> <u> C </u> <u> D </u> <u> E </u> <u> F </u> <u> G </u> <u>None</u>
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>

Handwritten signature

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

MHT No. WI-117

Name and SHA No. Wicomico River Bridge (22009)

Location:

Street/Road Name and Number: MD 991 over Wicomico River

City/Town: Salisbury _____ vicinity

County: Wicomico _____

Ownership: State County Municipal Other

This bridge projects over: Road Railway Water Land

Is the bridge located within a designated district: yes no

NR listed district NR determined eligible district

locally designated other

Name of District: Salisbury Historic 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:**

This bridge crosses the Wicomico River in the northwestern, commercial section of the Salisbury Historic District. Along the river bank, on the west end of the bridge and on both sides of the road are parking lots. The east end of the bridge is flanked by an insurance company building and the Port Exchange.

Describe Superstructure and Substructure:

Wicomico River Bridge is a double-leaf bascule bridge of the Chicago trunnion style. A trunnion bascule, or simple bascule, as it is also sometimes called, is one in which the movable span swings upward around a central pivot at the center of rotation. Fenders built in the water at the corner of each movable span protect the spans from possible impact from ships passing through the channel. The bridge consists of three spans: two concrete girder approach spans and the main steel draw span, for a total length of 83 feet. The bascule span is 40 feet long; the roadway is 26 feet wide. The deck is steel mesh with steel beams and a steel guard rail. Sidewalks are wooden plank, supported on steel cantilevers extending off the main girders and are extensions of the floor beams. The abutments are constructed on timber piles. It has a plaque that attests to its construction in 1927 under the direction of the State Roads Commission.

The bridge tender's house sits at the southwest corner of the bridge. It is a two-story Classical Revival tower with engaged corner pilasters resting on granite plinths. It has a dentilated cornice beneath the copper roof. The walls have aluminum siding. Windows are rectangular, double on each side of the upper story, and single on the east and south on the first floor with a door from the street on the north elevation. The bridge control tower is one of the most notable buildings in the historic district, despite the alterations described below.

Discuss major alterations:

Repairs were made to the bulkhead in 1933. In 1938, an open steel floor was installed, making it the only all-steel bridge in the State at that time. The fenders were extended in 1948. A new steel bulkhead was installed in 1960. Major repairs in 1981 included replacing all floor beams and stringers on the bascule span, repairing sidewalk supports, replacing approximately 40 percent of the stringers and 25 percent of the joists supporting the open grid floor. Minor concrete work was done to replace the forward girder supports and one trunnion support. Totally new mechanical shear lock bars were also installed. To avoid much welding on-site, new members were attached with bolts. The entire steel structure was cleaned and painted. The bascule leaves were balanced: on the west leaf 6,000 pounds of concrete was removed from the counterweight; then four steel plates, 10" x 42" x 1.5" and weighing 714.61 pounds were bolted to the center floor beam; and four steel plates, 10" x 42" x 1", weighing 476.4 pounds were bolted to the nose end floor beam.

The original exterior wall covering of the bridge tender's house is unknown, but it has now been covered with aluminum siding. The original round headed windows with small paned glazing have been replaced with double-hung rectangular windows: two on each side on the second floor and single windows on the first floor.

History:**When Built:** 1927**Why Built:** *To replace a smaller bridge that was inadequate to handle the increased amount of traffic occasioned by the shift in the primary means of transport from steamboats to trucks.***Who Built:** *State Roads Commission.***Who Designed:** *John N. Mackall, Chairman of the State Roads Commission and its Chief Engineer and W. G. Hopkins, Bridge Engineer.***Why Altered:** *Minor alterations were made in the course of repairs to the bridge. Reasons for the alterations to the bridge tender's house are presently unknown.***Was this bridge built as part of an organized bridge building campaign:**

The 1920s and 1930s saw an active bridge-building program to replace narrow and unsafe bridges on the major highways of the Eastern Shore. Since the Good Roads Movement of the 1880s, Maryland citizens had been increasingly vocal in their demands for better roads. While the Eastern Shore had long relied on navigable waterways to transport goods to market, the decline of steamboat traffic and the rise of faster, more efficient vehicular traffic required action. With the growth in the number of automobiles and trucks early in the twentieth century, the need for better roads became particularly urgent. The program carried out in the 1920s and 1930s came in response to the shift from steamboats to trucks as the principal carriers of the region's agricultural produce to markets in Baltimore and beyond.

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?**

Rivers and streams provided the primary means of transportation on the Eastern Shore before the twentieth century. If bridges were built across navigable rivers, they had to be either high enough to allow ships clearance beneath the bridge or they had to be movable to allow navigation on the waterway. High, fixed bridges required extensive approach work and very high grades; hence, movable bridges became the primary technological method for spanning the Eastern Shore's navigable rivers (Spero 1994:85).

By the 1920s, however, vehicular traffic was taking precedence over steamboats as the primary carriers of the region's agricultural and maritime produce to market. The decline of steamboat transportation left the Eastern Shore isolated and its economy damaged. Highway transportation was faster, but it required building better and wider roads and bridges that could accommodate increased traffic volumes, loads, and speeds. The Wicomico Bridge was one of a group of movable bridges constructed on the Eastern Shore in the 1920s and 1930s to meet this need.

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?

While its precise influence on the growth and development of Salisbury at the time of its construction is not known with certainty, it is presumed that a wider crossing at this point, with a capability to handle increased traffic loads and speeds, would have had a positive impact on the city and its economy by facilitating improved transport of goods and services. Salisbury had long been a center for shipping local agricultural and marine products to markets in Baltimore and beyond (See MHT document WI-145). The Wicomico Bridge would have enabled the shipping industry to continue and would have made the transport of local products to market easier.

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 bridge is located in the Salisbury Historic District, and its tender's house is considered to be one of the more notable buildings in the district, despite the alterations that it has undergone. The low-lying bridge adds to the visual character of the historic district.

Is the bridge a significant example of its type?

The Wicomico River Bridge is significant under Criterion A for its role in the development of transportation on the Eastern Shore during the period of Industrial-Urban Dominance, when vehicular traffic took precedence over steamboats to transport local agricultural and maritime products to markets in Baltimore and beyond.

The bridge is significant under Criterion C as one of only 20 bascule bridges remaining in Maryland. In addition, it retains its original bridge tender's house with only minor alterations. Only one other historic movable bridge on the Eastern Shore retains its original tender's house virtually unaltered.

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

The Wicomico River Bridge retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and association. It retains most of its component parts including its fenders, dolphins, bridge tender's house, piers, and plaque identifying the bridge and its date of construction.

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

The Wicomico Bridge appears to be a significant example of the work of John Mackall, W. G. Hopkins, and the State Roads Commission.

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

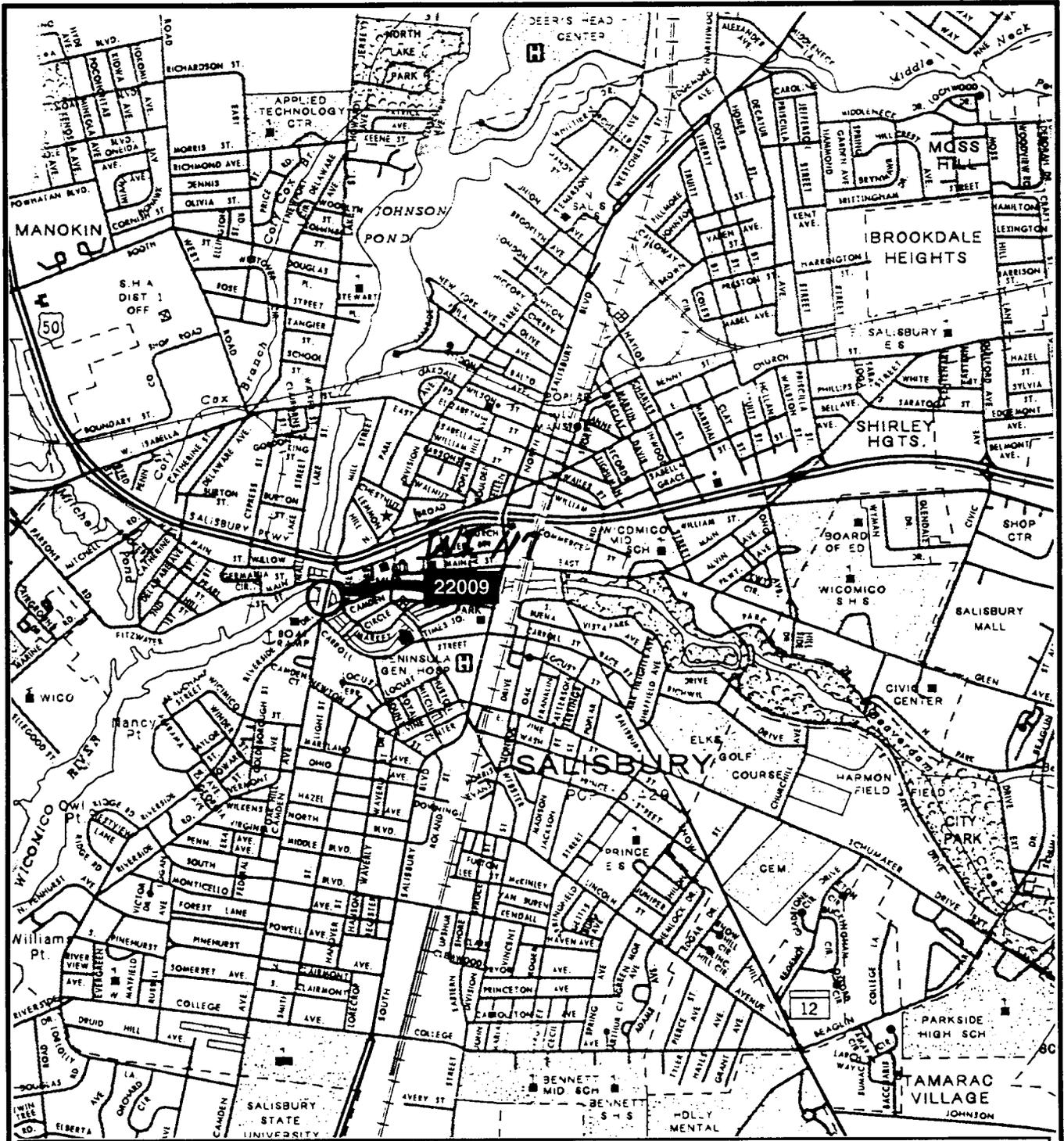
Further research should be undertaken to determine who actually designed the bridge, whether it is a significant example of the work of the designer, and to determine the effect of the bridge on the growth and development of Salisbury.

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.

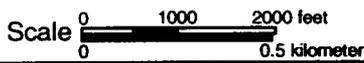
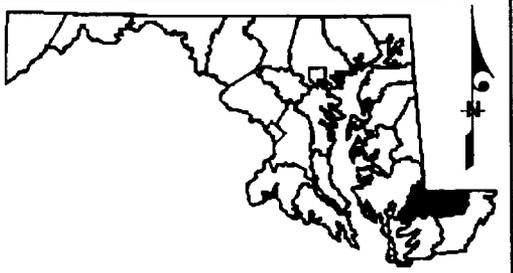
Provide a photocopy USGS map illustrating the location of the bridge.

Surveyor:

Name:	<u>Alice Crampton/Julie Abell</u>	Date:	<u>12/13/94</u>
Organization:	<u>Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.</u>	Telephone:	<u>(703) 591-7575</u>
Address:	<u>10521 Rosehaven Street</u>		
	<u>Fairfax, Virginia 22030-2899</u>		

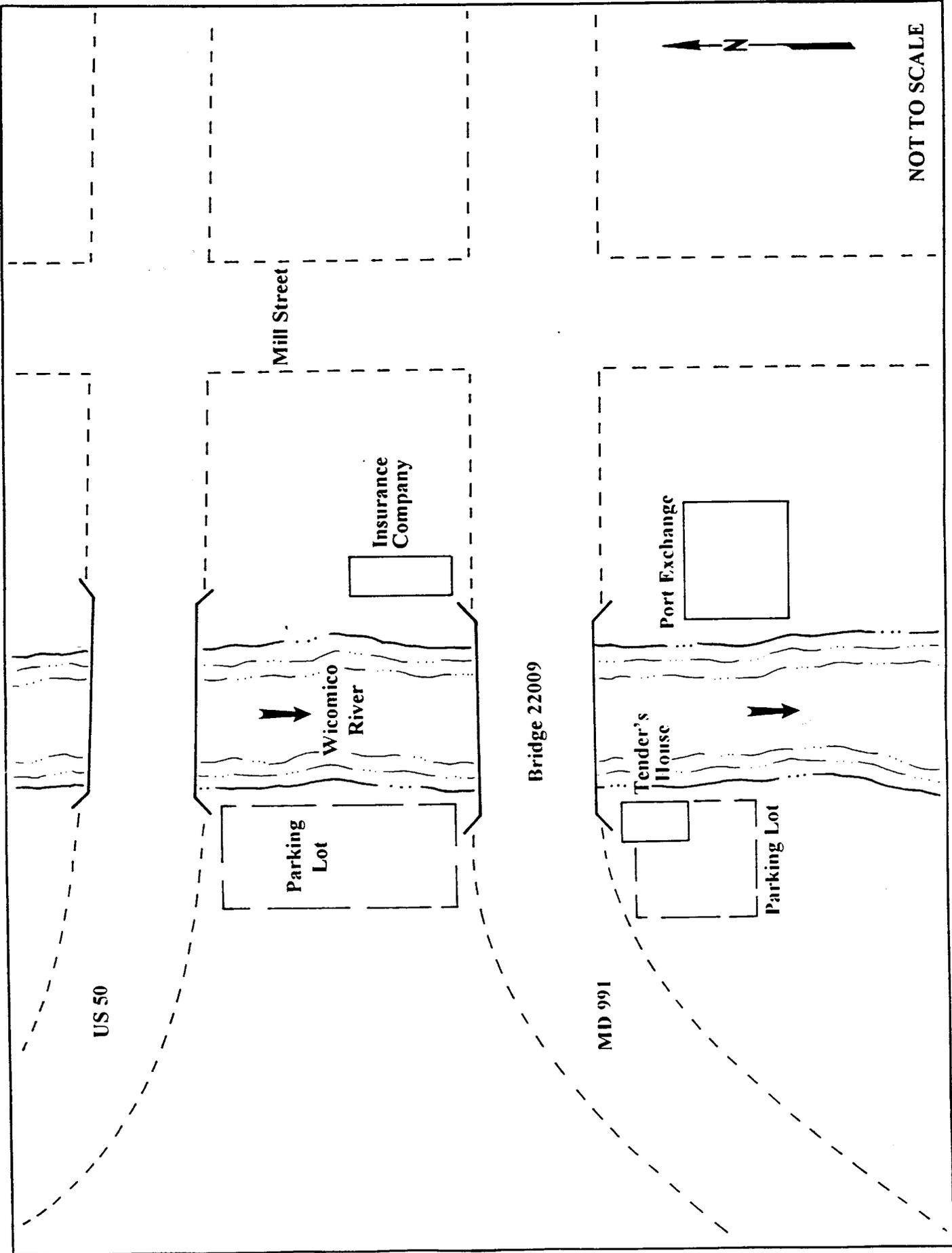


Wicomico County - Bridge Number 22009
 MD 991 over Wicomico River
(Determined National Register eligible by Interagency Review Committee)



WI-117

WI-117





Largest
Country Store
In The East
AT 7th Street - East Bank

WI-117

Wicomico River Bridge (?2009)

Wicomico County, Maryland

Julie Abell

12/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

North elevation

1 of 6



011 - 117

Wicomico River Bridge (22009)

Wicomico County, Maryland

Julie Abell

12/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

South elevation

2 of 6



W2 117

Wicomico River Bridge (22009)

Wicomico County, Maryland

Julie Abell

12/94

Maryland State Highway
Administration

Approach looking west

3 of 6



WI-117

Wicomico River Bridge (22009)

Wicomico County, Maryland

Julie Abeil

12/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

Approach looking east

4 of 6



WI-117

Wicomico River Bridge (22009)

Wicomico County, Maryland

Julie Abell

12/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

1927 plaque on interior parapet

5 of 6



WI-117

Wicomico River Bridge (22009)

Wicomico County, Maryland

Julie Abell

12/94

Maryland State Highway
Administration

Bridge tender's house

6 of 6

117
~~WI-529~~
West Main Street Bridge
Salisbury
Public

1927

A distinctive element of Salisbury's downtown landscape is the West Main Street bridge and bridge tower, erected in 1927 by Maryland's State Roads Commission. The low walled, two-leaf bascule lift bridge was designed with twenty-six feet wide platforms and eight foot sidewalks. Low concrete abutments anchor the four corners. Fixed to the southwest abutment is a bronze plaque documenting John N. Mackall as chairman and chief engineer. Other members of the commission at the time included R. Bennett Darnall, W. W. Brown, L. H. Stewart, secretary, and bridge engineer W. C. Hopkins.

According to a notice printed in the *Salisbury Advertiser*, on 12 March 1927, the requests for bids were solicited in the spring with completion anticipated in late summer. Included in the design was a tall two-story bridge tender's tower, which was implemented in neoclassical taste with fluted corner pilasters that rise to a classical entablature. The tower's most identifying feature is the copper clad roof, which takes the shape of a flattened bell curve.



MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: West Main Street Bridge

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-¹¹⁷~~329~~

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
 Transportation

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial-Urban Dominance
 1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s): Bridge and Bridge tender's tower

21

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. 117
WI-329
Magi No.
DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common West Main Street Bridge

2. Location

street & number West Main Street not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Maryland Department of Transportation

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The West Main Street bridge spans the Wicomico River in the center of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-leaf bascule bridge is oriented on an east/west axis.

Dated to 1927, the bridge consists of two low-walled steel platforms that pivot on each bank and join in the center. The road surface consists of a steel gridwork. At the outside corners of the bridge are low concrete abutments. Between the abutments are low metal railings divided at the center with each lift. The southwest concrete abutment is marked by a bronze plaque attached by the State Roads Commission. The plaque documents the 1927 date of erection as well as those on the commission and involved in the bridge's design and construction. John N. Mackall is listed as chairman and chief engineer. The others include R. Bennett Darnall, W. W. Brown, L. H. Stewart, secretary, and W. C. Hopkins, the bridge engineer.

Located off the southwest corner of the bridge is a bridge tender's tower built in a neoclassical form. The two-story, one-bay by one-bay frame structure is defined by two-story fluted pilasters that trim the corners of the tower. Aluminum siding covers the wall space between each pair of pilasters. The door, which pierces the north wall, is a metal replacement as are the double and single metal windows. The pilasters rise to a classical frieze embellished with a dentil molding under the copper clad roof, which follows the form of a flattened bell curve.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI ~~329~~ ⁴²⁷

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1927 **Builder/Architect** W. C. Hopkins, engineer

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

A distinctive element of Salisbury's downtown landscape is the West Main Street bridge and bridge tower, erected in 1927 by the Maryland's State Roads Commission. The low walled, two-leaf bascule lift bridge was designed with twenty-six feet wide lifts with eight foot sidewalks on each side. Low concrete abutments anchor the four corners. Fixed to the southwest abutment is a bronze plaque documenting John N. Mackall as chairman and chief engineer. Other members of the commission at the time included R. Bennett Darnall, W. W. Brown, L. H. Stewart, secretary, and bridge engineer W. C. Hopkins.

According to a notice printed in the *Salisbury Advertiser*, on 12 March 1927, the requests of bids were solicited in the spring with completion anticipated in late summer.¹ Included in the design was a tall two-story bridge tender's tower, which was implemented in neoclassical taste with fluted corner pilasters that rise to a classical entablature. The tower's most identifying feature is the copper clad roof, which takes the shape of a flattened bell curve.

This site deserves listing in Category A, due to its architectural and historical significance.

¹ *Salisbury Advertiser*, 12 March 1927.

117

WI-329

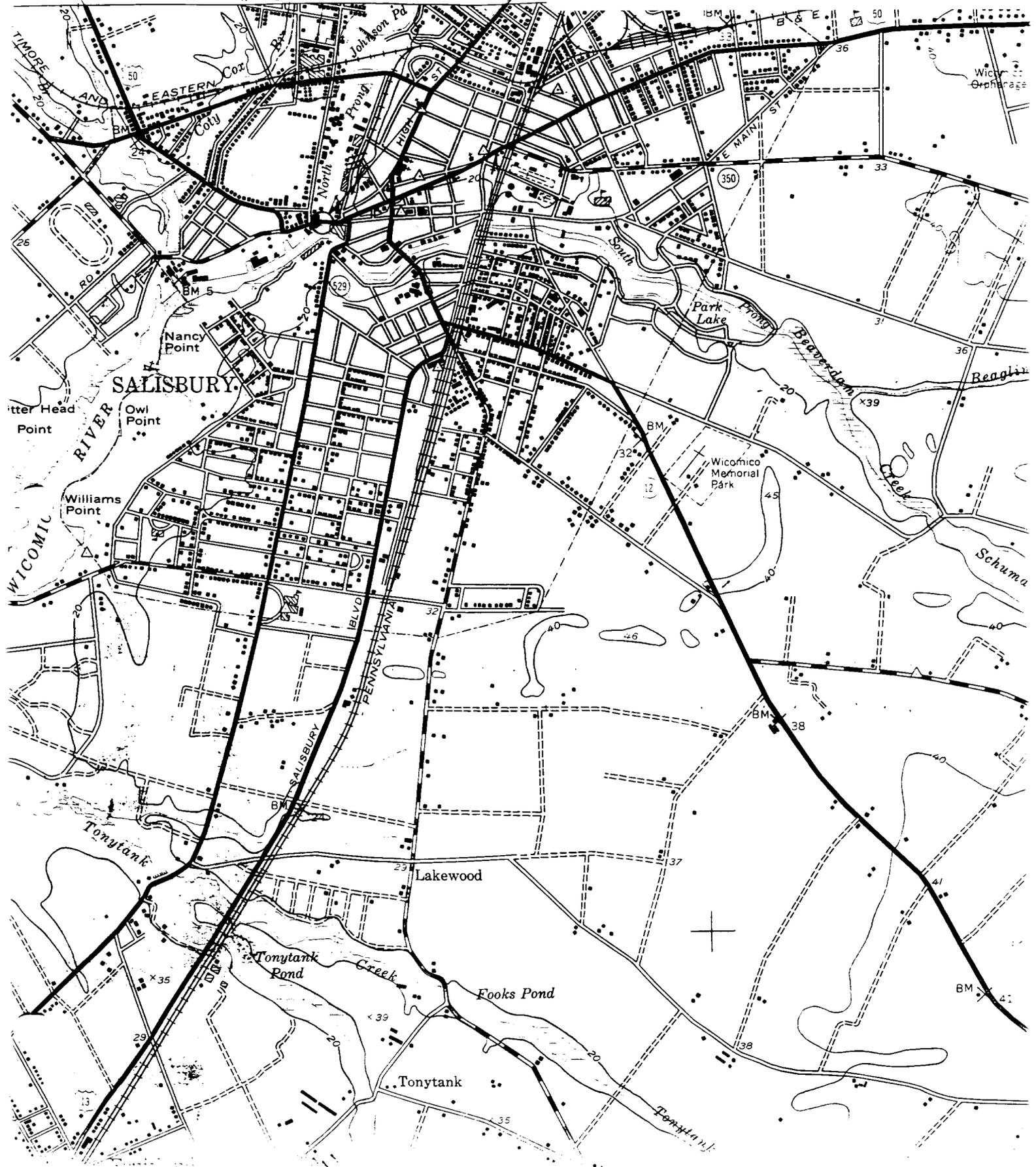
West Main Street Bridge

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.
VIENNA 15 MI.

447000m E.





117

WI-~~329~~

West Main Street BRIDGE

Salisbury, Wicomico County, MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

2/98, Paul Towart, Photographer

VEL. / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 04 1

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Salisbury Bridge

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Salisbury

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Wicomico

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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 State Highway Administration DOT Survey

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
301 West Preston Street

CITY, TOWN
Baltimore

___ VICINITY OF

Maryland STATE 21201 zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Salisbury County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Salisbury

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

WI-117

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	(bridge keeper's house)	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Salisbury Bridge consists of one double leaf bascule span, 40' in length. It carries Maryland Route 991 over the Wicomico River in an E-W direction. The decks of the bridge are steel mesh of steel beams, with a steel guard rail. Roadway width is 26'. The bridge keeper's house, which sits at the southwest corner of the structure, is a two story frame structure with giant order corinthian pilasters at the corners. Above the cornice is a copper sheet metal roof fashioned as a low square plan "dome". The walls between the pilasters have been aluminum sided. Windows are rectangular, with replacement metal awning sash, one on each side on the upper story, and on the east and south on the ground story, with an entrance door from the street on the north elevation.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

WI-117

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This structure is worthy of note for being a moveable bridge, but it is remarkable for its bridge house. The available plans show that it was originally designed to have round headed windows with small pane glazing and elaborate entrance lamps. The original wall covering is not noted on the plans, but was surely more elegant than the current siding. Nothing comparable to this structure is known to this survey (M/DOT). See also general bridge significance, M/DOT Survey.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____
Quadrangle Name: Salisbury, MD
Quadrangle Scale: 1:24 000
UTM References: 18.447190.4246320

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

NA

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

STATE	COUNTY
NA	
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John Hnedak/M/DOT Survey Manager

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

1980

STREET & NUMBER

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STATE

Maryland 21401

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MOVABLE SPAN BRIDGES OF MARYLAND

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MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

1992

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MOVABLE SPAN BRIDGES OF MARYLAND

INTRODUCTION

Movable bridges have played an important part in the development of transportation in the United States. Engineers have always turned to this type when there was no other way of giving adequate vertical clearance for the passage of large vessels on a given waterway. The most widely recognized movable spans fall into three basic groups: the swing bridge, the bascule and the vertical lift. The movable bridge is understood to be as much as a product of mechanics as of engineering, as its distinguishing feature is the machinery necessary for the lifting or opening the span. Until 1890, when a satisfactory method of counterbalancing the great weight of a span had been found and the electric motor refined, neither the modern bascule nor the lift bridge could be developed.

HISTORY OF MOVABLE SPAN BRIDGES

Movable spans are required for bridges crossing navigable waterways to permit passage of vessels that would otherwise be blocked by an insufficient vertical clearance of structures that are either fixed or in the closed position.

The history of movable bridges probably extends back into the ancient past. Bascules, commonly thought of as drawbridges, were used over the moats that surrounded castles during the Medieval era and the pontoon bridges of the Romans may have had portions that could be removed in order to permit the passage of vessels. Hand-powered bascules were first used for this purpose, but they were necessarily limited to very small openings. These ancient and medieval examples, along with the earlier modern types, were not counterweighted to any extent and their field of utility was quite limited.

Most movable bridges are railroad structures, most commonly found in flat terrain. Typically it would have been prohibitively costly to build the necessary long approaches in steeper terrains because of the need to attain a high-level crossing while at the same time maintaining a low enough gradient for trains to climb. Movable span bridges are common in cities and in other built-up areas where construction of an elaborate approach is usually out of the question.

After 1830, when the network of railroads and canal systems spread rapidly over the eastern United States, the demand for movable bridges grew at a comparable rate. Among the earliest were those built across Boston's Charles River. These were crude forms of timber trusses placed next to the river bank, hinged at one corner and swung open by a system of radiating stays that supported it when open. The channel afforded by this opening was very narrow, but it seemed to suffice for navigation, and, as additional

lines were needed after 1835, successive structures were built, each parallel with the last, until there were five in a row.

Apparently, the first patent on one of these timber jackknife bridges was granted in 1849 to a local contractor, Joseph Ross, who built one for the Eastern Railway at Manchester, Massachusetts shortly thereafter. The system was improved by the introduction of the center pivot swing bridge, basically the same type in use today. The new form was adopted by the railroads in the latter half of the nineteenth century, but as the bascule and lift bridges became available fewer and fewer swing spans were built.

Movable bridges may be divided into the following classes: (1) Ordinary swing spans; (2) bobtailed swing spans; (3) horizontal folding draws; (4) shear-pole draws; (5) double rotating cantilever draws; (6) retractile or pullback draws; (7) trunnion bascule bridges; (8) rolling bascule bridges; (9) jack-knife or folding bridges; (10) vertical-lift bridges; (11) gyratory lift bridges; (12) aerial ferries, transporter bridges, or transbordeurs; and (13) floating or pontoon bridges.¹

The bob-tailed swing span (2) is a variation of the ordinary rotating draw formed by shortening one of the arms. The horizontal-folding draw (3) was used for short railway spans, and the girders revolve laterally ninety degrees. The shear-pole draw (4) was a special variety of swing bridge in which the pivot is located near one end of a single arm. When open, the other end of the arm is supported from the top of a two-legged shear pole, on the abutment, by rods which are attached to a pivot at its top, directly over the pivot supporting the span below. When the bridge is closed and the swinging end lifted, the arm is a simple span supported at both ends.

The double rotating cantilever draw (5) consists of two ordinary swing spans, each resting on a pivot pier and meeting at mid-channel. The pullback draw (6) is constructed with one or two spans over the entire opening and bottom chords run on two groups of rollers. [The bridge which immediately preceded the existing Scherzer overhead counterweight structure, built in 1934 over Knapps Narrows (#20001) was a pullback draw.] Some types telescope with each half of the opening spans (in a double pull-back draw) pulling back and telescoping into the approach span. The jack-knife or folding bridge (9) is a variant of swing bridge which is used only for railroads, in which, when opened, each half of the floor assumes the position of an inverted V. The vertical lift bridge (10), widely used throughout the United States but not utilized in Maryland, consists of simple spans resting on piers when closed. In most cases the weight of the lifting span is counterweighted by means of ropes, or chains, attached to the ends of the spans and the counterweights, which pass up and over sheaves on top of the towers at the end of the bridge.

The gyratory lift bridge (11), patented by Eric Swensson of Minneapolis, consists of a truss suspended by trussed hangers from trunnions bearing on a tower at each abutment. The draw is opened by revolving the main roadway trusses in an arch around the horizontal longitudinal axis marked by the trunnions. The aerial ferries or transbordeurs (12) are a cross between a bridge and a ferryboat. It consists of two towers, an overhead span high enough to clear masts of ships and a track on the span, with a car running on the tracks and, finally, a platform suspended from the ferry car. The floating or pontoon bridge (13) may be the earliest type of movable bridge. It is usually adapted for use when local conditions prevent the construction of more stable structures and when a temporary crossing must be quickly made.

Of these thirteen types, only numbers 1, 7, 8, and 10 were in frequent use in the early twentieth century. Numbers 2, 5, 12, and 13 were employed occasionally and numbers 3, 4, 6, 9, and 11 were no longer used, according to Dr. John Alexander Low Waddell, the dean of American bridge engineers, in his 1916 text, Bridge Engineering.

Regardless of its limitation, the swing bridge was the only choice available until the end of the last century. One of the first notable examples in America was designed by Wendell Bollman to cross the Mississippi River at Clinton, Iowa. This bridge was built around 1863 by the Detroit Bridge and Iron Works. With its 360-foot draw span, it was one of the largest in the country at the time. Subsequently, the Mississippi became noted for its swing bridges, all of its many low-level crossings incorporating this form. The longest is the 525-foot crossing built by the Santa Fe Railroad at Fort Madison, Iowa in 1926. Since then all movable bridges of comparable length have been vertical lifts, a far more economical choice for larger spans. The various kinds of lift bridges were evolved in the endeavor to occupy less space and waste less time.

In the early twentieth century, builders of competitive types of movable bridges, especially the bascule, disparaged the swing bridge in their advertising by emphasizing the fact that the draw span itself took up part of the channel. Indeed, the wider the bridge, the narrower the passage. Because the bridge type requires a large pivotal pier in the center of the waterway on which to rotate, it not only divides an otherwise wider channel into two smaller halves, but the pier itself often causes serious deflections of the current to either bank. Another disadvantage of the swing bridge, as an impatient motorist would attest, is that it must be swung a full ninety degrees to open sufficiently to allow even the small vessel to pass and then close a full ninety degrees back. Furthermore, a swing bridge, when open, provides no protection to land traffic, while the leaves or counterweights of bascule designs provide a barrier to traffic. In addition, the

dock front adjacent to a rotating draw is not available for business.

The promoters of the bascule bridge also touted the advantages specific to the bascule type that make it superior to the swing bridge. For one, it operates very rapidly, and with a choice of partially raising the span for the passage of vessels with small clearance or of opening it all the way up and leaving the channel unobstructed. Also, should a further track or roadway be required, another bascule can be built directly adjacent to the first, a solution obviously quite out of the question with a structure that swings.

The trend away from swing bridge construction and toward the other designs by the second quarter of the twentieth century is indicated by the following figures. In the period prior to 1924, among highway bridges, 25 vertical lift bridges, 250 bascule, and 450 swing bridges were constructed. From 1924 to 1974, 100 vertical lift bridges, 430 bascule and 250 swing bridges were completed.² Thus, vertical lift and bascule structures gained in popularity whereas other structures were constructed much less often. Currently, ninety-five percent of the total movable span bridges in the United States are swing, bascule, and vertical lift structures. There are no vertical lift bridges on the road system in Maryland.

The type of movable span bridge found most often in Maryland is the bascule bridge. In its most primitive stage, this type, the earliest of all movable bridges, was used to cross moats, or, in reverse, to deny any enemy access to a moated castle or fort by the simple device of withdrawing the span. These medieval bascules, with crude cables and no counterweights, were far removed from the technologically advanced modern bascule design. The forerunner of the modern type was developed in Europe during the first half of the nineteenth century. However, the real progenitor of the genre appeared in 1893 with the construction of Chicago's Van Buren Street Bridge, a rolling bascule, and in London's Tower Bridge, a roller-bearing trunnion bascule.

Bascule bridges may be single or double leaf, the single usually being used for short spans and the double for long ones. The most obvious advantage of the double leaf is that the two smaller leaves can be raised more quickly than a single larger one, and require smaller counterweights and moving parts. The cable lift bascule constitutes the earliest and most primitive of the bascules and has been largely abandoned in favor of the more modern and costly types.

Modern bascules are comprised of two classes: (1) the trunnion type; and (2) the rolling lift type. In the trunnion type the center of rotation remains fixed or nearly so and is at or close to the center of gravity of the rotating part. This is a

highly desirable feature where yielding foundations are unavoidable. In the rolling lift type the center of rotation continually changes and the center of gravity of the rotating part moves in a horizontal line, thereby shifting the point of application of the load on the pier, which is a faulty feature, unless the pier is founded on rock. In the roller bearing type, a variant of the trunnion type, the center of rotation remains fixed and coincides with the center of gravity of the moving mass. The trunnion is eliminated and the load is carried by a segmental circular bearing on rollers arranged in a circular track. In this way the load can be distributed over a greater area, thereby reducing the unit bearing stress; at the same time the frictional resistance to rotation is decreased.

The first modern bascule bridge to enjoy acceptance was the so-called rolling lift bascule, the Scherzer and the Rall being the two best-known variations. After the success of the Van Buren Street bascule, the Scherzer rolling lift bridge became increasingly popular with the railroads, especially in and around Chicago. The Rall type, manufactured by the Strobel Steel Construction Company, was never widely used.

The most common recent types of bascule are the simple trunnion or Chicago type, introduced about 1899 and named after the city that pioneered it with the Clybourne Avenue Bridge, and the multiple trunnion or Strauss type, named after the inventor J. B. Strauss. In the Chicago type, the whole weight of the leaf and its counterweight is borne by the trunnions located at the center of gravity of the entire mass. The most popular system by far was Strauss's bridge, either of the overhead-counterweight or heel-trunnion variety. Other varieties of trunnion bridges are the Page, Chicago City, Brown, and Waddell & Harrington types.

The early decades of the twentieth century were dominated by patented designs--Strauss, Scherzer and others--fabricated by numerous shops, many of which are no longer in existence. Designs were furnished by the patentee to fit a substructure designed for the site. Between 1873 and 1924, for example, 78 patents were issued for movable span designs and mechanisms. The major patentees were T. E. Brown, J. P. Cowing, C. L. Keller, J. W. Page, T. Rall, W. and A. Scherzer III, J. B. Strauss, J. A. L. and M. Waddell and B. L. Worden. Both Strauss and Scherzer received patents that had counterweights either above or below deck level, and were used for both railroad and highway service. In addition to the patented designs, custom designs were prepared by a limited number of consulting engineers.

Patented designs and custom designs were produced in this period, each having its place depending on the desire of the owners and on the adaptability of the patented design to special requirements and unusual site conditions. Certain locations warranted monumental structures that in general were custom

designed for the site. Elaborate decorative treatment was included in many of these.

By the 1940's patented designs were mostly in the public domain. Thus companies that had primarily promoted and used their own designs in the early decades of the twentieth century utilized many designs in the later decades which were no longer patented. Waddell and Harrington, for example, patented a bascule design (#952,485) in March 1910. By the time the successor firm, Waddell and Hardesty, submitted designs for Bridges 17006 and 2053 to Maryland State Highway Administration in the late 1940's and early 1950's, the movable span mechanisms utilized were no longer covered by patents.

In the period from 1941 to 1956 World War II and the post-war expansion occurred. Little civilian construction was done during the war years but the post-war boom in population was accompanied by a decline in dependence on rail travel and a substantial increase in automotive travel. The increases in vehicular travel necessitated widening of existing primary highways, many of which required replacement of older inadequate movable bridges with new larger structures. New four-lane and six-lane structures were common. Pressure to replace movable span with high level bridges was beginning to be felt, as motorists did not want to wait for movable bridges to be opened. This trend was further accelerated with the shift of focus and funds in the late 1950's to the building of the interstate system, which had few movable span bridges.

The general economic health of the railroads began its decline in this era and the new movable-railroad bridges were generally built only as a result of Federal aid for river improvements like channel widening or other subsidized construction. Patented designs faded from popularity in this period because of expiration of the patents, death of the patent holders and increasing sophistication on the part of the owners for structures designed to their particular requirements.

TYPES OF MOVABLE SPAN BRIDGES IN MARYLAND

I. **SWING BRIDGES.** These bridges consist of two-span trusses or girders which rotate horizontally. The spans are usually, but not necessarily, equal. When open, the swing spans are cantilevered from the pivot (center) pier; when closed, the spans are supported at the pivot pier and at two rest (outer) piers or abutments. In the closed condition, wedges are usually driven under the outer ends of the bridge to lift them, thereby providing a positive reaction sufficient to offset any possible negative reaction from live load and impact. This design feature prevents uplift and hammering of the bridge ends under live conditions. Swing spans are subdivided into:

A. **Center-Bearing.** This type of swing span carries the entire load of the bridge on a central pivot (usually metal disks). Balance wheels are placed on a circular track around the outer edges of the pivot pier to prevent tipping. When the span is closed, wedges similar to those at the rest piers are driven under each truss or girder at the center pier. This relieves the center bearing from carrying any live load. However, these wedges do not raise the span at the pivot pier, but are merely driven tight. Maryland currently has four swing spans on the road system and these are center-bearing structures.

Bridge 2081 (MD 436 over Weems Creek), built in 1929, is composed of thirteen 20-foot steel girder spans and two 48-foot pony steel truss swing spans. It was built under contract to the Commissioners of Anne Arundel County.

Bridge 4008 (MD 231 over Patuxent River), designed by the J. E. Greiner Company in 1950, has a through steel girder swing span.

Bridge 20023 (MD 331 over Choptank River), constructed in 1932 and also designed by the J.E. Greiner Company, is composed of two 215-foot through steel trusses, eight 24-foot concrete slab spans and a 219-foot swing span. It is known as the Dover Bridge.

B. **Rim-Bearing.** This type of swing span transmits all loads to the pivot pier, both dead and live, through a circular girder or drum to bevelled rollers. The rollers move on a circular track situated inside the periphery of the pier. The rollers are aligned and spaced on the track by concrete spacer rings. This type of swing span bridge also has a central pivot bearing which carries part of the load and is connected to the rollers by radial roller shafts. On both types of swing bridges, the motive power is usually supplied by an electric motor, although gasoline engines or manual power may also be used. The bridge is rotated by a circular rack and pinion arrangement.

II. **BASCULE BRIDGES.** In this type of bridge the leaf (movable portion of the decks) lifts up by rotating vertically about a horizontal trunnion (axle). This trunnion is positioned at the dead load centroid. Bascule bridges may be either single or double-leafed. In the former case, the entire span lifts about one end. A double-leafed bascule has a center joint and half of the span rotates about each end. It is obvious that a counterweight is necessary to hold the raised leaf in position. In older bridges, the counterweight is overhead, while in the more modern bridge, the counterweight is often placed below deck and lowers into a pit as the bridge is opened. When the bridge is closed, a forward bearing

support located in front of the trunnion is engaged and takes the live load reaction. On double-lead bascule bridges, a tail-lock behind the trunnion and a shear lock at the junction of the two leaves are also engaged to stiffen the deck. There are several varieties of bascule bridges, but the most common are:

A. Chicago (or simple) trunnion. This variety of bascule bridge consists of a forward lead and a rear counterweight arm which rotates about the trunnion. The trunnion bearings, in turn, are supported on the fixed portion of the bridge such as a trunnion girder, steel columns or on the pier itself.

Bridge 23002, the Snow Hill Bridge carries MD 12 over the Pocomoke River. Designed by the J.E. Greiner Company in 1932, it is composed of single 47-foot steel girder and a 45-foot single leaf bascule.

Bridge B147 carries Penninsula Expressway over Bear Creek. Although the Wilson T. Ballard Company designed the approach spans and roadway in 1958, the Diver Brothers Company may have designed the bascule span in 1960.

The Pennington Avenue Bridge (BC5217) over Curtis Creek was designed in 1976 and is also a trunnion. It was designed by Zollman Associates.

Bridge 2045 over Stony Creek was built in 1947. Is composed of fifteen 54-foot steel beam spans and a 75-foot double leaf bascule span.

Bridge 2053 carrying MD 181 over Spa Creek, was designed in 1946 by Waddell and Hardesty, a New York firm, and is composed of fourteen 55-foot steelbeam spans and a 62-foot double leaf bascule.

Bridge 17006, which formerly carried US 50/301 over Kent Narrows, but currently carries MD 18, was built by the same firm in 1952. It replaced an overhead counterweight bridge. Neither of these latter two bridges utilized a bascule design which was patented according to Mr. Richard W. Christie of Hardesty and Hanover, the successor of Waddell and Hardesty, as the heyday of patents had passed and all designs were more or less in the public domain.³

Bridge 22009 carries MD 991 over the Wicomico River and is composed of one 40-foot double leaf bascule. It was built in 1928 and carries Main Street over the Wicomico River in Salisbury, Maryland.

Bridge 22028, designed by the J.E. Greiner Company in 1962, carries US 50 over the Wicomico River. It is composed of a 19-foot and 36-foot steel beam spans and a 66-foot single leaf

bascule.

B. Rolling Lift (Scherzer) Bridge. This type is commonly known as a bascule, but the term "rolling lift" is more correct, according to bridge historian Otis Ellis Hovey. This is a bridge type whose complete superstructure, forward leaf or span itself, rear arm, and counterweight rolls back from the channel. This is accomplished with a quadrant or segmental girder whose center of rotation is at the centroid of the bascule. The girder rims roll along a toothed track and in so doing lifts and withdraws the leaf. A horizontal retraction of a cable or rack attached to the centroid of the bascule leaf produces this motion.

Seventeen bascule spans were built in Maryland prior to 1960 and are still open to traffic. At least seven are Scherzer designs and five were designed by the J.E. Greiner Company.

The oldest is bridge 23004, designed in 1920, which carries MD 675 over the Pocomoke River. It is a double leaf bascule bridge composed of four 36-foot concrete girder spans, two 13-foot girder spans and a 65-foot double leaf bascule span.

Bridge 9001, which carries MD 14 over Marshyhope Creek, was designed by the J.E. Greiner Company in 1931. It is composed of eight 35-foot concrete girder spans and a 60-foot double leaf bascule. Not opened since the 1970's, it is not possible to operate it mechanically.

Bridge 9008, carrying MD 795 over CambridgeCreek, was designed in 1938 by the Henry G. Perring Company, a Baltimore firm. It is composed of six 35-foot concrete girder spans and a 64-foot double leaf bascule.

Bridge 20001, carrying MD 33 over Knapps Narrows, was built in 1934 and is composed of two 15-foot and one 20-foot timber spans and a 50-foot single leaf bascule. It was built to replace a pullback draw bridge, the only one known to have ever existed in Maryland.

Bridge 14027, designed in 1930, is made up of thirty-four 35-foot concrete girder spans, four 33-foot concrete girder spans and a 89-foot double leaf bascule. It carries MD 213 over the Chester River in Chestertown. The entire superstructure was replaced in the late 1980's.

Bridge 23007, carrying US 50 over Sinepuxent Bay, has sixty-eight 28-foot concrete slab spans, a 77-foot steel beam span and a 70-foot double leaf bascule. It was built in 1942.

The final structure, B79, which carries Wise Road over Bear Creek, was likewise designed by the J.E. Greiner Company in

1943.

C. Rall Lift. This is a variation of the rolling lift bascule bridge in which the segmental girder is replaced by a large roller at the bascule's centroid. To open the bridge, the roller moves backward on a horizontal track. The only Rall structure known at this time to have been constructed in Maryland is bridge BC5210 which carries MD 2 (Hanover Street) over the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River. It was constructed in 1916 to plans developed by the J.E. Greiner Company, and is the oldest movable span structure remaining on Maryland highways.

D. Strauss Bascule Bridge. There have been more bascule spans built from the various Strauss designs than from those of any other single type of bascule according to Otis Ellis Hovey in his 1926 text on movable span bridges.⁴ The Strauss class of bascule bridge employs four trunnions connecting the sides of a parallelogram-shaped panel formed by the lift span and a fixed triangular rear panel. The principle trunnion about which the movable span rotates is at the heel of the truss. This parallelogram, in some form, is used in practically all of the Strauss bascule designs.

Strauss designs are of three general types: (1) the vertical overhead counterweight type; (2) the underneath counterweight type, (3) the heel trunnion type. With the underneath counterweight type the counterweight is lowered along a vertical axis below the road level. It may be cored out to clear the floor framing when a compact arrangement is necessary. When two leaves are used, the front shear locks and rear anchorages must be provided. The dead load on the trunnions is constant and the break in the floor is in front of the trunnions.

The only Strauss movable span which existed in the late twentieth century in Maryland was bridge 2070 carrying MD. 450 over the Severn River. Constructed in 1924, it is composed of approximately twenty 70-foot steel arches and a 95-foot bascule span. In the late 1970's the four spans at the eastern end of the bridge were replaced with four steel beam spans. It is an underneath counterweight type in which the counterweight is lowered along a vertical axis below the road level. This bridge was removed in 1994.

In 1995 there were twenty-two movable span bridges in Maryland, reduced from twenty-four in 1992 with the removal of Bridge No. 9014 in 1992 and Bridge No. 2070 in 1994. There are two modern replacement structures: Bridge No. 20018 (MD 370 over Miles River), and Bridge No. 14006 ((MD 213 over SassafRAS River). Four other structures are also quite recent: Bridge No. 16173 (I-495 over the Potomac River) was built in 1961, Bridge No. 22028 (US 50 over

the Wicoimico River) was built in 1962, Bridge No. B147 (Penninsula Expressway over Bear Creek) was built in 1960 and Bridge No. 5217 (Pennington Avenue over Curtis Creek) was designed by Zollman Associates in 1976. These structures have little historical interest.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Waddell, J. A. L. Bridge Engineering, Volume I (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc. 1916, p. 664

² Hardesty, Egbert, Henry W. Fischer, Richard W, Christie, "Fifty-Year History of Movable Bridge Construction-Part I", Journal of the Construction Division, ASCE, September, 1975, p. 512.

³ Personal communication with the author.

⁴ Hovey, Otis Ellis, Movable Bridges, Volumes I & II, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, 1926, P. 116.

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MOVABLE SPAN BRIDGES IN MARYLAND revised 1/19/95

<u>Name</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Route</u>	<u>Crossing</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Date</u>
Stony Creek	2045	MD 173	Stony Creek	DLB	1947,86
Spa Creek	2053	MD 181	Spa Creek	DLB	1946
Ridgely Ave	2081	MD 436	Weems Creek	PST Swing	1929,82
Benedict	4008	MD 231	Patuxent R	TSG Swing	1950
	9001	MD 14	Marshyhope Cr	DLB (NO)	1931
Maryland Ave	9008	MD 342	Cambridge Cr	DLB	1938
Sassafras	14006	US 213	Sassafras R	SLB	1987
Chestertown	14027	US 213	Chester R	DLB	1930,90
Woodrow Wilson	16173	I-495	Potomac R	DLB	1961,84
Kent Narrows	17006	MD 18	Kent River	DLB	1952
Tilghman	20001	MD 33	Knapps Narrows	SLB(OC)	1934,71
Miles River	20018	MD 370	Miles R	SLB	1984
Dover Bridge	20023	MD 331	Choptank R	TST Swing	1932
Main Street	22009	MD 991	Wicomico R	DLB	1928,81
US 50-Salisbury	22028	US 50	Wicomico R	SLB	1962
Snow Hill	23002	MD 12	Pocomoke R	SLB	1932
Pocomoke	23004	MD 675	Pocomoke R	DLB	1920,89
Ocean City	23007	US 50	Sinepuxent Bay	DLB	1941,80
	B79	Wise Rd	Bear Creek	DLB	1943
	BC5217	Pennington	Curtis Creek	DLB	1976
	B147	Peninsula	Bear Creek	DLB	1958
Hanover St	BC5210	MD 2	Patapsco(Mid.Br)	DLB	1916

DBL=Double Leaf Bascule

SLB=Single Leaf Bascule

PST Swing=Pony Steel Truss Swing

TSG Swing=Through Steel Girder Swing

TST Swing=Through Steel Truss Swing

OC= Overhead Counterweight and NO= Not Operable

GENERAL BRIDGE SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of bridges in Maryland is a difficult and subtle thing to gauge. The Modified significance criteria of the National Register, which are the standard for these judgements in Maryland, as in most states, must be broadly applied to allow for most of these structures. In particular the 50 year rule which specifies a minimum age for structures can be waived, and is more commonly done so for engineering structures than for others. Questions of uniqueness and typicality, exemplary types, etc., must set aside for now, because they presuppose a wider knowledge of the entire resources than is presently available. Indeed, this survey is an initial step toward understanding the extent to which Maryland's bridges are part of her cultural resources. Aesthetic considerations may have to be side-stepped entirely, for such structures as these are generally considered mundane and ordinary at best, and sometimes a negative landscape feature, by the layman. It does take a specialized aesthetic sense to appreciate such structures on visual grounds, but a case for visual significance can be made. The remaining criteria are those of historical associations. The relative youth of most of these structures precludes a strong likelihood of participation to events and lives of import. The best generalization can be made for most bridges is that they are built on site of early crossings, developing from fords and ferries through covered bridges and wooden trusses to their present state. This significance inheres in the site, however, and in most cases would not be diminished by the adsense of the present structure.

These criteria may also be addressed positively. The primary significance of these bridges, those which were built between the two World Wars, consists in their association with rapidly changing modes and trends in transportation in America during the period. The earliest of them saw the appearance of the automobile and its rise as the preëminent means of getting Americans from place to place. Roads were being improved for increased speeds and capacity, and bridges, as potential weak links on the system, became particularly important. The technology for producing them was not new, and would not change significantly during the period. Accordingly, great numbers of easily, quickly and relatively cheaply built concrete slab, beam and arch bridges were built to span the samll crossings, or were multiplied to cover longer crossings where height was no problem.

Truss bridges with major structural members of compound beams, of either the Warren or Pratt types, while more expensive and considered more intrusive on the landscape, were built to span the larger gaps.

With an aesthetic which allowed concrete slab bridges to have classical balustrades, or the application of a jazz-age concrete relief; with the considerable variety possible in the construction of medium sized metal trusses; and with the lack of nationwide standards for highway bridge design, the resulting body of structures displays considerable variety. The sameness of appearance of currently produced highway bridges leads one to believe this variety will not reappear. For that reason alone it is wise to keep watch over our existing bridges. Regardless of ones taste and aesthetic preference, one must be admitted that these older bridges add their variety and visual interest to the environment as a whole, and that it is often the case that their replacement by a standard highway bridge results in a visual hole in the landscape.

In situations requiring decisions of potential effect on these structures, they should receive some consideration. As the recording and subsequent understanding of Maryland's Cultural resources grows, they will be recognized as a significant part of that heritage.

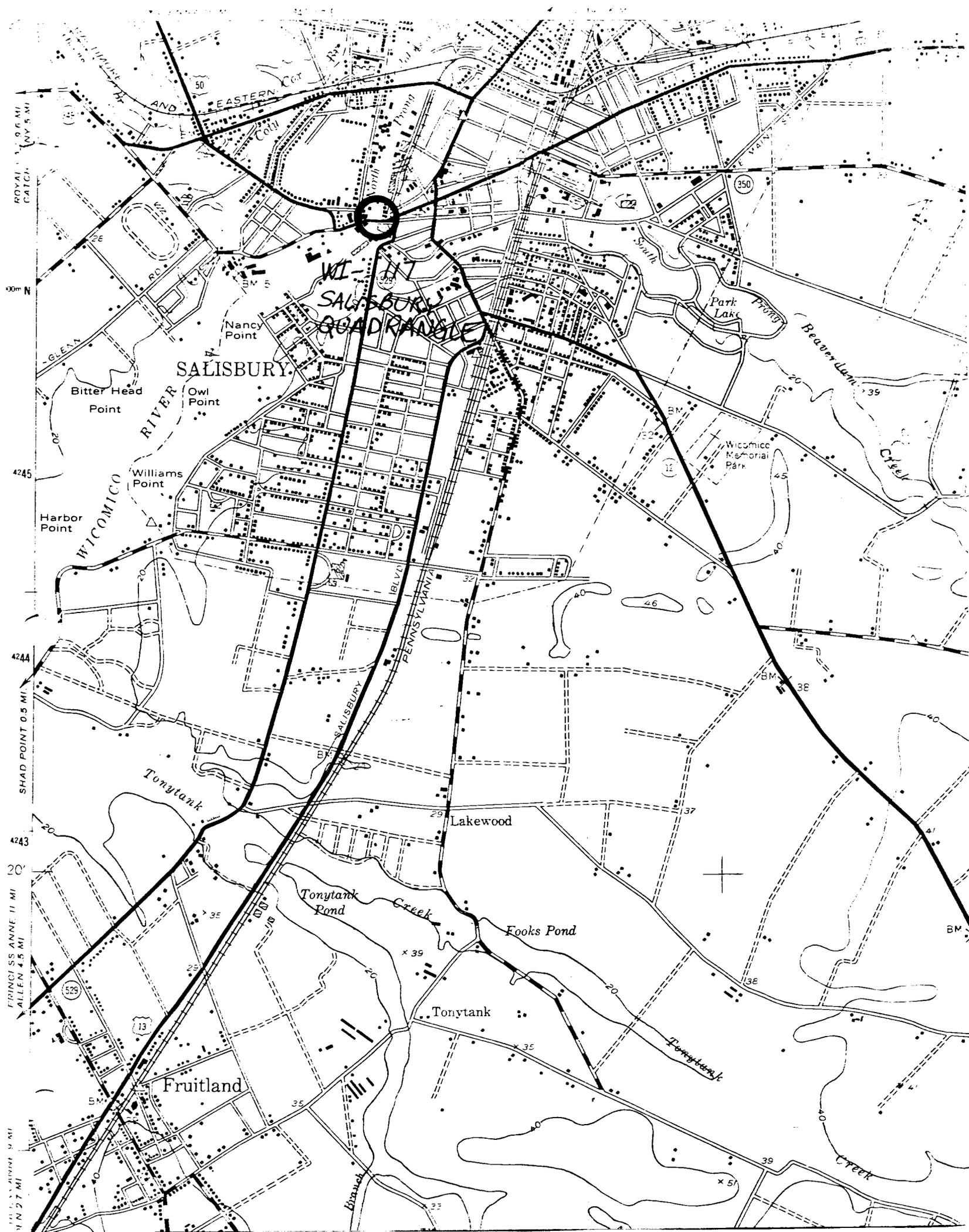
It should be noted that two non-negligible classes of structure have been omitted from this set. The first is the huge number of concrete slab or beam bridges of an average of twenty feet or less in length. These are so nearly ubiquitous and of such minor visual impact (they are often easy to drive across without noticing) that they were not inventoried. They are considered in the general recommendations section of the final report of this survey, however.

The second category is that of the "great" bridges, the huge steel crossings of the major waterways. While they are awesome and aesthetically appealing, they are not included in this inventory because they do not share the problems of their more modest counterparts. They do not lack for recognition, they have not been technologically outmoded, and are in no danger of disappearing through replacement. In a sense, they are not as rare; hundreds of

these great bridges are known nationally, and there is little doubt as to the position of any one bridge within national spectrum. There seems little point in including them with the larger inventory of bridges. From an arbitrary point of view, their dates are outside the 1935 limit which we set for the consideration of bridges. We have departed from that limit on occasion, but will not in this case. These bridges, too, will be considered in the final report.

Moveable bridges deserve a special note regarding their significance. They are rare, and all but the most recent of them have been listed by this survey by virtue of that fact alone. They are, by their nature as intermittent impediments to the smooth flow of traffic, threatened. We rarely tolerate disruptions to what we perceive as our progress. This has been demonstrated recently by the replacement of the drawbridge at Denton, on one of the major routes to the Atlantic Coast from the rest of Maryland.

However much we are inconvenienced by them, we must admit that moveable bridges contribute a share of interest to the landscape. As with significance judgements in general, we here enter a realm which is governed by taste and opinion. Some of us might not enjoy being forced to sit back for a while to look at the surroundings which we would otherwise totally ignore, especially if the engine is in danger of boiling over. But there are those who are fascinated by the slow rise of a great chunk of roadway, moved by quiet, often invisible machinery; who are amused by the tip of the mast which skims the top of the temporary wall; or who reflect on the nobility inherent in a river and the fact that we have not subdued every waterway with our autos, while knowing that we can if we want to.



WI-117
SALISBURY
QUADRANGLE

SALISBURY

Bitter Head Point
Owl Point

Williams Point

Harbor Point

Tonytank

Lakewood

Tonytank Pond
Creek

Fooks Pond

Tonytank

Fruitland

Creek

