

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Number: B-4523

Name: HARFORD RD. OVER CSX

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>

*copy*

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

MHT No. B-4523Name and SHA No. Harford Road Bridge (BC8026)**Location:**Street/Road Name and Number: Harford Road over CSXCity/Town: Baltimore \_\_\_\_\_ vicinityCounty: Baltimore \_\_\_\_\_Ownership: \_\_ 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 BC8026 carries Harford Road over the CSX system railroad in the City of Baltimore. Harford Road runs northeast-southwest at this location, while the railroad tracks run northwest-southeast. The bridge is situated within a predominantly commercial area with a few residential units. It is bordered by a high school to the northeast, an alley and parking lot to the southeast, a Firestone tire dealer to the northwest, and defunct gas station to the southeast.*

**Describe Superstructure and Substructure:  
(Discuss points identified in Context Addendum, Section C)**

*Bridge BC8026 is a single span stone arch structure measuring 26 feet in length. Its arch is lined with evenly shaped voussoirs. Abutments flare at perpendicular angles to the roadway, and are topped with a series of stepped capstones. Original parapets have been replaced with concrete and chain-link fence.*

**Discuss major alterations:**

*Other than the aforementioned parapet replacement, no major alterations appear to have been undertaken at this bridge. However, minor modifications such as lining the arch barrel with shotcrete or gunnite, have occurred at some point in the past. It should be noted that at the time the bridge was built, the electric overhead "third rail" was in place along the top of the arch. This feature has since been removed.*

**History:**

**When Built:** 1895

**Why Built:** *as part of B&O Railroad's Baltimore Belt Line*

**Who Built:** *B&O Railroad*

**Who Designed:** *B&O Railroad*

**Why Altered:** *stabilization of structure*

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

*Bridges BC8026, BC8027, BC8028, BC8029 and BC8030 were constructed during the 1890s as part of the grade separation campaign associated with the B&O Railroad's Baltimore Belt Line. As related structures, these bridges together are potentially eligible under Criterion A for their role as part of the first electric railway in the country.*

**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?**

*Bridge BC8026, along with more than half a dozen others like it, was constructed as part of the Baltimore and Ohio's pioneer railway line named the Baltimore Belt Railroad. Prior to the opening of this line, the B&O had no way to connect its Camden Station on the southwestern side of the city with its Philadelphia line on the northeastern end of town. Several options were considered, including a raised track around the north side of the harbor, but the combination of the expense and outrage by residents prompted the company to seek an alternative solution. The final design called for the construction of a massive tunnel connecting Camden Station with the North Avenue area along the line of Howard Street, with the line then passing under the specially designed North Avenue portal up along Jones Falls valley to Huntingdon Avenue, and finally cutting across town along the general route of 26th Street to meet up with the Philadelphia line.*

*Measuring only 7.3 miles in total length, the Baltimore Belt Line was nevertheless an engineering nightmare. Since the grade from Camden Station to northern Baltimore was higher than most trains could comfortably handle under steam power, it was decided early on to utilize electricity as the means for solving the problem. Unfortunately, at this time electric traction was still in its infancy, although developing quickly. In 1892, B&O bravely signed a contract with the newly formed General Electric Company to provide electric power to the Baltimore Belt Line. Once implemented, this would be the first electrification of a railway in the country. In another innovative move, the Howard Street tunnel was to be the longest soft-earth tunnel of its kind nationally (measuring 7340 feet in length).*

*Beginning at Huntingdon Avenue and 26th Street, the Baltimore Belt Line turned sharply east and traveled through the soon to be developed residential area called Peabody Heights (now referred to as Charles Village) and the already established community of Waverley near York Road. This section of railway was constructed by excavating a deep channel for the tracks, and erecting a series of short tunnels (or bridges, depending on one's point of view) at the street crossing locations overhead.*

*The Baltimore Belt Line was under construction from 1890 to 1896. The first trains to use the line began running in May, 1895, although this was only under steam power and only travelling in one direction. Ironically, while the B&O Railroad suffered sizable losses during the coming years, the Baltimore Belt Line has remained a popular and well used route to this day.*

**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?***Unknown.*

**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?**

*Bridge BC8026 may be situated in an area eligible for historic designation. If so, the bridge would add to both the historic and visual character of the possible district.*

**Is the bridge a significant example of its type?**

*Bridge BC8026 is a well preserved example of the stone arch bridge.*

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

*Bridge BC8026 possesses historic integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Despite the minimal alterations discussed above, this bridge still retains integrity of most of its original components, including the stone arch ring, barrel, and abutments.*

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

*As components of the first electric railway, Bridges BC8026, BC8027, BC8029 and BC8030 are together potentially eligible under Criterion C as significant examples of the B&O Railroad's grade separation design and engineering campaign in Baltimore during the 1890s.*

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

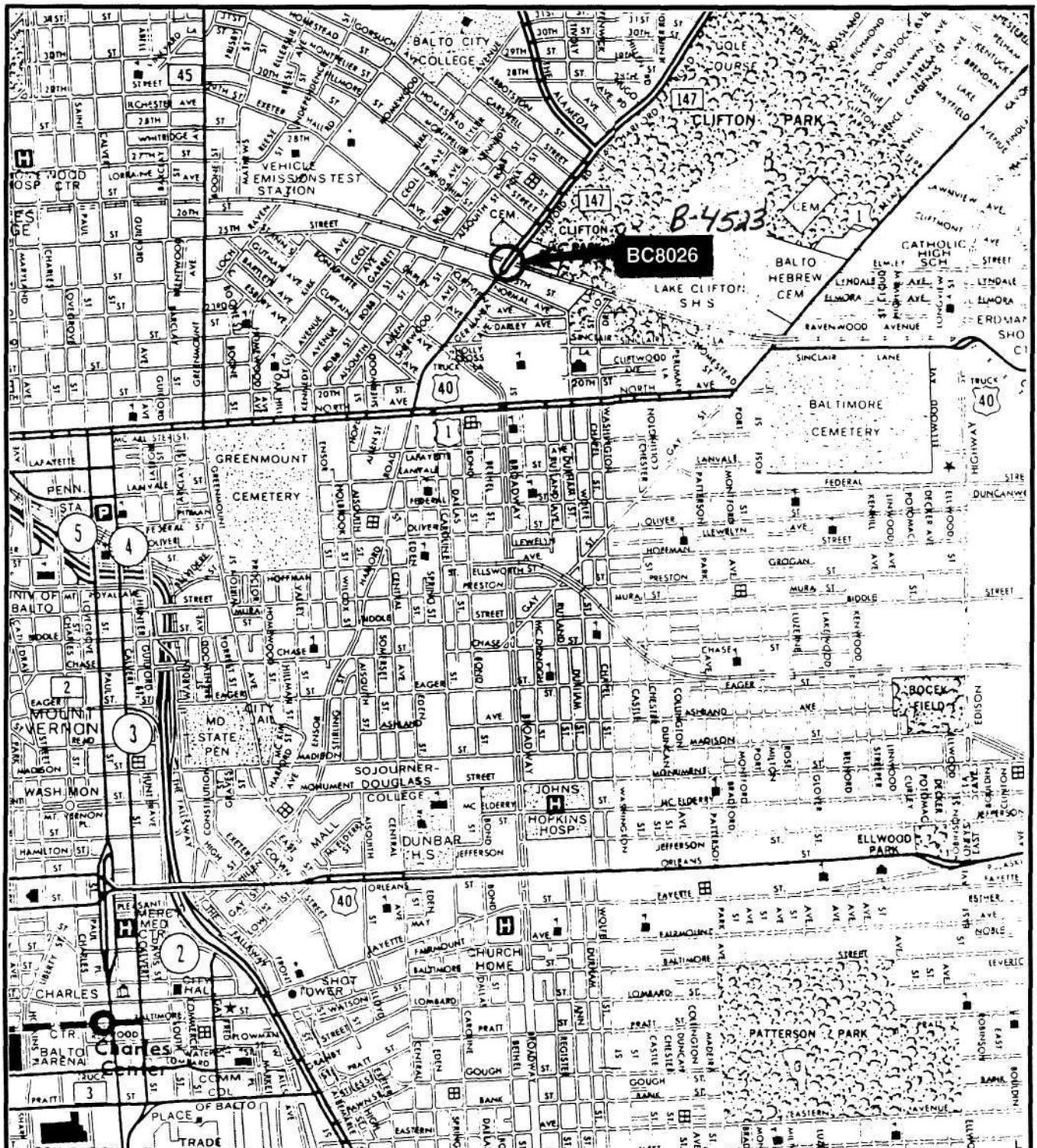
*No further evaluation is necessary to determine National Register significance. However, additional research concerning the railroad's effect on the development of the neighborhood may be useful in providing a more complete picture of the bridge's background.*

**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.**

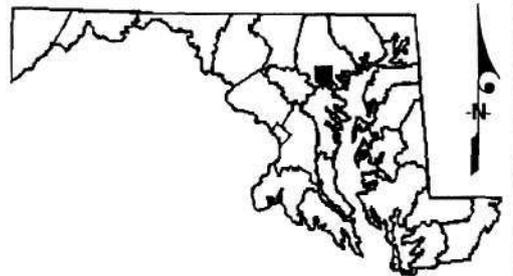
**Surveyor:**

<b>Name:</b>	<u>Alice Crampton/Julie Abell</u>	<b>Date:</b>	<u>12/2/94</u>
<b>Organization:</b>	<u>Parsons Engineering Science, Inc.</u>	<b>Telephone:</b>	<u>(703) 591-7575</u>
<b>Address:</b>	<u>10521 Rosehaven Street</u>		
	<u>Fairfax, Virginia 22030-2899</u>		

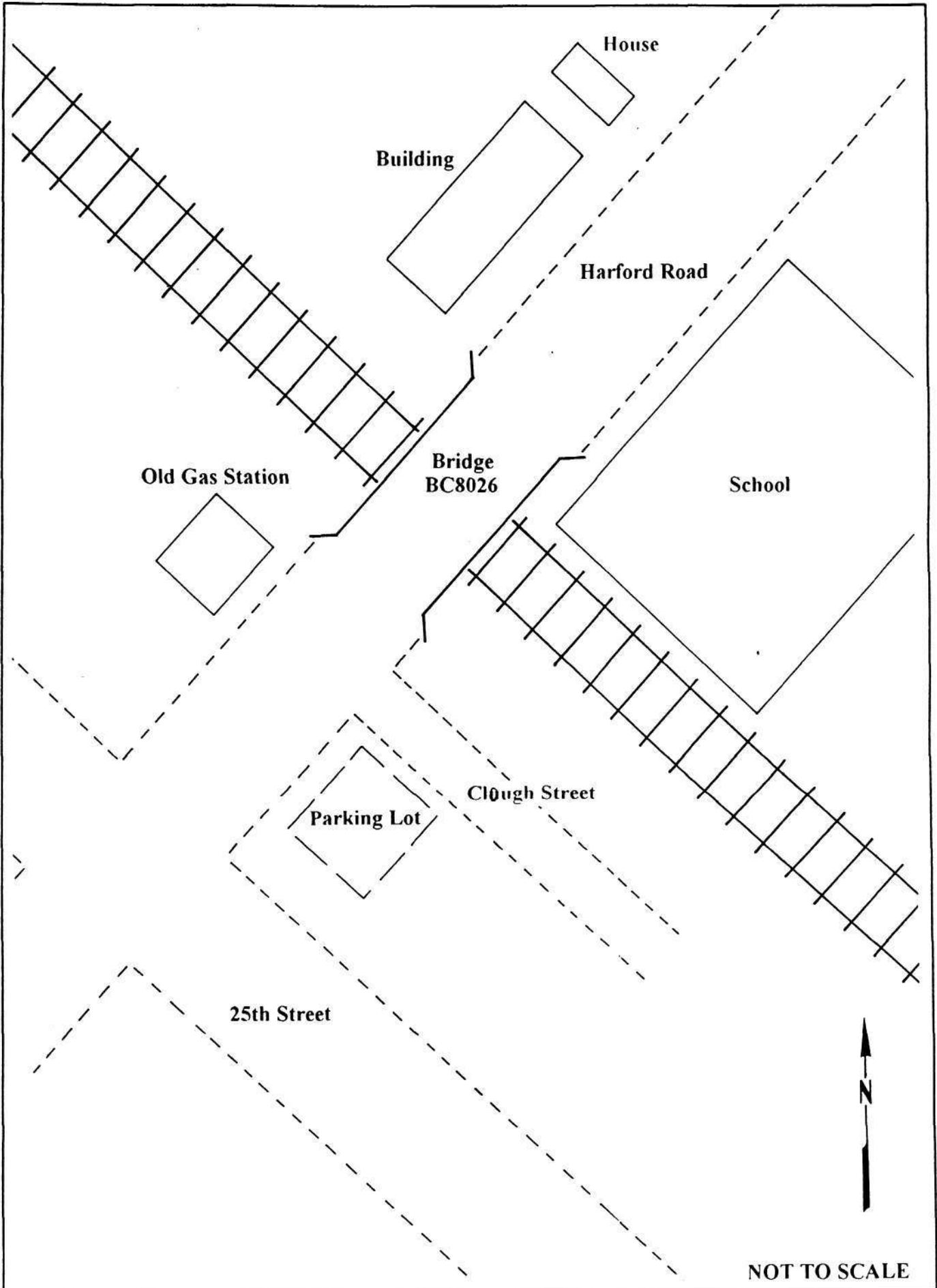


**Baltimore City - Bridge Number BC8026**  
 Harford Road over CSX

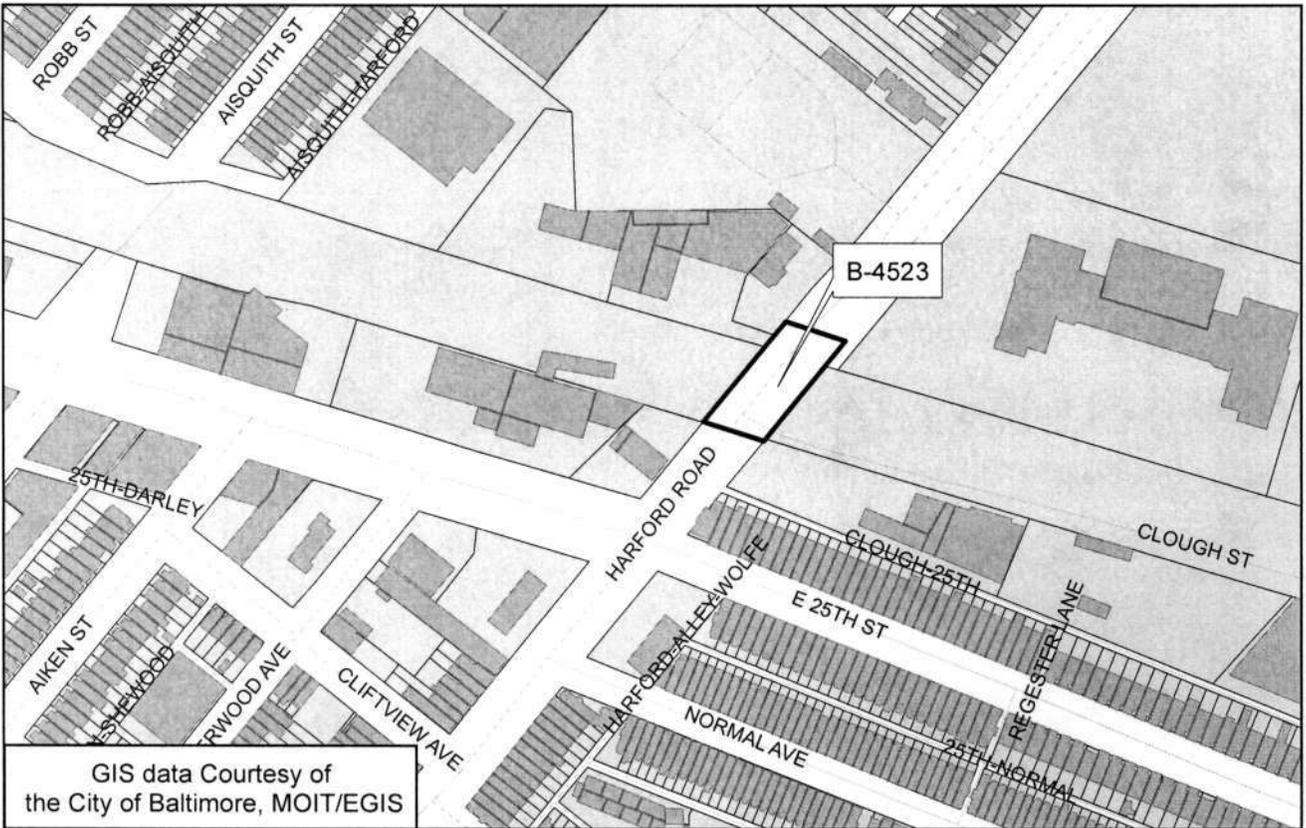
Scale 0 1000 2000 feet  
 0 0.5 kilometer



B-4523



B-4523  
Harford Road Bridge (BC8026)  
Harford Road over CSX  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad





B-4523

Hartford Road Bridge (BC8026)

Baltimore County, Maryland

Julie Abell

12/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

Southeast elevation

1 of 5



B-4523

Harford Road Bridge (BC 8026)

Baltimore County, Maryland

Julie Abell

12/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

Southeast elevation

2 of 5



B-4523

Harford Road Bridge (BC8026)

Baltimore County, Maryland

Julie Abell

12/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

Northwest elevation

3 of 5



B-4523

Harford Road Bridge (BC8026)

Baltimore County, Maryland

Julie Abell

12/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

Approach looking northeast

4 of 5



B-4523

Harford Road Bridge (BC8026)

Baltimore County, Maryland

Julie Abell

12/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

Approach looking southwest

5 of 5