CARR-1563

Twin Arch Bridge
Mt. Airy c. 1901

Summary:

When the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad built their Main Line to the west, they generally followed the south branch of the Patapsco River, with portions of the line alternating between the north or Carroll County side, and portions on the south or Howard County side. A major reconstruction of the Main Line was performed in 1901, and this included the construction of the Twin Arch Bridge. One arch allows passage of the road beneath the tracks, while the other is for the Patapsco. The bridge, therefore, straddles the Carroll-Howard border, although the bulk of the bridge rests in Carroll. This is the largest and most elaborate stone bridge to survive in Carroll County, as well as the most visible. It is threatened by the proposed widening of Twin Arch Road, since there is only one lane for traffic through the bridge.
1. Name  (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Twin Arch Bridge

2. Location

street & number Twin Arch Road at CSX RR tracks

city, town Mt. Airy  X vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland  county Carroll

3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>occupied</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>being considered</td>
<td>entertainment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accessible

| yes: restricted |

| yes: unrestricted |

| no |

Present Use

| agriculture |

| commercial |

| educational |

| entertainment |

| government |

| industrial |

| military |

| museum |

| park |

| private residence |

| religious |

| scientific |

| transportation |

| other: |

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

name CSX Transportation

street & number

city, town

technical no.:  state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex  liber

street & number 55 N. Court Street  folio

city, town Westminster  state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

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

Contributing Resources: 1

The Twin Arch Road bridge is located at the intersection of Twin Arch Road and the CSX Railroad tracks, approximately one and one-half miles southeast of Mt. Airy in southwestern Carroll County, Maryland. The bridge carries the railroad tracks over Twin Arch Road and the south branch of the Patapsco River. With one arch over the road and the other over the river, the bridge lends its name to the road. The arch over the river appears to be narrower than that over the road. However, there is too much traffic to safely measure the arches. The bridge walls and voussoirs are of large granite ashlar. The retaining walls are splayed and have corbie steps. The top stones on the retaining walls and on the face of the wall that contains the arches, are larger and are set so that they project approximately two inches beyond the face of the wall. Both sides of the bridge are identical, although the retaining wall is longer on the stream side. Inside each tunnel there are stone walls up to the spring line with brick barrel vaults above.
### Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

- prehistoric
- archeology-prehistoric
- archeology-historic
- agriculture
- architecture
- art
- commerce
- communications
- invention
- industry
- exploration/settlement
- conservation
- economics
- education
- engineering
- philosophy
- landscape architecture
- law
- literature
- military
- music
- politics/government
- religion
- science
- social/humanitarian
- sculpture
- theater
- transportation
- other (specify)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Specific dates</th>
<th>Builder/Aarchitect</th>
<th>check: Applicable Criteria: <strong>A__B__XC__D</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900-</td>
<td>1901</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
Chronological/Development Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930
Historic Period Themes: Transportation
Resource Types: Bridge

When the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad built their Main Line to the west, they generally followed the south branch of the Patapsco River, with portions of the line alternating between the north or Carroll County side, and portions on the south or Howard County side. A major reconstruction of the Main Line was performed in 1901, and this included the construction of the Twin Arch Bridge. One arch allows passage of the road beneath the tracks, while the other is for the Patapsco. The bridge, therefore, straddles the Carroll-Howard border, although the bulk of the bridge rests in Carroll. This is the largest and most elaborate stone bridge to survive in Carroll County, as well as the most visible. It is the threatened by the proposed widening of Twin Arch Road, since there is only one lane for traffic through the bridge.
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: N/A

Quadrangle name: Damascus

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

UTM References: do NOT complete UTM references

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Kenneth M. Short, Historic Planner

Organization: Carroll County Planning & Development

Date: March 24, 1998

Street & Number: 225 North Court ST

Telephone: (410) 386-2145

City or Town: Westminster

State: Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

Return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Maryland Historical Trust
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2022
(410) 514-7600
CARR-1563
Twin Arch Bridge
Twin Arch Road at CSX RR Tracks
Quad: Mt. Airy DAMASCUS
Twin Arch Bridge
Twin Arch Rd at CSX RR Tracks
Carroll County, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M. Short
Date: December 1997
Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust
W. End 1/2
Twin Arch Bridge
Twin Arch Road at CSX RR Tracks
Carroll County Maryland
Photo: Kenneth N. Short
Date: December 1991
Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust
VW. West
2/2