

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes   
no

Property Name: Redwood Avenue German POW Bridge, Ft. Meade Inventory Number: AA-2367  
 Address: Redwood Avenue City: Fort George G. Meade Zip Code: 20755-5115  
 County: Anne Arundel USGS Topographic Map: Odenton, MD  
 Owner: Fort George G. Meade Is the property being evaluated a district?  yes  
 Tax Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Project: Fort Meade Cultural Resource Management Plan Update Agency: U.S. Army  
 Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is the property located within a historic district?  yes  no

*If the property is within a district* District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NR-listed district  yes Eligible district  yes District Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource  yes  no Non-contributing but eligible in another context

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)*  
 Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible  yes  no

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

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Fort Meade Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan, Dec. 2006

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The German POW-constructed Redwood Avenue bridge is significant for its contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The area of significance is U.S. Military history, and the period of significance is 1944, the date of its construction. The stone bridge at Fort Meade is historically significant for its association with the German POW's in Maryland during World War II. The bridge is significant as one of only three know structures (bridges) built by POW labor on a military installation in Maryland during the war.

A portion of the southwestern portion of Fort Meade was utilized as a prisoner of war (POW) camp during the Second World War. The facilities were used to house both Italian and German POWs. The POW facilities consisted of temporary wood frame buildings and tents. The first shipment of POWs, consisting of 1,632 Italian and 58 German soldiers arrived at Fort Meade in September of 1943. During the Second World War POWs were spread across 511 branch camps in 44 states across the nation. The German POW population in the United States reached a peak of 425,000 in May and June 1945.

In May of 1944 the Fort Meade POW camp was expanded to house 2,000 German POWs. The camp was divided into three sections, Enlisted Men's, Anti -Nazi, and Officer's Camps. In addition to the main camp at Fort Meade there were an additional 18 branch/work camps located in Maryland. In August of 1945 the German POW population reached a peak of

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: _____	
<u>Jonathan Sage</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>1/24/08</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, NR Program	<u>1/28/08</u> Date

200704180

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

AA-2367

9,300 soldiers in Maryland. Nationwide many of the POWs were employed during the war. They were primarily used in agriculture and manufacturing to replace men serving in the military. In Maryland POWs were typically employed in agricultural, pulp wood, and industrial activities. In 1944 the German POWs began operating the post laundry on Fort Meade.

At Fort Meade German POWs were also utilized in the construction of three bridges on the installation. The bridges are located at stream crossings across the Franklin Branch Creek. The bridges are located on Llewellyn, Redwood, and Leonard Wood Avenues. There is also oral history that indicates the POWs may have been involved in conducting maintenance and repair work in the residences on Fort Meade.

Since the POWs were primarily involved with agricultural production there are virtually no physical reminders of their presence in Maryland. The facilities associated with the POW camp have all been removed. The bridges are among the few tangible reminders of the POW presence at Fort Meade and in Maryland during World War II. The bridges are the only known structures built on a military installation in Maryland by POW labor. The only other known structure in Maryland built by POW labor is the entrance gate to a satellite POW camp located in Germantown, Maryland. Today the stone gate serves as the entrance to the Emory Grove Center near Gaithersburg, Maryland. The bridges at Fort Meade were all designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, MD  
21203-1715

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Prepared: December 2006  
\_\_\_\_\_

Redwood Avenue Bridge  
MIHP #: AA 2367  
Fort George G. Meade  
1944  
Public Access

#### Capsule Summary

The Redwood Avenue Bridge was constructed in 1944. It is the most ornate of the three bridges constructed by the POWs. The bridge is a concrete structure with stone facing on the side walls. The sidewalls have a concrete capstone on the west wall and a stone capstone on the east wall. The bridge is two lanes wide, 39' 6" wide at its narrowest portion (the center of its span), and 61' 6" wide at its widest portion (from wing wall to wing wall). The bridge is 44' 6" long. The span under the bridge is arched. Three concrete culverts carry the stream flow under the bridge. There is also a small stone wing wall located in the stream channel on the north east (upstream) side of the bridge. The bridge contains a sandstone memorial plaque that reads: *Hoc opus captivi est captis germanici AD MCMXLI.V.*

Three bridges built by German POWs were evaluated for NRHP eligibility under Criterion A, for "events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history." The level of significance was considered at the local and state level. The Area of Significance considered was military history, and the period of significance is 1944 to 1946, the dates of construction. The three stone bridges at Fort Meade are historically significant for their association with the German POWs in Maryland during World War II. The bridges are significant as the only known structures built by POW labor on a military installation in Maryland during the war. The bridges are all recommended as being eligible for listing in the NRHP.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AA-2367

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Redwood Avenue German Prisoner of War (POW ) Bridge

other

### 2. Location

street and number Redwood Avenue \_\_ not for publication

city, town Fort George G. Meade \_\_ vicinity

county Anne Arundel

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

name Fort George G. Meade

street and number telephone 301-677-9855

city, town Fort Meade state MD zip code 20755-5115

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber folio

city, town tax map tax parcel tax ID number

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District  
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Recorded by HABS/HAER  
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> defense	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory**

\_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

Inventory No. AA-2367

### Condition

excellent      \_\_\_ deteriorated  
 good            \_\_\_ ruins  
 fair              \_\_\_ altered

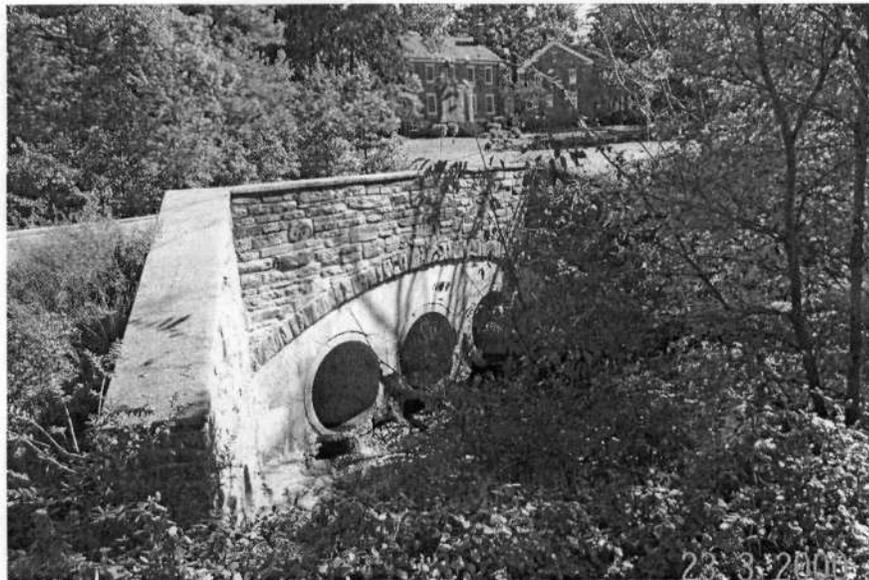
Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Redwood Avenue Bridge was constructed in 1944. It is the most ornate of the three bridges at Fort Meade constructed by the POWs. It is a concrete structure with stone faced side walls. The sidewalls have a concrete capstone on the west wall and a stone capstone on the east wall. The bridge is two lanes wide. The bridge is 39' 6" wide and 61' 6" wide from the end of each wing wall. The bridge is 44' 6" long. The span under the bridge is arched. A portion of the west exterior stone facing has collapsed and been repaired. Three concrete culverts carry the stream flow under the bridge. There is also a small stone wing wall located in the stream channel on the north east (upstream) side of the bridge. A portion of the stone façade on the south wall has collapsed into the stream. The area that failed has been repaired and the repaired area is not detectable. The bridge contains a sandstone memorial plaque that reads:

*Hoc Opus Captivi Est  
Captis Germanici AD  
MCMLIV*

The rough translation of the Latin for this inscription reads:

"the hard work of German prisoners built this"



**Redwood Avenue Bridge**

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. AA-2367

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

**Specific dates** 1944 - 1946 **Architect/Builder** German Prisoners of War

**Construction dates** 1944

Evaluation for:

National Register       Maryland Register       not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. AA-2367

*Draft Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan*  
Fort George G. Meade,  
Anne Arundel County, Maryland  
December 2006

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 0.1  
Acreage of historical setting 5,506 (acreage of Ft. Meade)  
Quadrangle name Odenton, MD      Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The bridge is located along Redwood Avenue at Fort George G. Meade, MD.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title			
organization	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	date	December 2006
street & number	P.O. Box 1715	telephone	410-962-4995
city or town	Baltimore	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600





1. AA 2367
2. REDWOOD AVENUE BRIDGE, FORT MEADE
3. ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND
4. U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
5. NOVEMBER 2005
6. USACE, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
7. VIEW FACING NORTH
8. 10F2

NE#

017 20.02.07 RITZ

003



1. AA 2367
2. RECON AVENUE BRIDGE, FORT MEADE
3. ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND
4. U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
5. NOVEMBER 2005
6. USACE, BALTIMORE DISTRICT
7. VIEW FACING SOUTHEAST
8. 2042

003 NNN 021 20.02.07 RITZ NE#