

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Number: B-4522

Name: ENGLISHTOWN OVER FORMER JONES FALLS

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.

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

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

MHT No. B-4522

Name and SHA No. Eager Street Bridge (BC8001)

**Location:**

Street/Road Name and Number: Eager Street over former Jones Falls

City/Town: Baltimore \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity

County: Baltimore \_\_\_\_\_

Ownership: \_\_State \_\_County x Municipal \_\_Other

This bridge projects over: \_\_Road \_\_Railway \_\_Water x Land

Is the bridge located within a designated district: \_\_yes x no

\_\_NR listed district \_\_NR determined eligible district

\_\_locally designated \_\_other

Name of District \_\_\_\_\_

**Bridge Type:**

\_\_ Timber Bridge

\_\_ Beam Bridge \_\_ Truss-Covered \_\_ Trestle \_\_ Timber-and-Concrete

x 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 BC8001 carries the former line of Eager Street running east-west over the former path of Jones Falls flowing north-south. Presently, however, this bridge is almost completely obscured by other, newer structures. Only the top of the arch is now discernible. The abutment bearing seats for structures BC1301 to the south and BC1501 to the north have been built atop BC8001. The area between BC1301 and BC1501 on top of the arch has been filled in and a concrete pavement placed on top. Structure BC1502 abuts the structure to the east. Beneath the bridge, Jones Falls has been channelled through a viaduct and is no longer visible. The top of this conduit and the lower portion of the bridge have been covered with fill, so that the ground surface is now approximately even with the former banks of Jones Falls, which once supported railroad lines. The visible portion of the bridge is surrounded by a parking lot and the lower level of an historic prison.*

**Describe Superstructure and Substructure:**

**(Discuss points identified in Context Addendum, Section C)**

*This bridge has a single span of coursed brick with cut rectangular stone voussoirs of even width and size. There is no obvious keystone. As originally built, the bridge had a span of 65 feet, a rise of 24 feet, and a radius of 34 feet. The side walls, now destroyed, were 5 feet high. The initial roadway was 39.3 feet wide and paved with cobblestone. Two footways, each 15.7 feet wide, were paved with brick. Presently, only the top of the arch is visible.*

**Discuss major alterations:**

*Bridge BC8001 has been impacted by several other bridge building episodes. Built in 1865, it was first modified in 1913 when the Fallsway Viaduct was constructed. Later, it was significantly altered when the Jones Falls Expressway was constructed in 1975. The result is that the original Eager Street roadway alignment is now obliterated, both ends of the bridge have been walled up, and the top of the bridge is covered with concrete.*

**History:**

**When Built:** 1865

**Why Built:** to replace an earlier bridge at this location

**Who Built:** Barnhard Clark

**Who Designed:** unknown

**Why Altered:** construction of Jones Falls Viaduct and Jones Falls Expressway

**Was this bridge built as part of an organized bridge building campaign:** no

**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?**

*The first recorded bridge to span Jones Falls was erected at Gay Street beginning in 1732. Prior to this time, the area had been divided into two distinct regions: Baltimore Town to the west of the falls and Jones Town to the east of the falls. After the construction of the bridge, the two areas merged to form Baltimore Town, and from that point onward, the successive building of bridges over Jones Falls had begun. Each new bridge facilitated further transportation and commerce between the two parts of the city.*

*Bridge BC8001 was constructed in 1865 to replace an earlier bridge at this location that was structurally unsound. This first bridge, of iron suspension construction, was built in 1854. By 1863, it was necessary to secure the bridge because corrosion or overloading had weakened critical components of the structure. Two years later the iron bridge was removed, and the present bridge was erected in its place.*

**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?**

*This bridge facilitated travel between the areas to the east and west of Jones Falls in Baltimore, which in turn encouraged growth and development of the downtown section of the city.*

**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?**

*This bridge is located in a heavily developed section of Baltimore and directly adjacent to an historic prison. It is very possible that the area surrounding the bridge may be eligible for historic designation, and if so, the bridge would be a significant addition to both the historic and visual character of the possible district.*

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

*Despite its modifications, this is still a significant example of the stone arch bridge. Additionally, it is the oldest surviving bridge over Jones Falls in Baltimore.*

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

*Bridge BC8001 still possesses integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship, although it no longer can claim integrity of setting, feeling or association due to the significant alterations to the landscape. It appears as though this bridge still retains integrity of some of its primary components, including the arch ring and barrel, spandrel walls, and abutments.*

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

*When this bridge was built by Barnhard Clark in 1865, it was highly praised. Many bridges over Jones Falls had been damaged or destroyed as a result of flooding, and it was expected, even then, that this bridge would not suffer that fate. Today, it is the oldest remaining bridge over Jones Falls. It is potentially eligible under Criterion C as a significant example of the work of its builder.*

**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 history of this bridge and its relationship to the surrounding area may be useful in providing a more complete picture of the bridge's background.*

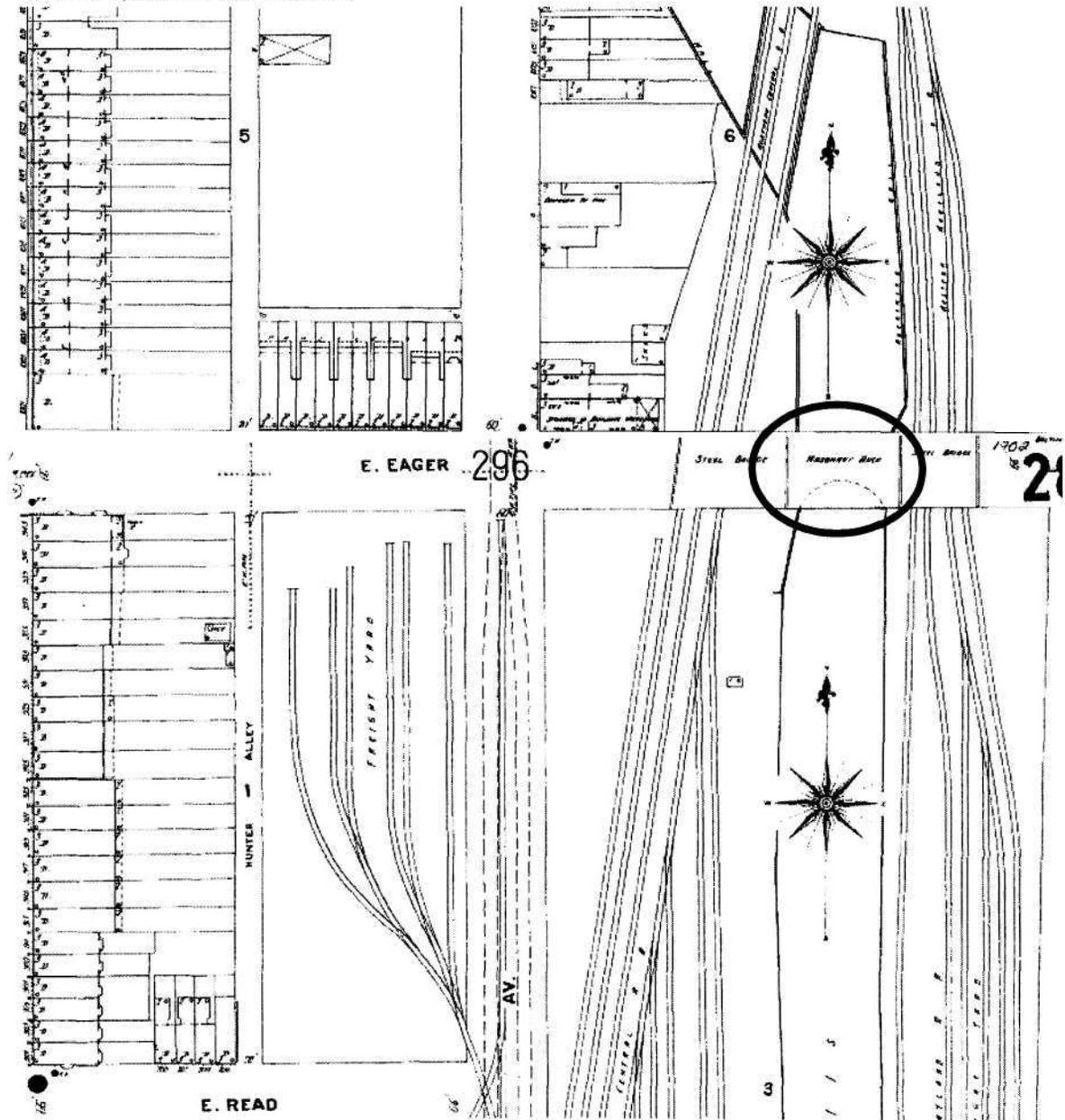
**Provide black and white prints and negatives and color slides of bridge, details, and setting labeled according to NR Bulletin 16A and Maryland Supplement to Bulletin 16A.**

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

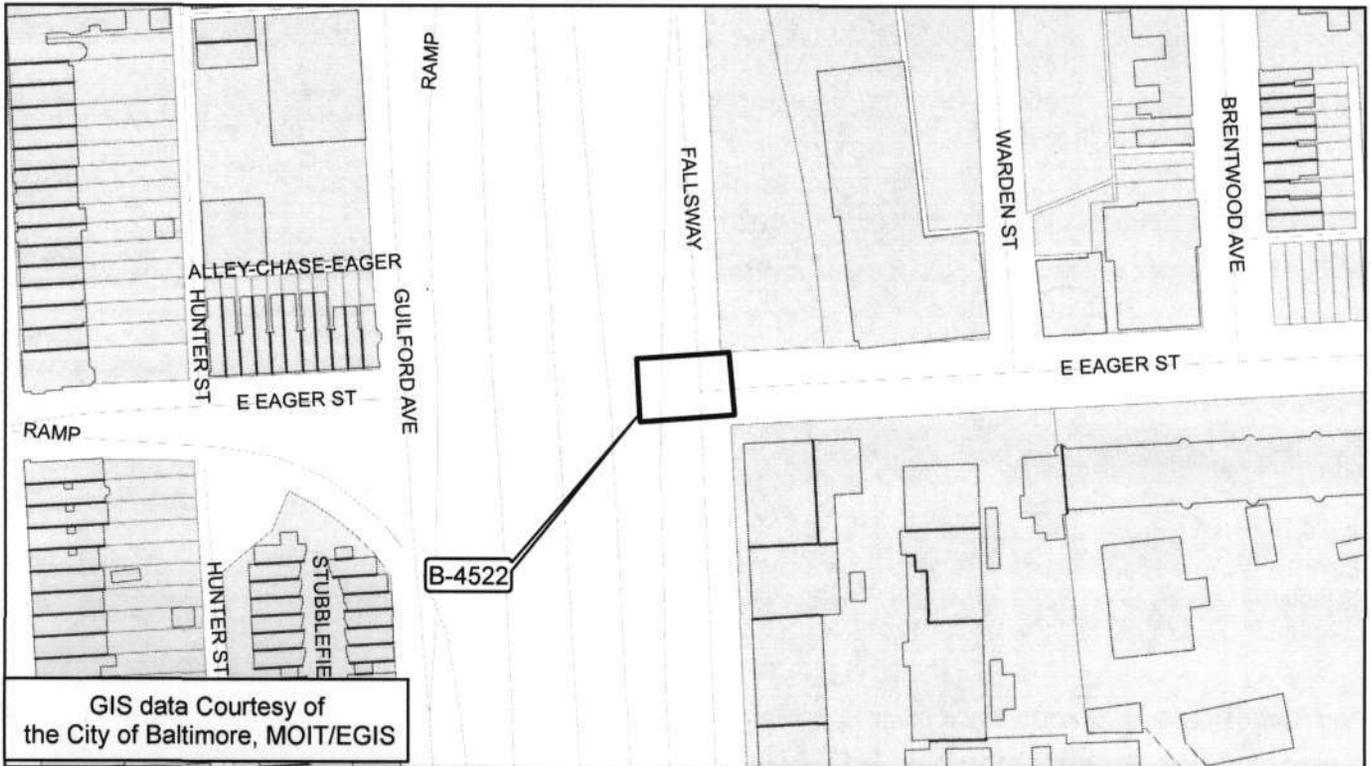
**Surveyor:**

<b>Name:</b>	<u>Alice Crampton/Julie Abell</u>	<b>Date:</b>	<u>12/8/94</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>		

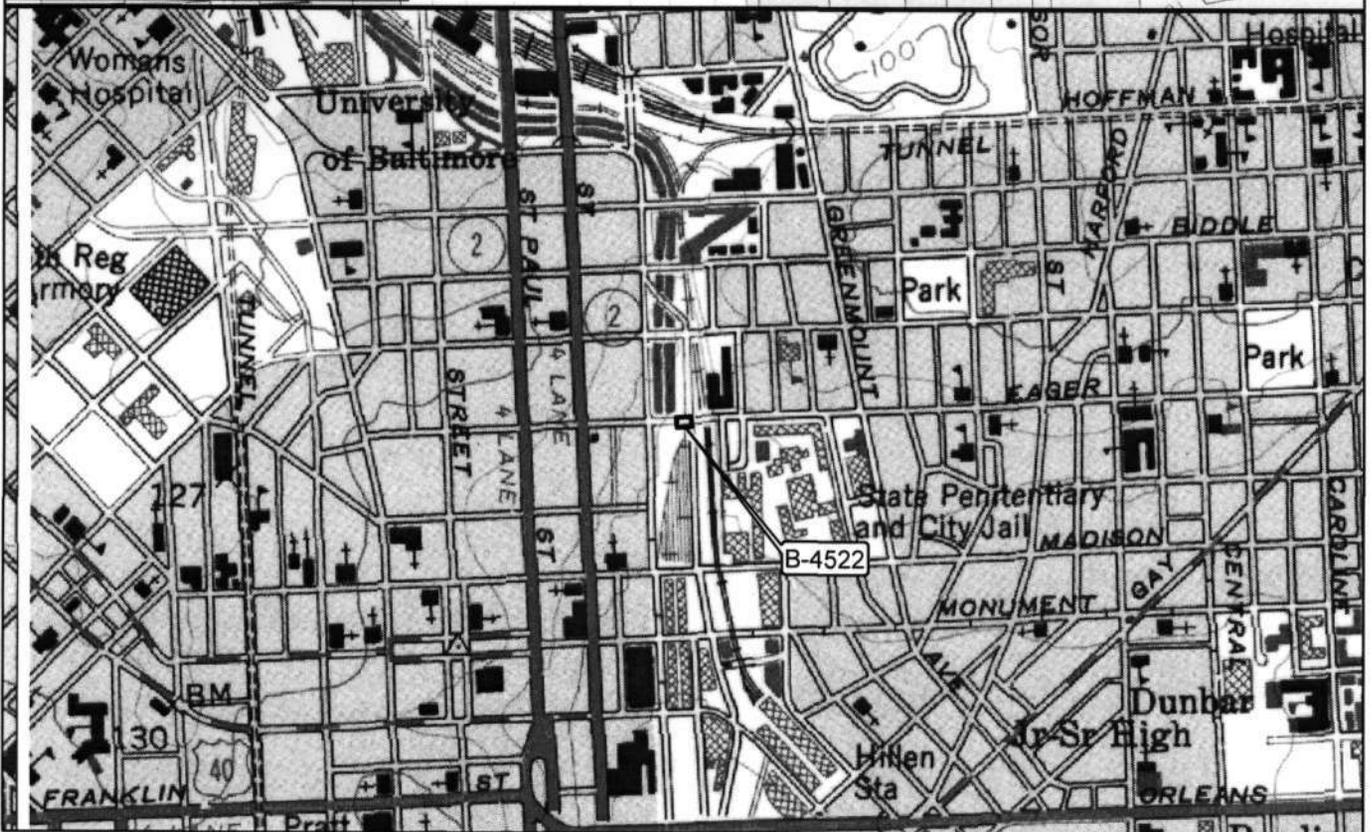
B-4522  
Eager Street Bridge (BC8001)  
Eager Street over former Jones Falls  
Sanborn Map 1902  
Volume 3, sheets 284 and 296



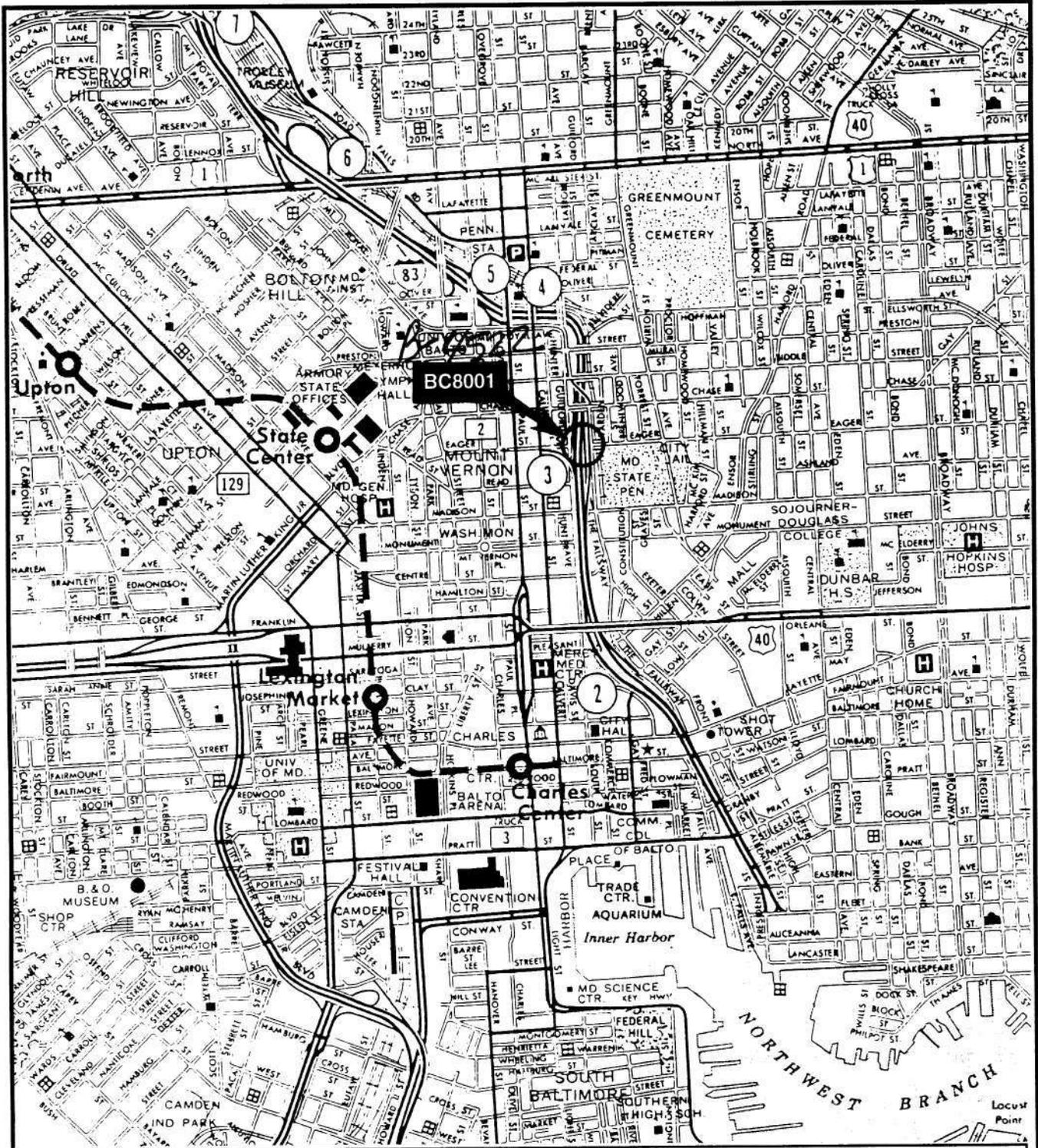
B-4522  
Eager Street Bridge (BC8001)  
Eager Street over former Jones Falls  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.



GIS data Courtesy of  
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS

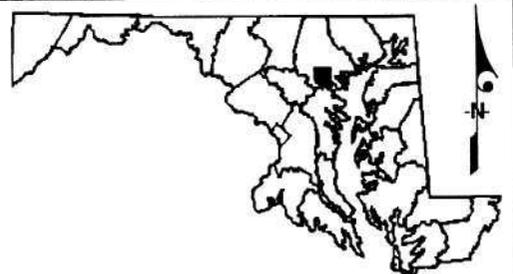
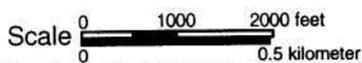


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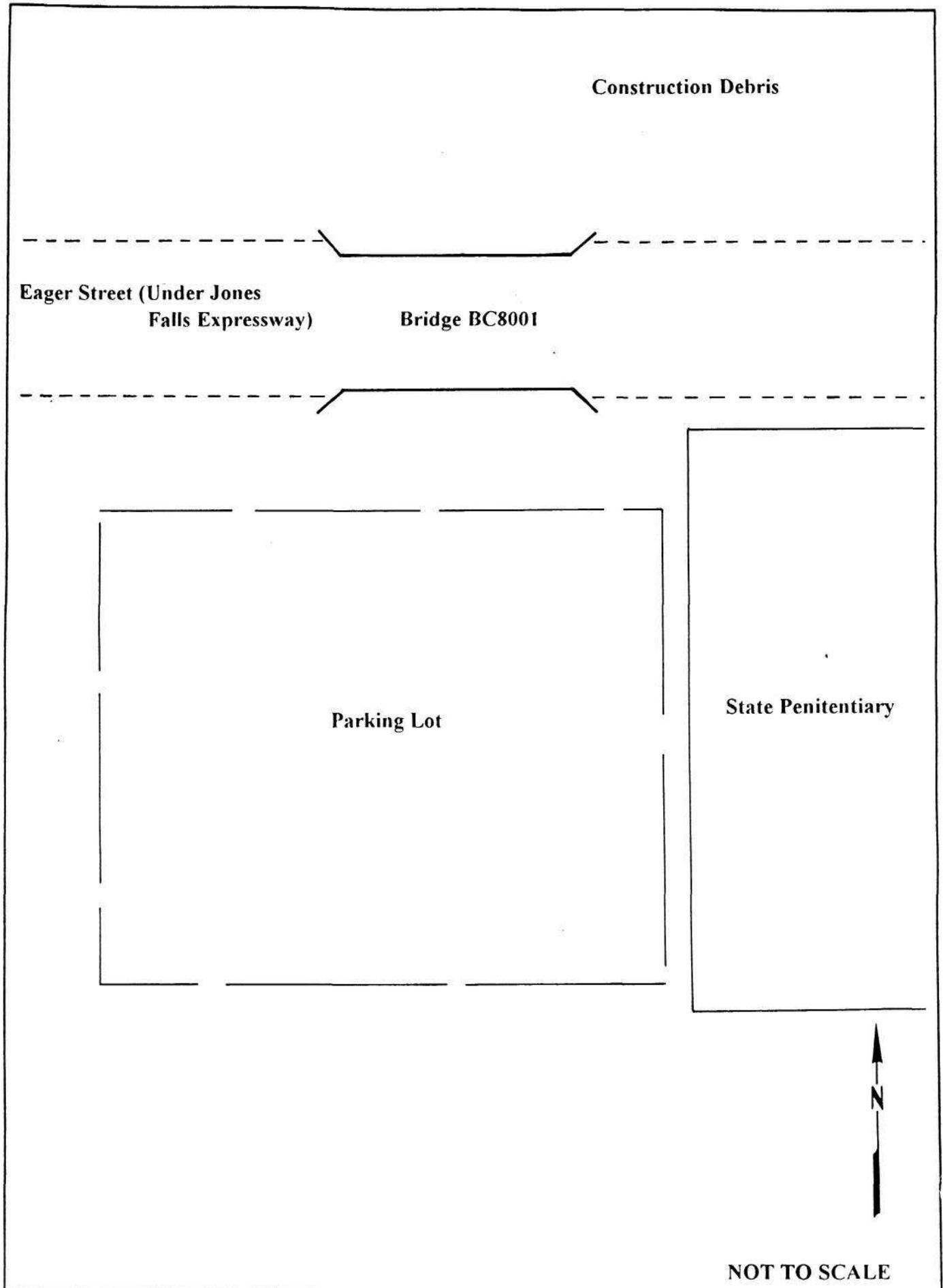


### Baltimore City - Bridge Number BC8001

Eager Street over former Jones Falls



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Eager Street Bridge (BC8001)

Baltimore County, Maryland

Julie Abell

12/94

Maryland State Highway Administration

South elevation

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Eager Street Bridge (BC8001)

Baltimore County, Maryland

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South elevation, detail

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Eager Street Bridge (BC8001)

Baltimore County, Maryland

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South elevation, detail

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NOTICE  
WEAR  
GOGGLES

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Baltimore County, Maryland

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North elevation, detail

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Baltimore County, Maryland

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Maryland State Highway Administration  
North elevation, detail

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North elevation, detail

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Eager Street Bridge (BC8001)

Baltimore County, Maryland

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North elevation, detail

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Eager Street Bridge (BC8001)

Baltimore County, Maryland

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Approach looking west (blocked  
by Jones Falls Expressway)

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Eager Street Bridge (BC8001)  
Baltimore County, Maryland

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Administration

Approach looking east  
(blocked by Jones Falls  
Expressway)

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Eager Street Bridge (BC8001)

Baltimore County, Maryland

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Maryland State Highway Administration

View looking south toward bridge

(bridge covered by Jones Falls  
Expressway)

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Eager Street Bridge (BC8001)

Baltimore County, Maryland

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East wall

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