

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number: B-4553

Name: LAFAYETTE AVE. OVER AMTRAK

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 bridge received the following determination of eligibility.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility Recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility Not Recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" 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: _____ _____ _____	
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>

Ans



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

MHT Number B-4553

Name and SHA No. BC 2410

Location:

Street/Road Name and Number: Lafayette Avenue over AMTRAK

City/Town: Baltimore Vicinity

County:

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

Bridge Type:

 Timber Bridge

 Beam Bridge Truss-Covered Trestle

 Timber-and-Concrete

 Stone Arch

 Metal Truss

 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 Number BC 2410 carries LaFayette Avenue in a generally East-west direction over the Amtrak tracks in the City of Baltimore, Maryland. The approach to the roadway is rising and has two lanes. The area around this bridge is developed and urban industrial. The structures in the vicinity of this bridge are generally from the twentieth century.

Describe Superstructure and Substructure:

Bridge Number BC2410 is a fourteen span structure, measuring 640 feet in total length. Bridge Number BC2410 is a combination plate girder and rolled I-beam deck structure. The roadway width from curb to curb is 30 feet and the total deck width is 44 feet. There are sidewalks on both sides of the bridge and the width of each is six feet.

The superstructure is composed of a combination plate girder and rolled steel I-beams system. There are three spans in the main bridge unit and eleven approach units. The three main unit spans are plate girder and original to the bridge. They are 49, 62, and 51 feet long. The rolled I-beam spans average 30 feet in length. There are five stringers in the structure. The stringer spacing averages nine feet. The floor system is composed of concrete cast-in-place. The joints are made of a compression seals. There are two rectangular concrete parapets. There is simple classical ornamentation to the main spans. There are no historical plaques.

The substructure is composed of concrete cantilever abutments and concrete wing walls. The piers and open columns are also concrete. The columns have caps and some simple ornamentation. There are no historical plaques.

The condition of this bridge is currently rated fair with section loss, deterioration, spall, and scour.

Discuss Major Alterations:

There has been one major alteration to this structure. This occurred in 1975 and involved reconstruction of this structure. This involved the complete replacement of the deck, roadway surface and joints.

History:**When Built:** 1931 and 1975**Why Built:** Increased traffic density necessitated a structure with an increased load capacity.**Who Built:** State Roads Commission**Why Altered:** Safety**Was this bridge built as part of an organized bridge building campaign:** Bridge built for a hazardous grade elimination program.**Surveyor Analysis:****This bridge may have NR significance for association with:** A Events Person C Engineering/Architectural**Was this bridge constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history:**

Yes. Increasing growth of vehicular traffic rates paralleled the growth of state-owned and state-aided highways. The 1930's brought a dramatic increase in the number of tractor-trailers and other heavy vehicles. The Maryland State Roads Commission began to emphasize standardized designs. Old, one way bridges and other inadequate designs were often replaced by steel girder design bridges.

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?

Yes. Bridge BC2410 had a significant impact on the Easterwood Park area. The ability to access the markets and employment potential of Baltimore City would have been seriously limited to locals had this bridge not been built. The steady outward growth of Baltimore City necessitated the steady growth of a sufficient transportation network. The construction of bridge BC2410 would have been a significant part of this development. The neighborhoods of this area would have all been directly impacted.

Is the bridge located in an area which may be eligible for historic designation and would the bridge add to or detract from historic and visual character of the possible district?

No. Bridge BC2410 is located in an area with little or no historic significance. This area has had a wide variety of unconnected developments. There is little in this area that could be considered in the future for eligibility. The loss of this bridge would not detract from the historic or visual character of this area.

Is the bridge a significant example of its type?

Yes. Bridge BC2410 is a significant variation of a common bridge construction type. Steel girder bridges were built prolifically across Maryland from the late nineteenth century to the present day. There is often little variation in the many of these bridges. Bridge BC2410 shows unique juxtaposition of old and new elements. These differences set this structure apart from other bridges of this type.

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

Bridge Number BC2410 does retain important elements of its historical structural integrity. The primary character defining elements are the steel plate girders of the three main spans of this bridge. These spans have simple classical ornamentation.

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

Yes. This bridge does retain sufficient elements of historical structural integrity to qualify for further study. A significance analysis should be made following the National Register Criteria for Evaluation.

Under criteria A, Bridge 2410 should be studied in the context of its historical significance. This bridge can be associated with the industrial development of Downtown Baltimore. Further study should be made to determine its significance to the pattern of events and trends toward urbanization and industrialization.

Bibliography:

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1993 Bridge Inventory. Baltimore, Maryland.

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1990 National Register Bulletin Number 15. National Park Service. Washington D.C.

U.S. Department of Transportation
1991 Bridge Inspectors Manual. Federal Highway Administration. Washington D.C.

Surveyor:

Name: Andrew M. Watts **Date:** March 1996

Organization: State Highway Administration **Telephone:** (410) 321-2213

Address: 2323 West Joppa Road, Brooklandville, MD 21022

Maryland Historic Highway Bridges
Bridge Type Metal Girder B4553
Map D-12 Baltimore SW
County Baltimore City
Bridge # and name BC 2410/Lafayette
Ave. over AMTRAK





Inventory # B-4553

Name 2410 LAFAYETTE AVE OVER AMTRAK

County/State BALTIMORE CITY/MD

Name of Photographer TIM SCHOEN

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SNA

Description WEST APPROACH

Number 1 of 364



STOP

SALEM
1 MENTHOL
IN THE WORLD!

Inventory # B-4553

Name 2410- LA FAYETTE AVE OVER AMTRAK

County/State BALTIMORE CITY / MD

Name of Photographer TIM SCHWEN

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SNA

Description EAST APPROACH

Number 2 of 364

PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES

ME BUSINESS CENTER



Inventory # B-4553

Name 2410 - LAFAYETTE AVE WER AMTRAK

County/State BALTIMORE CITY/MD

Name of Photographer TIM SCHOEN

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description SOUTH ELEVATION

Number 3 of 304



Inventory # B-4553

Name 2410- LAFAYETTE AVE OVER AMTRAK

County/State BALTIMORE CITY | MD

Name of Photographer TIM SCHEN

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SNA

Description NORTH ELEVATION

Number 4 of 364

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