

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number: BA-2811

Name: CLIFFER Mill Rd OVER Gunpowder Falls & Presmy Bay Reservoir

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"/> X	Eligibility Not Recommended _____
Criteria: <input checked="" 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: Anne E. Bruder _____	
Date: 3 April 2001 _____	
Reviewer, NR Program: Peter E. Kurtze _____	
Date: 3 April 2001 _____	

James



MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC BRIDGES
HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY
MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION/
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MHT No. BA-2811

SHA Bridge No. BC 6519 Bridge name Clipper Mill Road over Gunpowder Falls/Prettyboy Reservoir

LOCATION:

Street/Road name and number [facility carried] Clipper Mill Road

City/town Hoffmanville Vicinity X

County Baltimore

This bridge projects over: Road ___ Railway ___ Water X Land ___

Ownership: State ___ County ___ Municipal X Other ___

HISTORIC STATUS:

Is the bridge located within a designated historic district? Yes ___ No X

National Register-listed district ___ National Register-determined-eligible district ___

Locally-designated district ___ Other ___

Name of district ___

BRIDGE TYPE:

Timber Bridge ___:

Beam Bridge ___ Truss -Covered ___ Trestle ___

Timber-And-Concrete ___

Stone Arch Bridge ___

Metal Truss Bridge ___

Movable Bridge ___:

Swing ___ Bascule Single Leaf ___ Bascule Multiple Leaf ___

Vertical Lift ___ Retractable ___ Pontoon ___

Metal Girder X ___:

Rolled Girder ___ Rolled Girder Concrete Encased ___

Plate Girder X ___ Plate Girder Concrete Encased ___

Metal Suspension ___

Metal Arch ___

Metal Cantilever ___

Concrete ___:

Concrete Arch ___ Concrete Slab ___ Concrete Beam ___ Rigid Frame ___

Other ___ Type Name ___

DESCRIPTION:

Setting: Urban _____ Small town _____ Rural X _____

Describe Setting:

Bridge No. BC 6519 carries Clipper Mill Road over Gunpowder Falls at the mouth of Prettyboy Reservoir in Baltimore County. Clipper Mill Road runs northeast-southwest and Gunpowder Falls flows northwest-southeast. The bridge is located in the Prettyboy Reservoir area, in the Hoffinanville vicinity. It is surrounded by wooded land.

Describe Superstructure and Substructure:

Bridge No. BC6519 is a 6-span, 2-lane, metal plate girder bridge. The bridge was originally built in 1931, and was rehabilitated in 1988. The structure is 114.6 meters (376 feet) long and has a clear roadway width of 6 meters (20 feet). The out-to-out width is 6.85 meters (22.5 feet). The superstructure consists of two plate girders which support a concrete deck and concrete jersey barrier parapets. The girders are 1.64 meters (5.41 feet) high by approximately .3 meters (1 foot) wide and are spaced 6.4 meters (21 feet) apart. The concrete deck is 21.5 centimeters (8.5 inches) thick. The structure has concrete, jersey barrier parapets and the roadway approaches have metal guardrails. A date stamp on the north parapet indicates that the structure was constructed in 1931 and rehabilitated in 1988. The substructure consists of two concrete abutments and five concrete piers.

According to the 1995 inspection report, the deck was in very good condition and the structural steel had some peeling paint and light rust. At various locations, the concrete piers and abutments had spalls with delamination and random areas of map cracking. The stream channel was in good condition. The sufficiency rating for the structure was not available.

Discuss Major Alterations:

The bridge was rehabilitated in 1988, including replacement of the concrete deck, replacement of pipe railings with concrete jersey barrier parapets, and cleaning and re-painting of the structural steel.

HISTORY:

WHEN was the bridge built: 1931/1988 _____

This date is: Actual X _____ Estimated _____

Source of date: Plaque X _____ Design plans _____ City bridge files/inspection form X _____

Other (specify) :

WHY was the bridge built?

Bridge BC 6519 was built as part of the construction of the Prettyboy Reservoir complex. This expansion of Baltimore's water supply system was north of the existing two dams on Gunpowder Falls at Loch Raven. The expansion was required to increase the water supply available to the City of Baltimore. This bridge was constructed to carry Clipper Mill Road over the reservoir which resulted from the construction of the dam.

WHO was the designer?

Unknown

WHO was the builder?

Unknown

WHY was the bridge altered?

The bridge was altered to correct functional or structural deficiencies.

Was this bridge built as part of an organized bridge-building campaign?

Bridge BC 6519 was built as part of the Prettyboy Reservoir project, a City of Baltimore water supply expansion project.

SURVEYOR/HISTORIAN ANALYSIS:

This bridge may have National Register significance for its association with:

- A - Events _____
- B- Person _____
- C- Engineering/architectural character _____

The bridge does not have National Register significance.

Was the bridge constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history?

Prettyboy Reservoir is part of the water supply system of the City of Baltimore. Until the middle of the nineteenth century, water was furnished to the City by the Baltimore City Water Company which brought the water from Jones Falls.

The concern for a good, clean water supply in Baltimore began over a century before the construction of the Prettyboy Reservoir. By 1848, it was noted that "Baltimore is most inadequately supplied with water" and that "the time had arrived for a movement to be made towards diverting the water of Gwymm's Falls, the Gunpowder, or some other falling streams of the vicinity, for this purposed". Construction began on the first water-works in 1858, when a dam was erected across Jones Falls, eight miles outside the city. By circa 1881, Lake Roland, Hampden Reservoir, Druid Lake, High Service Reservoir, and Mount Royal Reservoir had been constructed to tap into Jones Falls; and three reservoirs were constructed on the Gunpowder River, including Loch Raven, Montebello Lake, and Clifton Lake. It was claimed that "[t]he completion of the Gunpowder Permanent Water-supply gives Baltimore a system of water-works unequaled in the United States, affording a supply of water nearly double that of the great city of New York...".

The water supplied by Loch Raven and Jones Falls was adequate for Baltimore until the first decade of the twentieth century. A new Loch Raven dam was started in 1912, however the city had difficulty acquiring land needed in order to raise the elevation of the new dam to the desired 240 feet, and it was not completed until 1922. By 1924, when demand exceeded the safe recommended usage of 100,000,000 gallons per day, advisors to the city recommended expanding the water supply system again to the north on Gunpowder Falls.

Constructed by the City of Baltimore during a three-year period from 1930-1933, Prettyboy was the northernmost reservoir in the county and city's system. Funds to construct the Prettyboy Dam and Reservoir were raised over a nine-year period from loans approved by Baltimore residents. A "Public Improvement Commission" was created in 1920, which began raising funds in 1924. The dam called for 192,000 cubic yards of concrete and the cost of constructing the dam was \$2,383,732. However, this sum

did not include the building of roads, other bridges, and culverts, the purchase and clearing of land for the reservoir, and numerous engineering expenses. The total cost for the entire project was \$4,110,135.

The Prettyboy Dam complex consists of three principal components: a concrete gravity dam, a gatehouse, and a closed spandrel, concrete arch bridge. To the north of the dam complex is the Prettyboy water Reservoir, with an elevation of 520 feet. Compared with the City system's other reservoirs, Prettyboy's crest of 520 feet was the highest; Loch Raven's was 240 feet and Liberty Reservoir's (constructed in the 1940s) was 341 feet). Bridge BC 6519 was constructed over Gunpowder Falls at the mouth of the Prettyboy Reservoir.

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?

There is no evidence that the construction of this bridge had a significant impact on the growth and development of this area. However, Prettyboy Reservoir is both a municipal water supply and a recreation area, providing areas for fishing, boating, hiking and picnicking. The bridge has facilitated access to the reservoir area.

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/visual character of the potential district?

The Prettyboy Reservoir area may be eligible for historic designation and Bridge BC 6519 would add to both the historic and visual character of the potential district.

Is the bridge a significant example of its type?

A significant example of a metal girder bridge should possess character-defining elements of its type, and be readily recognizable as an historic structure from the perspective of the traveler. The integrity of distinctive features visible from the roadway approach, including parapet walls or railings, is important in structures which are common examples of their type. This bridge, which is lacking such features as the original railings is an undistinguished example of a metal girder bridge.

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

This bridge was rehabilitated in 1988, resulting in the loss of such character-defining elements as the deck and railings.

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

This bridge is not a significant example of the work of a manufacturer, designer, and/or engineer.

Should the bridge be given further study before an evaluation of its significance is made?

No further study of this bridge is required to evaluate its significance.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

City inspection/bridge files _____ X _____ SHA inspection/bridge files _____
Other (list):

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1995 *Historic Highway Bridges in Maryland: Historic Context Report.* Prepared for Maryland State Highway Administration.

Tyrrell, Henry G.

1911 *History of Bridge Engineering.* Published by author, Chicago.

SURVEYOR:

Date bridge recorded August 1998

Name of surveyor Caroline Hall

Organization/Address P.A.C. Spero & Co., 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21204

Phone number (410) 296-1635

FAX number (410) 296-1670

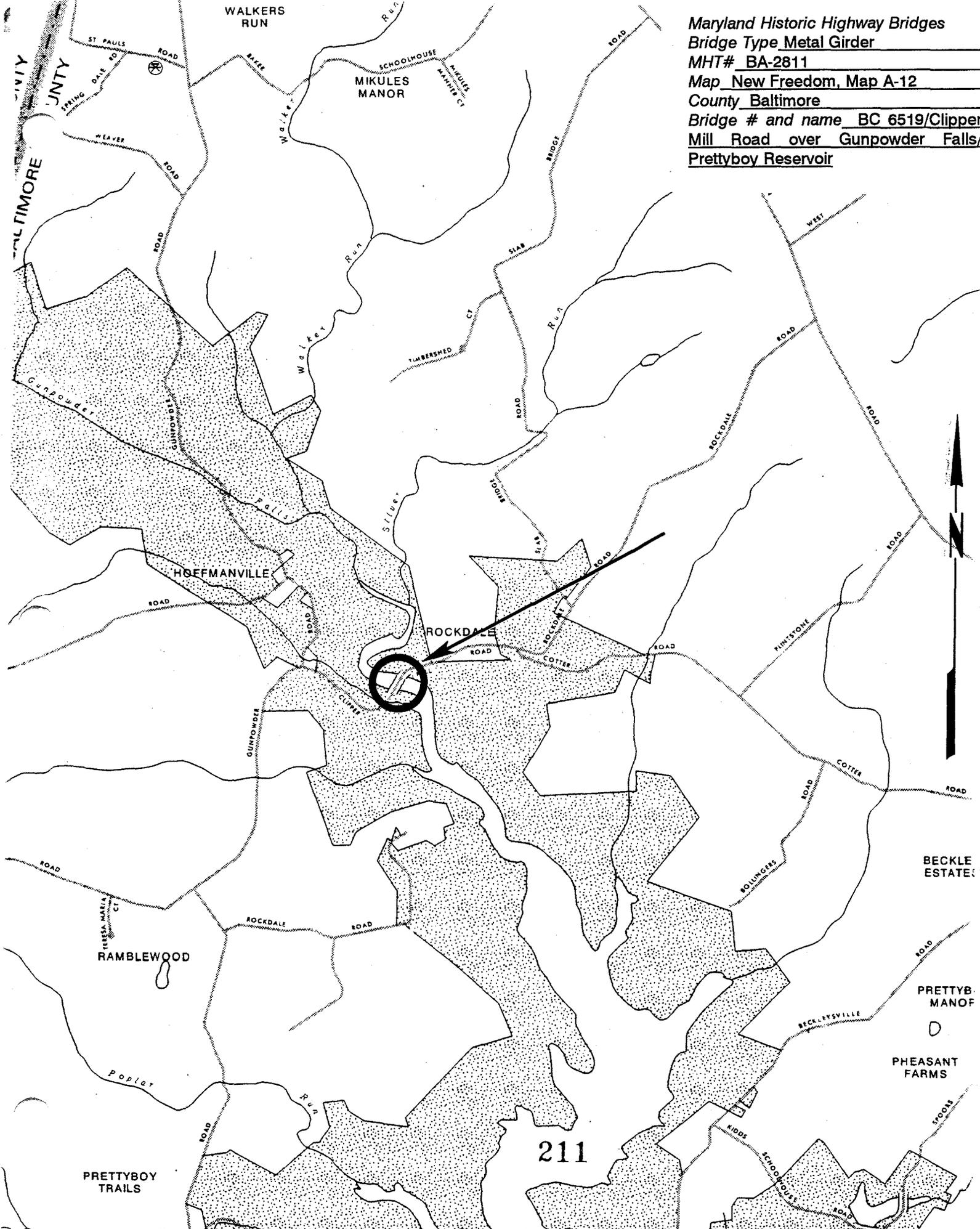
Maryland Historic Highway Bridges
Bridge Type Metal Girder

MHT# BA-2811

Map New Freedom, Map A-12

County Baltimore

Bridge # and name BC 6519/Clipper
Mill Road over Gunpowder Falls/
Prettyboy Reservoir



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BA-2811

BC 6519 CLIPPERMILL ROAD OVER PRETTYBOY RESEVOIR

BALTIMORE CO., MD

C. HALL

8/98

MD SHPO

EAST APPROACH

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SOUTH ELEVATION

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WEST APPROACH

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NORTH ELEVATION

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DATE STAMP 1931-1988

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BA-2811

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NORTH ELEVATION

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