

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.

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. CARR-1563

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Twin Arch Bridge

**2. Location**

street & number Twin Arch Road at CSX RR tracks  not for publication

city, town Mt. Airy  vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Carroll

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name CSX Transportation

street & number telephone no.:

city, town 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

# 7. Description

Survey No. CARR-1563

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. CARR-1563

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1901 **Builder/Architect**

---

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
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 A.D. 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 threatened by the proposed widening of Twin Arch Road, since there is only one lane for traffic through the bridge.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CARR-1563

A Vision of Home; Centennial History of Mount Airy, Maryland 1894-1994  
(Mt. Airy, MD; The Town of Mt. Airy, 1994), pp. 4-5.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property N/A

Quadrangle name DAMASCUS

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 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

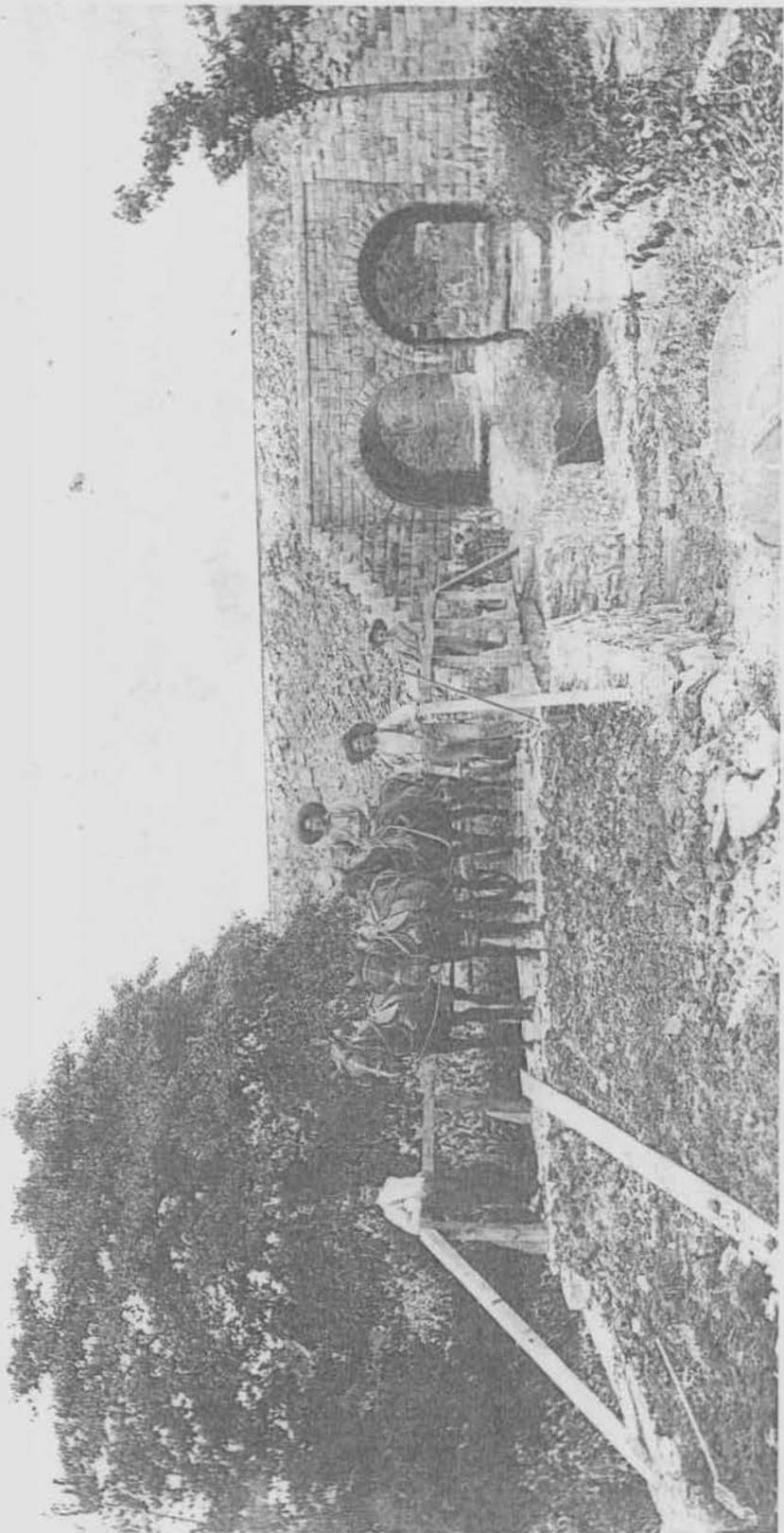
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2020  
514-7600



ow, giving  
level section  
eam, and over

pike, and the  
over the road.  
turnpike and  
The original  
that spanning  
ream is on a  
uilt during the  
e tunnel.

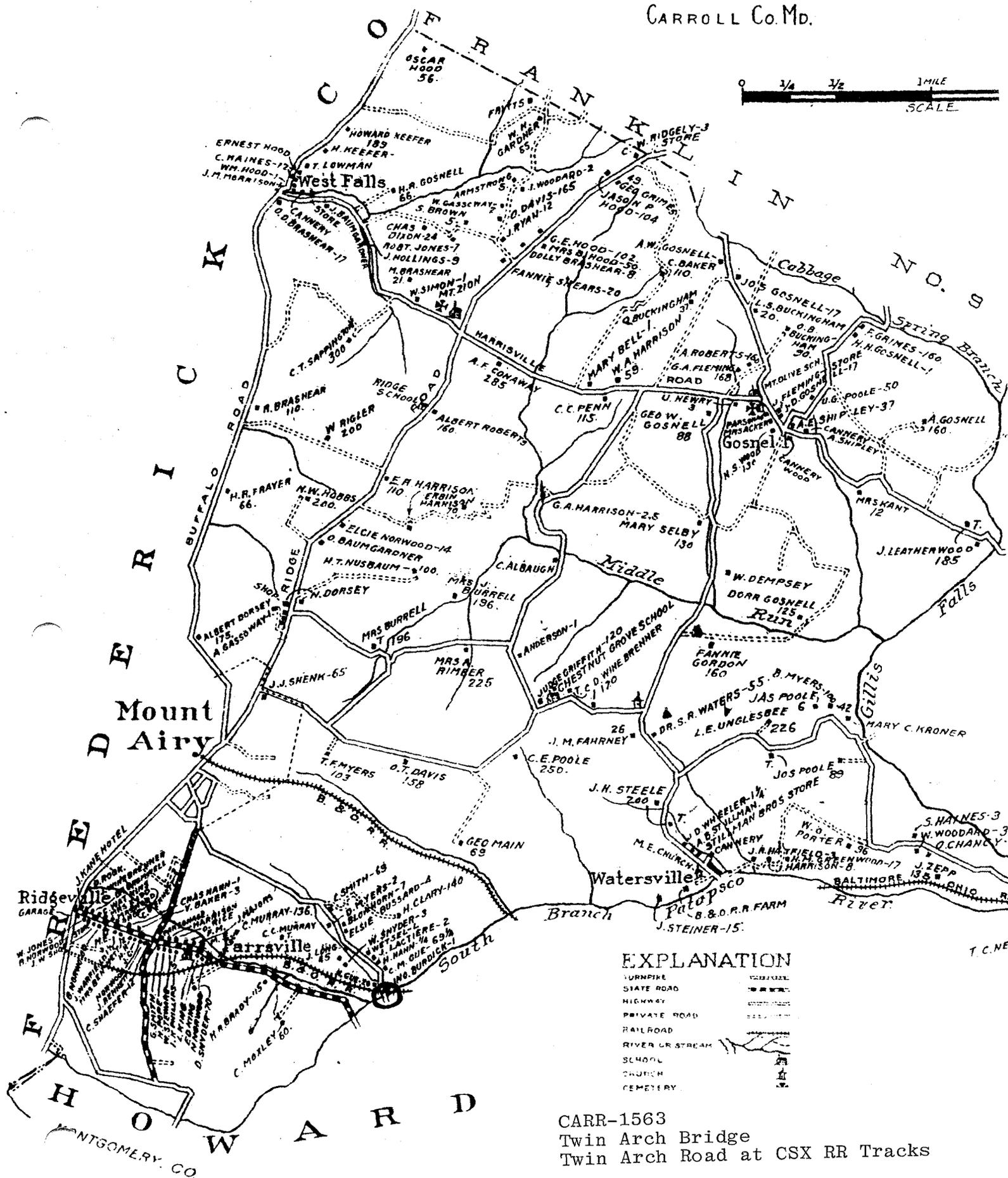
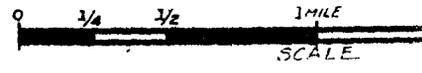
he top of the  
d the summit  
irst 2,800 feet



*Building bridge and road at Twin Arch*

CARR-1563  
Twin Arch Bridge  
Twin Arch Road at CSX RR Tracks

c. 1901 photo from A Vision of Home:  
Centennial History of Mount Airy,  
Maryland 1894-1994, p.5.



EXPLANATION

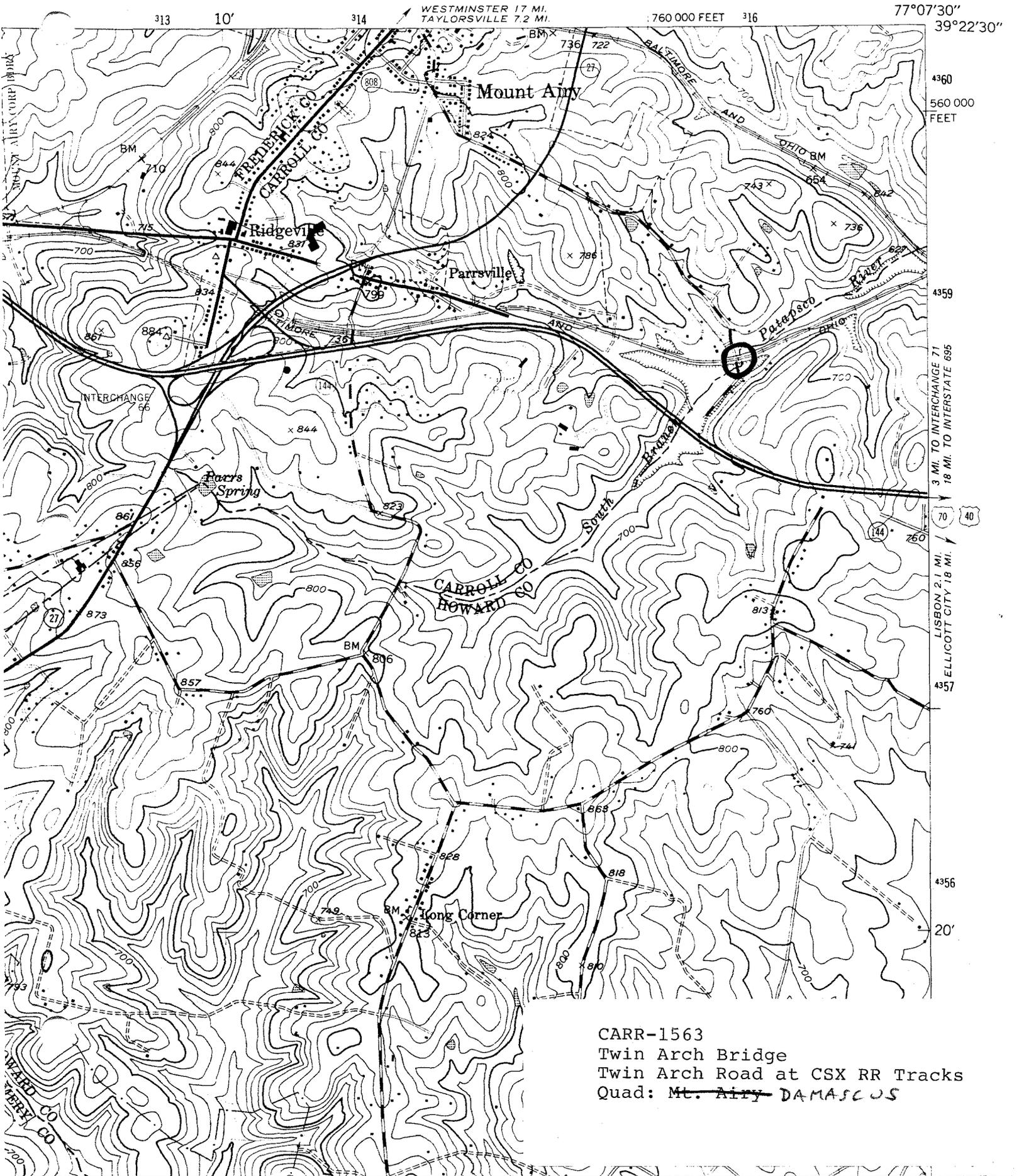
- TURNPIKE
- STATE ROAD
- HIGHWAY
- PRIVATE ROAD
- RAILROAD
- RIVER OR STREAM
- SCHOOL
- CHURCH
- CEMETERY

CARR-1563  
Twin Arch Bridge  
Twin Arch Road at CSX RR Tracks

DAMASCUS QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5562 1 NE  
(WINFIELD)

MY





Carr 1563

Twin Arch Bridge

Twin Arch Rd at CSX RR Tracks

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: December 1997

MPS4No.

09935 21\*\* N N N-5-242

Neg Loc. Maryland Historical Trust

VW. EAST

1/2



Carr - 1563

Twin Arch Bridge  
Twin Arch Road at  
CSX RR Tracks

Carroll County Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

MPS4No. 1993571\*\*N 1997-162

Date: December 1997

NegLoc: Maryland Historical Trust

VW. West

2/2