

HA-394

Wilson's Bridge Site

East of present Deer Creek bridge on Darlington Rd. (MD 161)

Darlington vicinity

Private

c. 1868

Wilson's Bridge spanned the Deer Creek crossing of Darlington Road from about 1868 until about 1928, when it was removed and the present bridge was built. The covered bridge was a vital link in the road from Darlington and the upper part of Harford County with Hopewell Crossroads (Level), from which roads led to Havre de Grace, Bush, and Bel Air. The stone abutments remain on the north and south banks of Deer Creek.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Wilson's Bridge Site
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
East of present Deer Creek bridge on Darlington Rd. (MD 161)
CITY, TOWN Darlington CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1st
X VICINITY OF
STATE Maryland COUNTY Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not appl.	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER none

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME (See Description, Section 7) Telephone #: _____
STREET & NUMBER _____
CITY, TOWN _____ STATE, zip code _____
VICINITY OF _____

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse Liber #: (See Description, Sec. Folio #: 7)
STREET & NUMBER 40 So. Main St.
CITY, TOWN Bel Air STATE MD

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory
DATE c. 1970 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust
CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE MD

7 DESCRIPTION

94-394

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site of Wilson's Bridge, a covered bridge built in the 19th century and removed in the late 1920's, consists of the stone abutments on the north and south banks of the creek about 50 feet east of the present roadway of Darlington Road (MD 161). The structures are heavily overgrown and not visible from the road or Deer Creek.

The north structure is owned by Oakie H. Bishop, Jr., 725 Darlington Rd., Darlington, MD 21034, phone: 836-3803; legal reference Liber 970/490. The south abutment is on the property of Alvin B. Lehnerd, 521 Darlington Rd., Darlington, MD 21034, phone: 836-2464; legal reference Liber 819/222.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
100-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1868

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wilson's Bridge spanned the Deer Creek crossing of Darlington Road from about 1868 until about 1928, when it was removed and the present bridge (HA-1578) was built. It was a vital link in the road from Darlington and the upper county to Hopewell Crossroads (Level), from which roads led to Havre de Grace, Bush, and Bel Air.

The old bridge became the property of Edward M. Allen, Jr., who contemplated the possible use of the structure as a tea house, according to a newspaper article of the time. (See attached copy.)

ADDENDUM: Samuel Mason, Jr., in Historical Sketches of Harford County, Maryland, states that the original covered bridge crossed the creek directly opposite the miller's house (HA-25). This bridge washed out in a freshet in 1865. The second bridge, the subject of this form, was built in 1868. It also was washed away in 1931.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mason, Samuel, Jr. Historical Sketches of Harford County, Maryland. Intelligencer Printing Co., Lancaster, PA., 1940.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Dept. of Planning and Zoning

DATE

September 1982

STREET & NUMBER

45 So. Main St.

TELEPHONE

(301) 838-6000, ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

MD 21014

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

HA-394
Wilson's Bridge Site

Section 7. DESCRIPTION

CORRECTION: The south bank abutments are almost destroyed. Only a small section of stone wall is visible near the creek bank. (Observed on March 15, 1983)

N. R. FIELD 5527
130394 STREET

HA 394

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: *Darlington Deer Creek Covered Bridge Site*

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *bridge abutments remain just east of the bridge*

CITY OR TOWN: *Darlington*

STATE: *Md* CODE COUNTY: *HARFORD* CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Abandoned bridge</i>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: *Harford County Department of Public Works*

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: *Bel Air* STATE: *Maryland* CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT**

STREET AND NUMBER: **HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE 40 S. MAIN ST.**

CITY OR TOWN: **BEL AIR** STATE: **MARYLAND** CODE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER DATE FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>	Bridge <input type="checkbox"/>
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>			
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)			
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input type="checkbox"/>		

but new
bridge
removal

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Site only of the ^{covered} bridge over Deer Creek at the Wilson-Reggie Mill.

A fording place remains at this location, the stream being shallow, ^{and the bottom hard} all across at this point.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

TO HIGH ST

LABARD COURT HOUSE

MARYLAND

REL. AIR

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century
 15th Century 17th Century

18th Century
 19th Century

Bridge Site
 20th Century *removed about 1928*
(Ford - very early)

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-		Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Art	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Commerce	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-		_____	
Communications	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The covered bridge was ~~to~~ removed and replaced when the road was straightened and made concrete to carry faster traffic between Darlington and the towns along the Bay. The iron bridge, two lane, presently runs above the site of an early ford, shallow and hard-bottomed.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Handwritten scribble in the form area.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **JEAN S. EWING**

ORGANIZATION: **MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST** DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: **50 STATE CIRCLE**

CITY OR TOWN: **ANNAPOLIS** STATE: **MARYLAND** CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

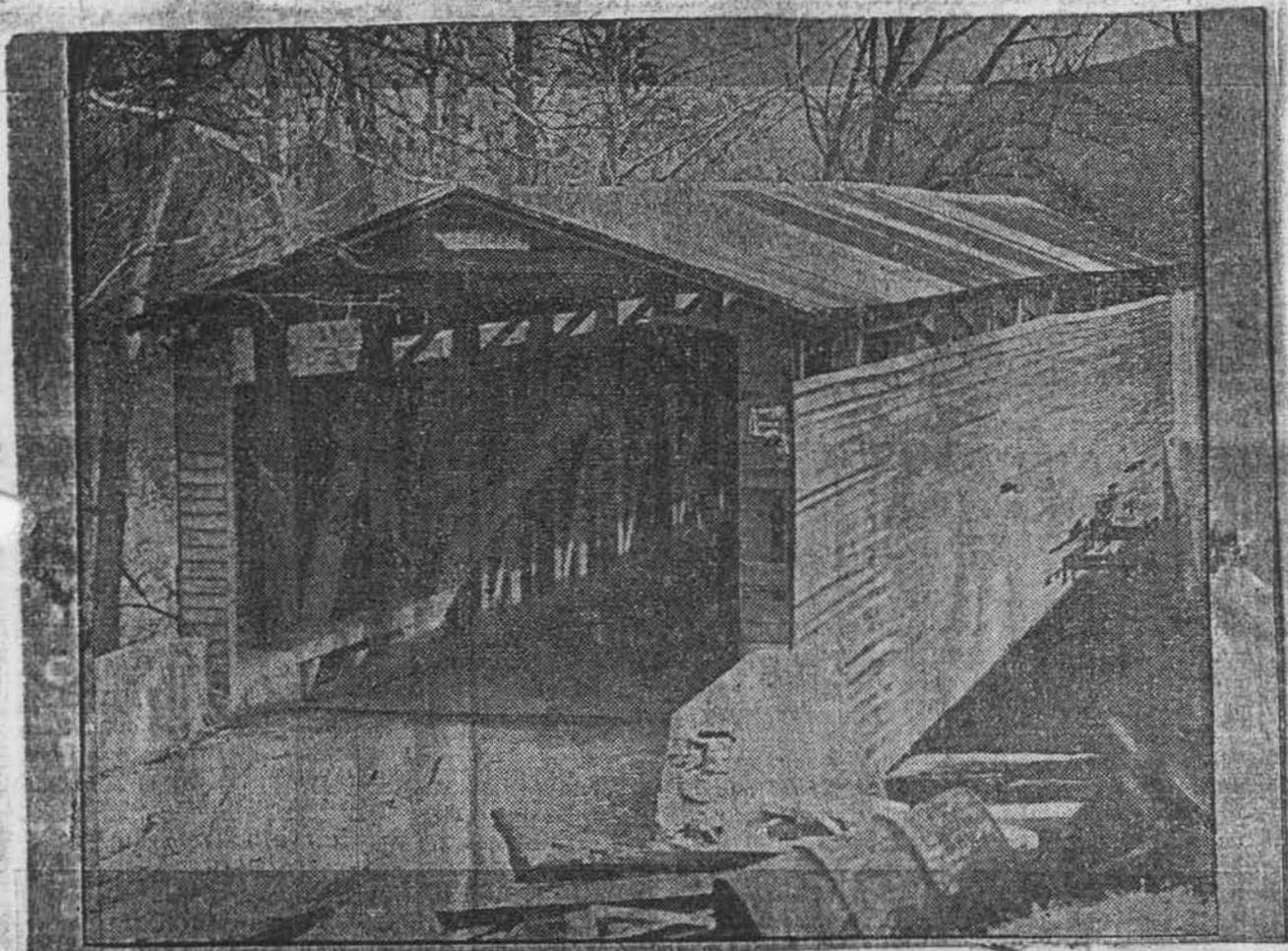
ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HA-394



Wilson's Bridge
Harford County
c. 1928 view
Bel Air Times

WILSON'S BRIDGE OVER DEER CREEK

Baltimore Times

Through the courtesy of The Baltimore Sun, we are enabled to reproduce above, a photograph of Wilson's Bridge, which spans Deer Creek South of Darlington. This bridge is on the road from Darlington to Havre de Grace, near the property of Colonel E. M. Allen and Mr. D. Giffin Wilson. It has been shunted aside by the new road which has been built, and remains now but a relic. It is understood that it becomes the property of Colonel E. M. Allen. Many of his friends have suggested that it could very readily be utilized as an attractive tea house, as it is situated in a picturesque section, crosses Harford's most beautiful stream, and is located in the midst of a cultured people and fine farming land.

This bridge is one of the few old covered bridges left in Harford County. There is another one, shunted aside in the same way by engineers, which crosses Broad Creek, on the road from Dublin to Whiteford. The longest one of all, however, is still standing, and is that which crosses Deer Creek on the old road from Kalmia to Dublin, about seven hundred yards above the present stone bridge. This bridge is still part of the old highway, and has to be maintained by the County Commissioners.

The agitation over the preservation

of old bridges was probably started by Henry Ford's endeavor to purchase an old covered bridge in New England. Recently there appeared a letter in The Sun Forum, written by Samuel Perkins III, stating that the Darlington Bridge and the Broad Creek Bridge, owing to the relocation of the roads, would probably be torn down, and that some effort should be made to preserve them as historical items. He states further:

"such action would assure that future generations of Baltimoreans and their visitors would be informed by way of visual education of one of the things that were so essentially a factor in the lives of their forefathers. Why wait until such bridges are no more to be had, and then build a replica?"

The Maryland Historical Society plans to investigate, with a view of considering the possible purchase.

Colonel E. M. Allen, who received a deed to this property from the County Commissioners last August, states that the bridge was built about 1868 to replace another covered bridge which had been washed away in a very heavy flood, and that the first person to cross the bridge after its completion was Thomas King, who lived at the Jewett Place, and who

drove the carriage in which were Colonel Allen, his brother, Mr. J. A. G. Allen, their sister, Mrs. Edwin S. Worthington, and their grandmother, Mrs. Rachel Wilson.

Another covered bridge in Harford is located over Deer Creek, and known as "Smith's Bridge", on the road from Hickory to Ady. Mr. William H. Michael tells us this was built in 1849. This bridge is still in use, and probably will be used for many years.

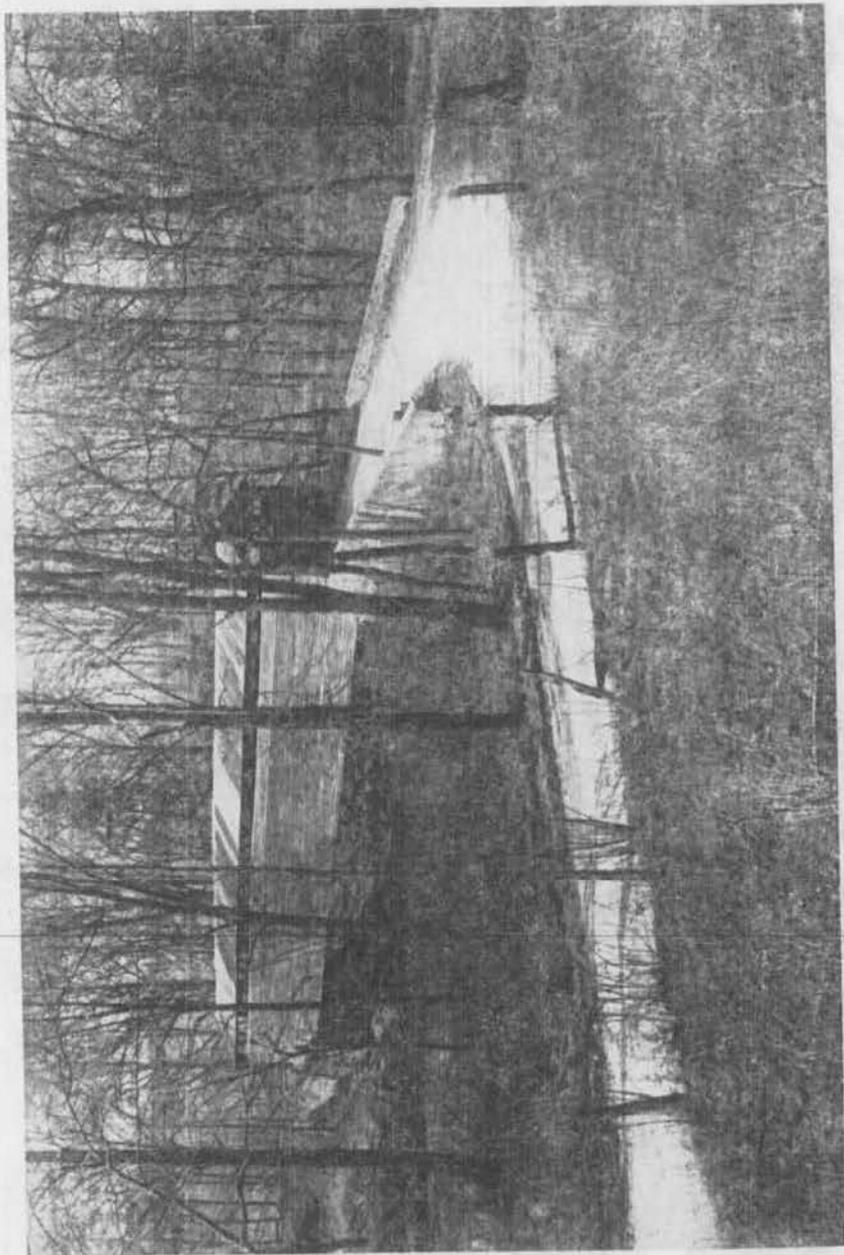
Another covered bridge still in use, is that known as the "Red Bridge" on the road from Rocks to St. Paul's Church, not far from Stansbury's Old Mill. The bridge at Hooker's Mill, over Winter's Run, in the First District, is one of the oldest and longest in the County, is still in use, and will probably be in use for some years to come. Harford is thus supplied with six bridges at least, and it is possible there are others, and we would be glad if our readers would report any.

Two bridges in which Harford County may be considered as having half an interest are over the Little Gunpowder, constituting the border line between Baltimore and Harford Counties. These are found on the road from Baldwin to Upper Cross Roads.

HARFORD COUNTY BRIDGES ANOTHER BRIDGE

A correspondent advises us that in our story of covered bridges last week, we were in error in locating the Red Bridge near Stansbury's Mill. This bridge is located on the road from Clermont Mills to Fawn Grove. She also advises us that a short distance above the Red Bridge is another covered bridge at Fife's Saw Mill, where Mr. Herbert now lives, on the road to St. Paul's Church on Deer Creek.

HA-394



Wilson's Mill Bridge over the Deer Creek

HAR

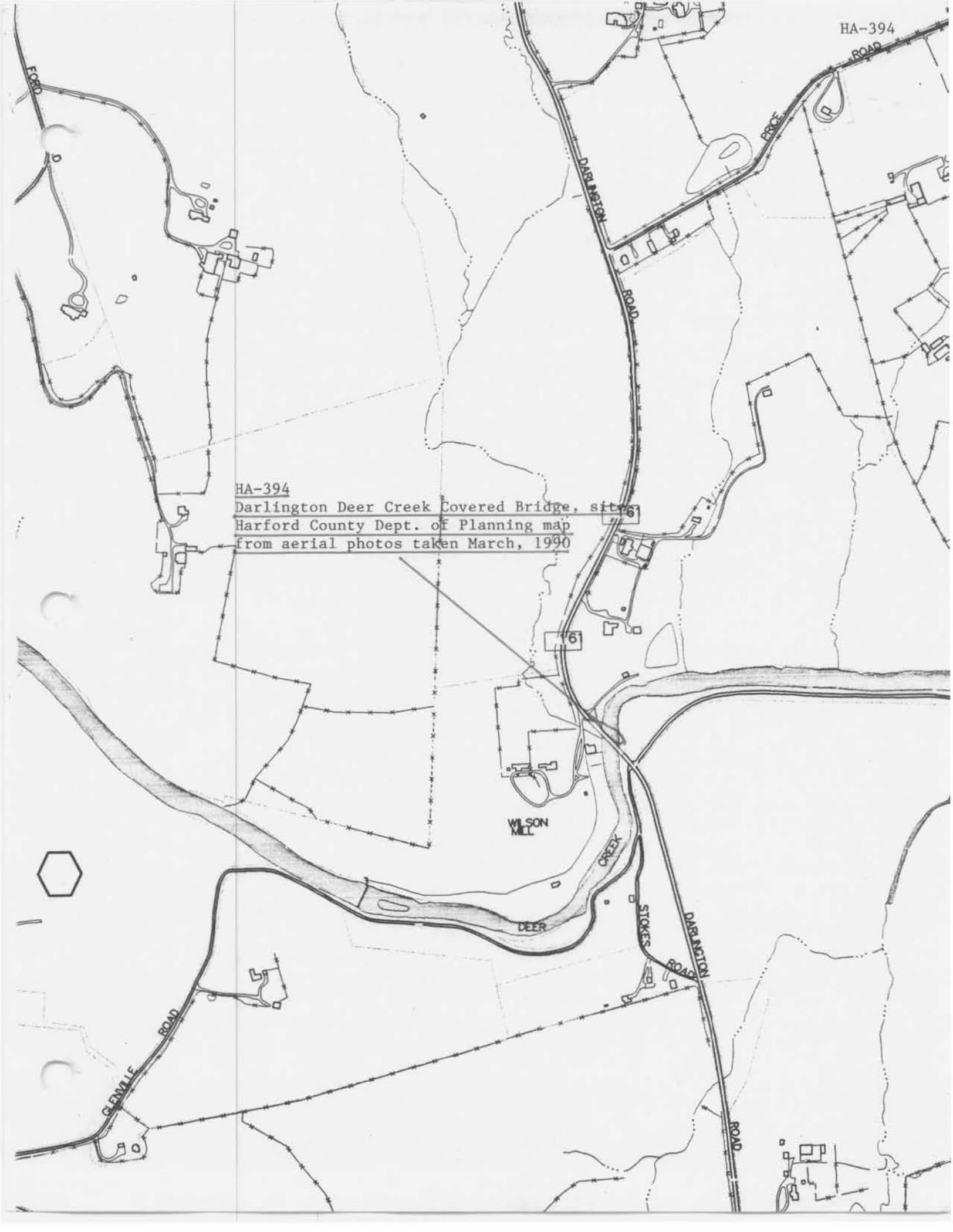
tained it by december 1931, when
The mill has at J
dam and devel
stone work on th
scriptions:

The original m
the spring and be
built by John Au
caught fire and b
stone dwelling of
David E. Wilson
Church to Darlin
a covered bridge
er's house. This
1865 and the co
years later furthe
fate in 1931. (S

Deerdale Mill.—
the north side of t
ty of Mr. Oscar I
race and also of t
was located near
around the base o
seat near Death's t

Nobles Mill.—V
mill on the Creek
1854, the timbers
above the mill, tra
long floor joists a
for the saw carriag

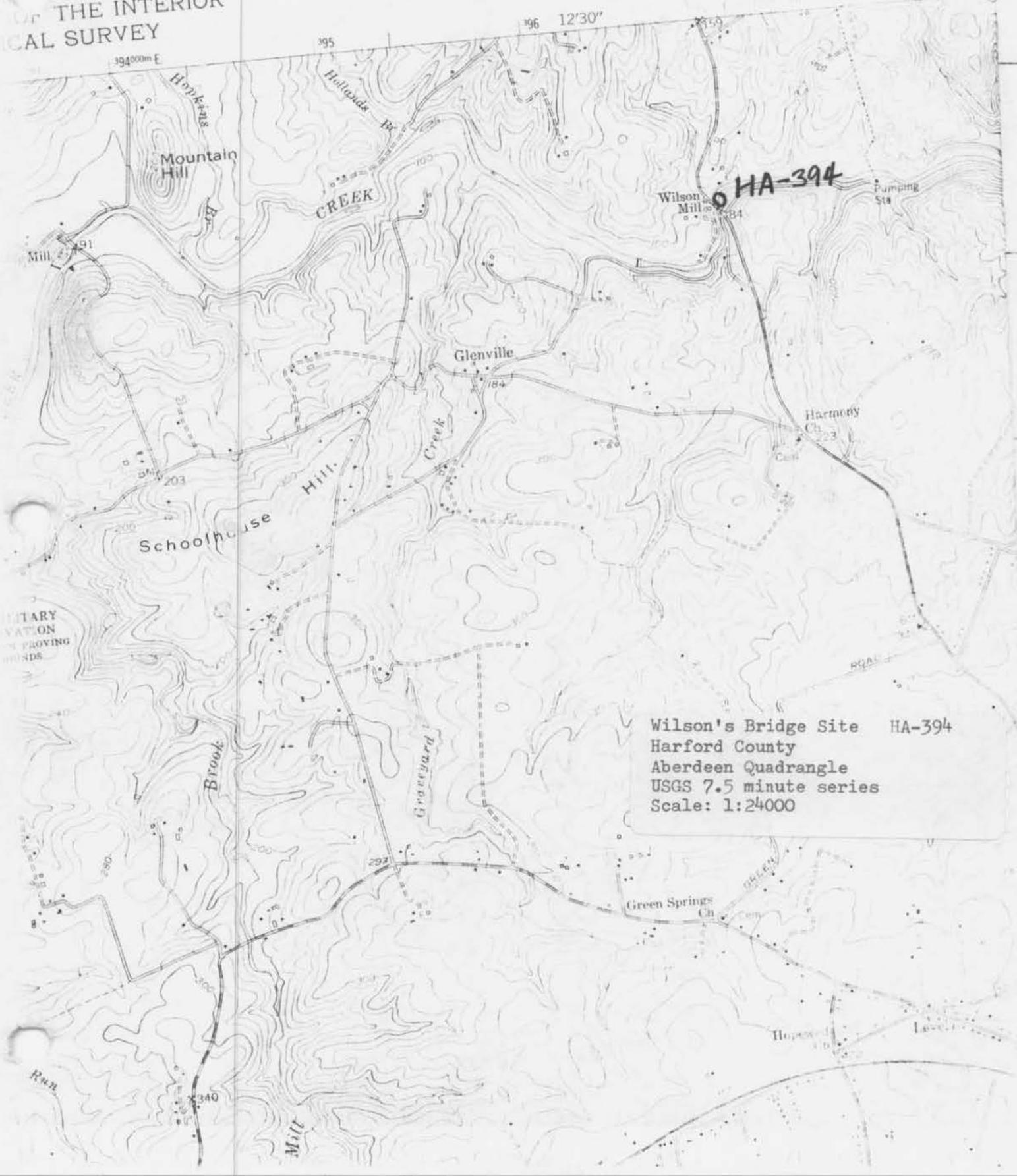
Wilson's Bridge
from Mason, Historical Sketches of
Harford County, Maryland, 1940
Date of photo unknown



HA-394
Darlington Deer Creek Covered Bridge, site 6
Harford County Dept. of Planning map
from aerial photos taken March, 1990

UNITED STATES
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Geological Survey

5763 II SW
(CONOWINGO, PA)



Wilson's Bridge Site HA-394
Harford County
Aberdeen Quadrangle
USGS 7.5 minute series
Scale: 1:24000

MILITARY
NATION
PROVING
GROUNDS

R.R.

Mill



Wilson's Bridge Site
Deer Creek
Harford County
Photo: Janet Davis
September 1982
North bank abutments
1/1

HA-394