

Maryland Historical Trust

PG:81A-18

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number: PG:81A-18

Name: COMM RD. OVER PISCATAWAY CRK

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 _____	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 Number ~~PG: 81-18~~

**SHA Bridge No.** P 580      **Bridge Name** Commo Road over Piscataway Creek

**Location:**

**Street/Road Name and Number:** Commo Road

**City/Town:** Cheltenham    Vicinity X

**County:** Prince George's

**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 No. P 580 carries Commo Road east-west over Piscataway Creek. Several roads just beyond the west end of the bridge lead into a U.S. naval reservation radio station. Overhead utilities are on the north side of the bridge. Both approaches to the structure are wooded and rural. A cement retaining wall is visible about 65 feet to the south of the bridge, on the east bank.

**Describe Superstructure and Substructure:**

Bridge No. P 580 is a single span (58'-8" clear) open grid, steel deck, steel beam bridge. The deck is made of 4" deep steel grating. The bridge has a 16'-0" clear roadway with a 14" x 8" timber wheel guard and strand pipe railings on each side. The steel beams are supported on cantilever type concrete abutments. The bridge was built in 1935 and was reconstructed in 1972. New timber curbs were added to the structure in 1985. There is no guardrail on the approaches.

The steel beams and the bearings are rusty and scaling and there is a loss of material at the lower part of the beam webs, and at the top and bottom flanges. There is some cracking and chipping at the concrete abutments due to aging. The footing is exposed at the west abutment for approximately three-quarters of its length. The streambed has scoured from 1' to 1'-6" from the top of the footing.

**Discuss Major Alterations:**

The bridge was reconstructed in 1972, with a new steel grid deck and metal railings. The county has no records describing the earlier bridge. New timber curbs were added in 1985.

**History:**

**When Built:** 1935 (reconstructed 1972)

**Why Built:** Local transportation needs

**Who Built:** Unknown

**Why Altered:** Safety and structural needs

**Was this bridge built as part of an organized bridge building campaign:** Yes

**Surveyor Analysis:**

**This bridge may have NR significance for association with:**

A Events     Person

C Engineering/Architectural

This bridge is not eligible for the National Register.

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

It is unknown whether this bridge was constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history.

**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?**

It is unknown whether the construction or alteration of this bridge has had a significant impact on the growth and development of the area.

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

No, this bridge does not appear to be located in an area that is eligible for historic designation.

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

No, this bridge is not a significant example of its type.

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

No, this bridge does not appear to retain the integrity of its primary character defining elements as defined within the Context Addendum.

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

No further research is needed to determine significance.

**Bibliography:**

Greiner, Inc.

1995 Maryland Inventory of Historic Bridges.

Prince George's County

v.d. County Bridge Inspection Files.

Spero, P.A.C. & Company, and Louis Berger & Associates

1994 Historic Bridges in Maryland: Historic Bridge Context.

United States Geological Survey

7.5' Brandywine Quadrangle.

**Surveyor:**

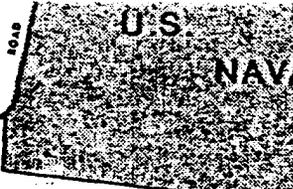
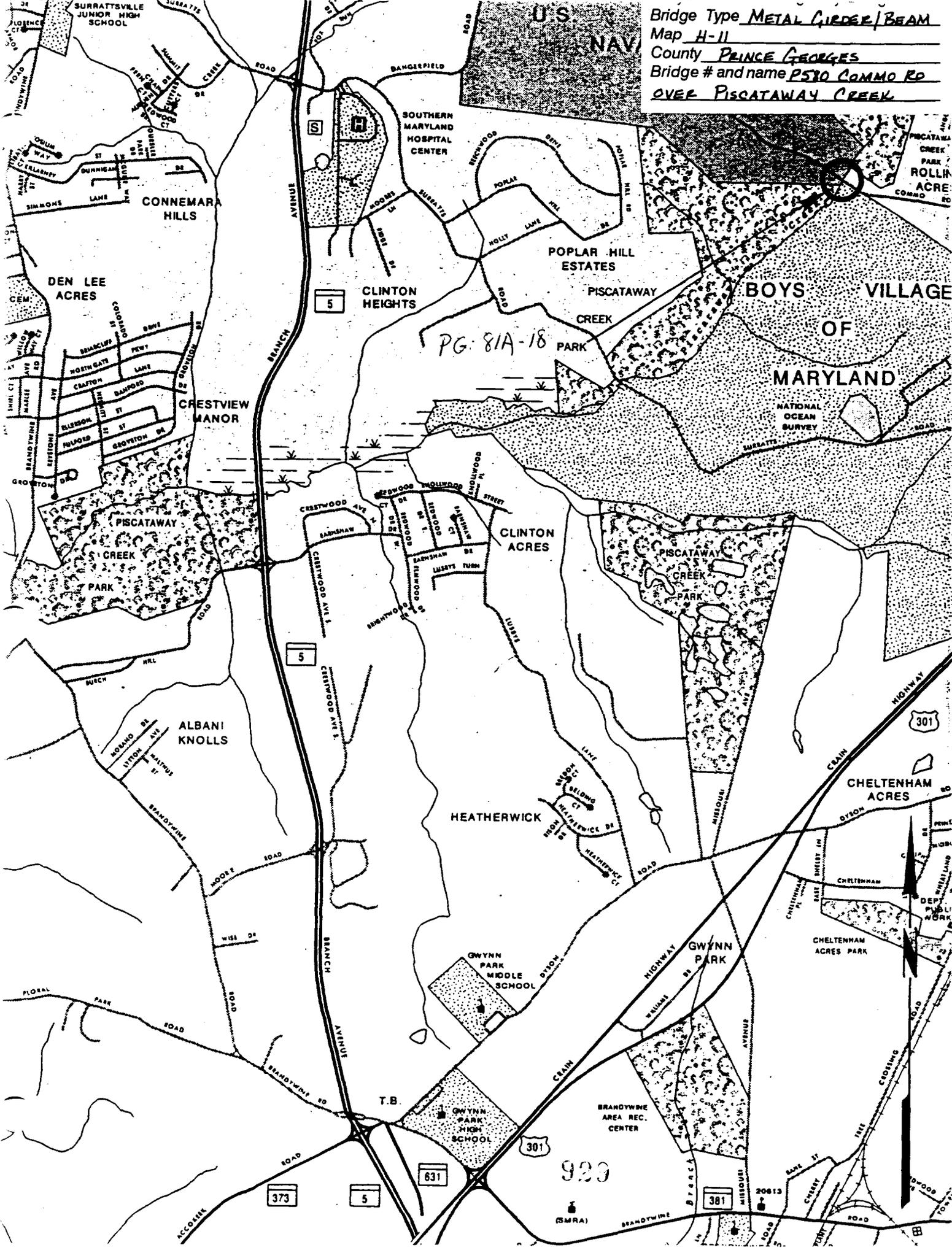
**Name:** Jason D. Moser \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** September 1995

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

**Address:** 2323 West Joppa Road, Brooklandville, MD 21022

Revised by P.A.C. Spero & Company, July 1998

Bridge Type METAL GIRDER/BEAM  
Map H-11  
County PRINCE GEORGES  
Bridge # and name P530 COMMO RD  
OVER PISCATAWAY CREEK



PG-81A-18

929

301

373

5

631

381

20613

DEPT. PUBLIC WORKS



NO  
HUNTING

Inventory # PG:81A-18

Name <sup>P580-</sup> COMM ROAD OVER PISCATAWAY CREEK

County/State PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY/MD

Name of Photographer WALLY KING

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description WEST APPROACH LOOKING EAST

Number 18 of 24







Inventory # PG:81A-18

Name PS80-COMM ROAD OVER PISCATAWAY CREEK

County/State PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY / MD

Name of Photographer WALLY KING

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description NORTH ELEVATION

Number 3 of 4

11578000119049 4511



Inventory # PG: 814-18

<sup>P560 -</sup>  
Name COMM ROAD OVER PISCATAWAY CREEK

County/State PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY/MD

Name of Photographer WALLY KING

Date 1/95

Location of Negative SHA

Description SOUTH ELEVATION

Number 42 of 41