

Maryland Historical Trust

WA-II-1118

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number: WA-II-1118

Name: Sprecher Rd over Marsh Run.  
Sprecher Rd

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>

*copy*



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

MHT Number WA-II-1118

**Name and SHA No.** Sprecher Road over Marsh Run/W 5661 (W266110)

**Location:**

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

**City/Town:** Sharpsburg Vicinity x

**County:** Washington

**Ownership:** \_ State x County \_ Municipal \_ Other

**This bridge projects over:** \_ Road \_ Railway x Water \_ Land

**Is the bridge located within a designated district:** \_ yes x 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

x Metal Girder

x 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:** W 5661 (W266110) carries one lane of traffic on Sprecher Road over Marsh Run in Washington County, Maryland. Sprecher Road runs generally east-west at this location; Marsh Run flows north-south. The bridge is located in a rural area of Washington County. There are open pastures to one side of the bridge and several late 19th/20th century structures visible from the bridge. There is a metal and timber cattle guard extending down from the channel rail posts on the north elevation.

**Describe Superstructure and Substructure:** W 5661 (W266110) is a single span steel beam bridge with an oak timber deck and a W-beam traffic barrier. The span length, and total bridge length, is 26'. There is bituminous overlay on the road surface of both approaches. According to the 1994 inspection report the beams are in good condition, with slight rust and flaking paint. The deck is also in good condition.

The substructure consists of concrete abutments and wing walls. The abutments and wing walls are in satisfactory condition, with some spalling and cracks. There is some scour at the base of the abutments.

**Discuss Major Alterations:** The entire deck of W 5661 (W266110) was replaced in 1986. This entailed replacement of the timber deck and installation of new guardrails. Sometime between 1973 and 1977 the original stone masonry abutments were encased with concrete to remedy their severe state of deterioration.

**History:****When Built:** 1920**Why Built:** local transportation needs**Who Built:****Why Altered:** for safety 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  B Person C Engineering/Architectural

**Was this bridge constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history:**It is likely that W 5661 (W266110) was merely a more stable replacement of an earlier structure, and was not built in response to any specific events in state 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:**Construction and alteration of this bridge was not likely to have had a significant impact on the growth of the area.

**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

**Is the bridge a significant example of its type:**W 5661 (W266110) is merely a typical example of a steel beam, timber deck and is not likely to be considered significant.

**Does the bridge retain integrity of the important elements described in the Context Addendum:**Rolled longitudinal I-beams are considered a primary character defining element. There is nothing in the available documentation to indicate that the beams for this structure were ever replaced. However, the floor system and deck, both secondary character defining elements, were extensively rehabilitated in 1986. The W-beam guardrail, a tertiary character defining element under additional functional features, was also replaced in 1986.

Abutments, whether of stone masonry or concrete, are considered a primary character defining element. In the 1973 county inspection report the photos show a bridge with stone masonry abutments in an advanced state of deterioration, and this report recommends that the structure be closed to all traffic over three tons. The next report, from 1977, shows photos of the bridge with concrete abutments and a posted weight allowance of 15 tons. The files indicate that the stone abutments were encased in concrete, but do not indicate an exact date for this alteration.

The fact that the deck was completely rehabilitated in 1986 and the abutments were encased in concrete between 1973 and 1977, raise doubts about the integrity of W 5661 (W266110).

**Is the bridge a significant example of the work of the manufacturer, designer, and/or engineer and why:** W 5661 (W266110) is not a significant example of the work of a particular individual, but rather a typical example of an early 20th century steel beam, timber deck bridge in Washington County.

**Should this bridge be given further study before significance analysis is made and why:**Further study is not necessary for this structure.

**Bibliography:**

Greiner, Inc.

1995 Historic Bridge Inventory Form.

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

1994 Historic Bridges in Maryland : Historic Bridge Context.

United States Geological Survey

1979 7.5' Williamsport Quadrangle.

Washington County

v.d. Bridge Inspection Files.

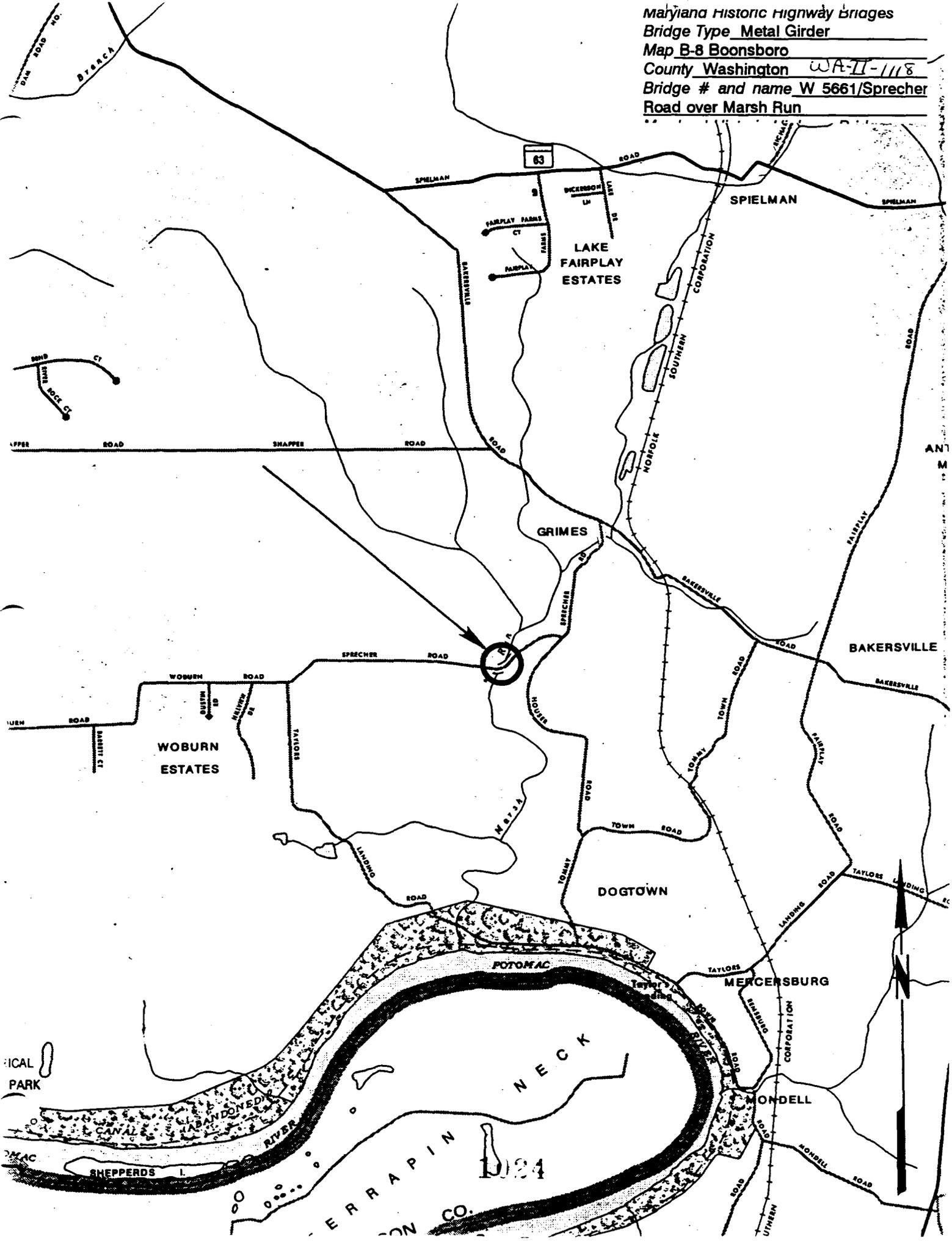
**Surveyor:**

**Name:** Stephanie L. Bandy **Date:** September 1995

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

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

Maryiana Historic Highway Bridges  
 Bridge Type Metal Girder  
 Map B-8 Boonsboro  
 County Washington WA-77-1118  
 Bridge # and name W 5661/Sprecher  
 Road over Marsh Run





WA-II-1118  
OVER MARSH RUN (W5661)  
WASHINGTON CO., MD.

DAVID KING

2/24/95

S. H. A

WEST APPROACH

1 OF 4



WA-II-1118

OVER MARSH RUN (W5661)

WASHINGTON CO. MD.

DAVID KING

2/24/95

S. H. A.

EAST APPROACH

2 OF 4



WA-II-1118

OVER MARSH RUN (W5661)

WASHINGTON CO. MD.

DAVID KING

2/24/95

S. H. A.

SOUTH ELEVATION

3 OF 4



WA II-1118

OVER MARSH RUN (W5661)

WASHINGTON CO. MD.

DAVID KING

2/29/95

S. H. A.

NORTH ELEVATION

4 OF 4