

PH0354809

**DATA SHEET**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 28 1976
DATE ENTERED	NOV 21 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  \*  
B & O Viaduct at Bloomington

AND/OR COMMON  
BLOOMINGTON VIADUCT (preferred) *Use this*

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Potomac River, south of Maryland  
Route 135

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION \_\_\_\_\_  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_  
Bloomington \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ Sixth \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE Maryland \_\_\_\_\_ CODE 24 \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY Garrett \_\_\_\_\_ CODE 023

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<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	<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Mr. John W. Hanifin, President; Chessie System

STREET & NUMBER  
2 North Charles Street

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
Baltimore \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ Maryland 21201

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Garrett County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
Oakland \_\_\_\_\_ Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bloomington Viaduct, built in 1851, is located in the Bloomington area of south-east Garrett County, just west of the Allegany County line. It is a sandstone bridge of three full center arches, each with a 56-foot span and a 28-foot rise. When first built, it carried a double-track of the original Baltimore and Ohio main line across the Potomac River to Mineral County, West Virginia. In 1916 the viaduct was widened to accomodate two more tracks. The addition is a Melan-type reinforced concrete bridge of identical configuration built against the south face of the original stone bridge.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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

1851 and 1916

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bloomington Viaduct was built by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company in 1851 as part of the extension of its main line westward from Cumberland, Maryland to the Ohio River at Wheeling (then still a part of Virginia). Construction of the B & O was a considerable spur to the growth of this previously-isolated western portion of Maryland. The village of Bloomington was founded in 1849 in anticipation of the Railroad extension. Logging of the vast virgin forests was begun, followed later by coal mining. It is appropriately claimed that the railroad was the "most important single agency"<sup>1</sup> in the development of this area, resulting two decades later in the chartering of a new county (Garrett) named in honor of the Railroad's president.<sup>2</sup>

The engineering significance of the Bloomington Viaduct lies in its impressive size and its uniqueness. The B & O pioneered in the construction of durable, multispan masonry railroad bridges, most of which continue to carry heavy volumes of mainline traffic more than a century after they were built. This is one of the very few remaining on the Wheeling extension, and the only example in Garrett County (although single-arch masonry highway bridge crossing the Casselman River in the northern part of the County has been preserved and is listed on the National Register).

One of the very few recorded Civil War skirmishes in Garrett County occurred at the Bloomington Viaduct. Captain John McNeill's Rangers captured the town and a trainload of Federal Troops on May 6, 1864. As they were preparing to destroy the bridge, federal re-inforcements arrived.<sup>4</sup> The marks of this aborted demolition attempt were visible on the south face of the bridge until the 1916 widening.

<sup>1</sup>The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Thru Garrett County, "The Glades Star. (Oakland, Md: Garrett County Historical Society), Vol. I (March 31, 1949) #33, page 329.

<sup>2</sup>Urban Research and Development Corporation, A Close Look at Garrett County (Oakland, Md: Garrett County Planning Commission, 1973), page 10.

<sup>3</sup>Carl W. Condit, American Building, Materials and Techniques from the First Colonial Settlements to the Present (Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1968) pp. 71-73

<sup>4</sup>Lenora W. Wood "McNeill's Raid", The Glades Star (Oakland, Md: Garrett County Historical Society), Vol. 3 (June 1961) #5, pp. 77-79.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

"The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Thru Garrett County." The Glades Star. (see section 8 for full reference).  
Condit, Carl W. American Building, Materials and Techniques from the First Colonial Settlements to the Present. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1968.  
Notes from the files of Robert Vogel, Curator, Division of Mechanical and Civil Engineering Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY two acres

UTM REFERENCES

A | 17 | 666160 | 4371290 |  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u>West Virginia</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>Mineral County</u>	<u>057</u>
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Tim Dugan, County Planning Director/  
Ronald Andrews, Historic Site Survey  
ORGANIZATION Garrett County Planning Commission/ DATE June and November 1975  
Maryland Historical Trust  
STREET & NUMBER 21 State Circle TELEPHONE (301) 267-1438  
CITY OR TOWN Oakland/ STATE 21550/  
Annapolis Maryland 21401

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE John N. Pearce - SHPO DATE 4/26/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 11/21/96

ATTEST: Cheryl...  
ACKNOWLEDGER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11.15.76