

Jonestown Road Bridge
Rogers Avenue and Center Way
HO-619

The Jonestown Road Bridge is located about 200 feet east of Rogers Avenue south of the intersection of Center Way. Between the early-to-mid 1800s and 1960, the bridge carried Jonestown Road (now Rogers Avenue) over the Sucker Branch between Elysville (now Daniels) and Ellicott City. The single-span, single-lane bridge with a wood deck supported by steel beams has been altered over the years.

This road bridge is probably the last surviving early to mid-19th century road bridge in Howard County. The bridge carried traffic on Jonestown Road, later Rogers Avenue, until 1960.

Jonestown Road Bridge
Rogers Avenue
HO-619

HISTORIC PERIOD CONTEXT:

Region: Piedmont
Period: Agricultural/Industrial Transition
Theme: Transportation
Resource Type: Bridge
Site Types: Standing structures

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HO-619

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name) Jonestown Road Bridge

historic Jonestown Road Bridge

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Rogers Avenue ^(MD 99) and Center Way not for publication

city, town Ellicott City vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland county Howard

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 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 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 Security Development

street & number 8480 Baltimore National Pike telephone no.: (410) 465-4244

city, town Ellicott City state and zip code Maryland 21043

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. HO-619

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

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Jonestown Road Bridge is located about 200 feet east of Rogers Avenue south of the intersection of Center Way. Between the early-to-mid 1800s and 1960, the bridge carried Jonestown Road (now Rogers Avenue) over the Sucker Branch between Elysville (now Daniels) and Ellicott City. The single-span, single-lane bridge with a wood deck supported by steel beams has been altered over the years. It was raised about five feet in the 1920s after flooding threatened to destroy it, and during the last decade its wood deck and steel supports were replaced and a simple wood railing was added, but its 19th century character and setting has been retained.

The bridge's deck is 25 feet long and ten feet wide, rising about 12 feet above Sucker Branch, a rocky stream flowing from Frederick Road to the Patapsco River at Ellicott City. The bridge has curved random-coursed rough-faced stone abutments topped by decorative rectangular cut blocks of granite. The abutments' walls rise about three feet above the roadway and curve outward creating a wall which "funneled" traffic onto the bridge. The north side of the bridge has been repaired with concrete which was added over the stone at its base. The south side retains its original appearance. The crushed stone roadway leading to the bridge on both sides dates from the 1920s.

The Jonestown Road bridge might be the last surviving mid-19th century road bridge in Howard County. It is surrounded by dense commercial and residential development on the U.S. 40 corridor. But, tucked away in a tiny swath of forest along the Sucker Branch stream valley, it still retains its historic character and setting.

8. Significance

Survey No. HO-619

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 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

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.

This road bridge is probably the last surviving early to mid-19th century road bridge in Howard County. The bridge carried what is now Rogers Avenue over Sucker Branch until 1960.

Statement continued. See attached.

Rogers Avenue and Center Way
HO-619
Significance Statement Continued

The exact date of the bridge's construction is unknown, but it was probably built between 1800 and 1850. The road which crossed Sucker Branch at the point where the bridge is located appears on the Griffith map of Maryland dating from 1795. This road, now Rogers Avenue, runs between U.S. 40 and Old Frederick Road. Over the past 150 years it has been known variously as the "Road to Elysville," the "Road to Alberton" (names for the cotton mill town most recently known as Daniels), Jonestown Road, and Fells Avenue.

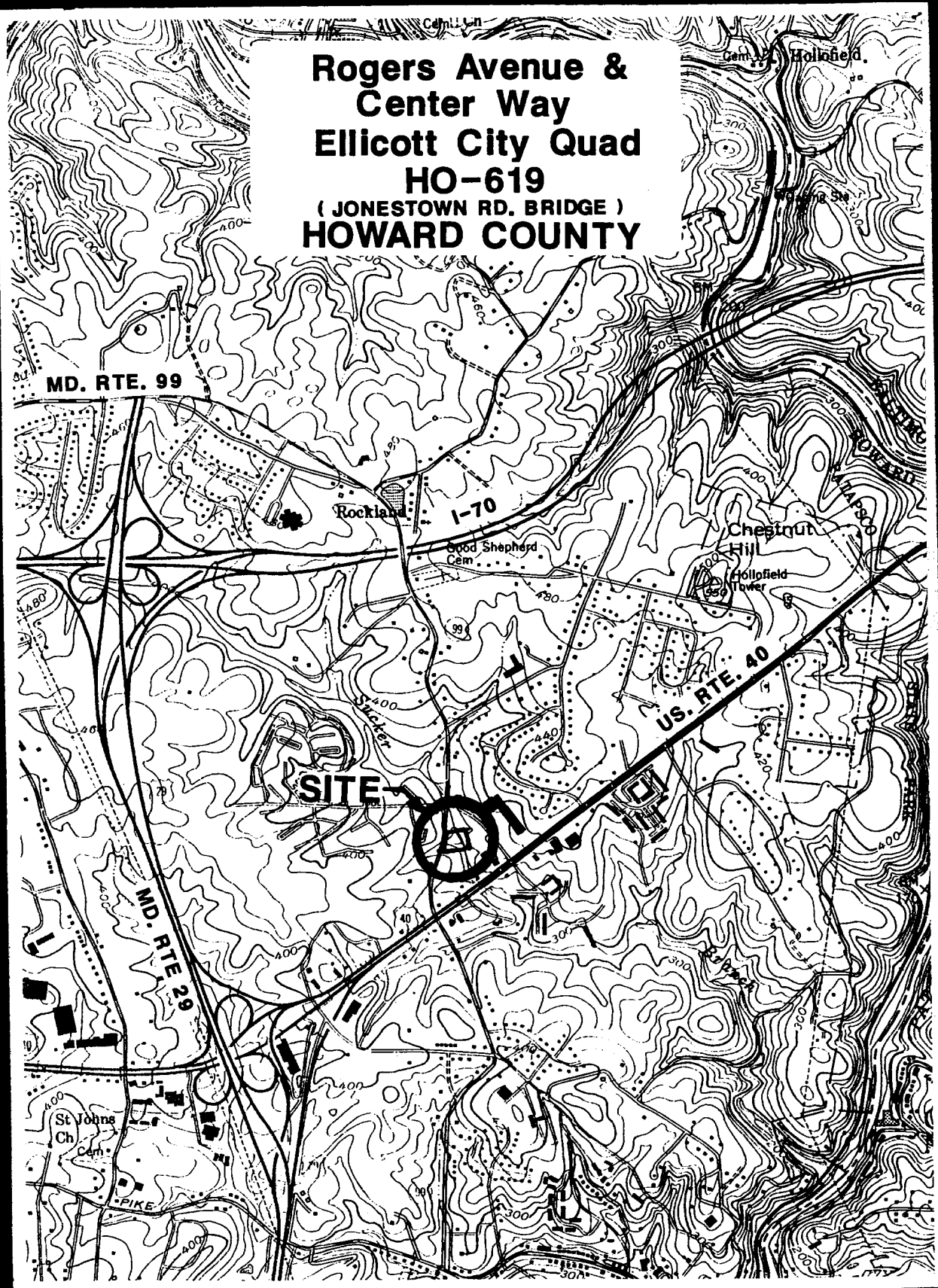
The road originally connected the Ellicott family's upper and lower mills in the late 18th century. Later it provided an important link between Ellicott City and Daniels, north of Hollifield.

Complaining of heavy traffic and poor conditions, area residents petitioned the county in 1920 for improvements on Fells Avenue, also known as Jonestown Road, between Ellicott City and Wheelwright Road (now Old Frederick Road). The county realigned the roadway to straighten curves and paved it with crushed stone manufactured on a nearby farm by Ezekiel Moxley. It was during this road project that the bridge was raised and reinforced with concrete to prevent flooding. In 1960 Rogers Avenue was widened and the bridge was abandoned when a new one was built a few hundred feet to the northwest.

For more the a century the Jonestown Road bridge played a vital role in transportation network of Howard County. While dense commercial development surrounds the bridge, the small section of stream valley where it stands provides a wooded, historic setting for the graceful stone bridge.

The bridge is in excellent condition with a new deck and railing and could easily accommodate pedestrian traffic.

**Rogers Avenue &
Center Way
Ellicott City Quad
HO-619
(JONESTOWN RD. BRIDGE)
HOWARD COUNTY**



MD. RTE. 99

Rockland

I-70

Good Shepherd
Cem.

Chestnut
Hill

Hollifield
Tower

U.S. RTE. 40

SITE

MD. RTE. 29

St. Johns
Ch.
Cem.

PIKE



HO 619

JONESTOWN RD BRIDGE

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

AMY WORDEN

11/91
MOSHOO
WEST VIEW



Hb 619

SELFSTOWN RD BRIDGE

HOWARDS COUNTY, MD

AMT WORDEN

11/91

MDS4PD

SOUTH VIEW



H0619

LONGSTOWN RD ISKIDDE

HOWARD COUNTY, MD

AMY WORDEN

11191

MD5400

NORTH VIEW