

Baltimore & Ohio Railroad:
Susquehanna Railroad Bridge
Spanning the Susquehanna River
Havre-de-Grace, Maryland
Harford County

HAER No. MD-46

HAER
MD,
13-HAV,
4-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD:
SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BRIDGE
HAER MD-46

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Date: 1908

Location: Spanning the Susquehanna River between Havre-de-Grace and Perryville, Maryland

Builder/Engineer: American Bridge Company

Owner: Baltimore & Ohio Railroad

Significance: The Susquehanna River Bridge was constructed in 1908 to replace an older, timber Howe truss structure. The first bridge built by the B & O Railroad on this site consisted of twelve 250 foot spans, with a shorter deck truss in the center of the bridge. This structure has been said to have marked the zenith of Howe truss railway bridge construction.

The existing bridge consists of a variety of Pennsylvania and Pratt trusses. The Pennsylvania trusses, one over each channel, are through trusses, and provide clearance for river traffic. The Pratt trusses are deck trusses. Three trusses carry the bridge over the eastern channel of the Susquehanna, twenty plate girders serve to cross Garrett Island, and a series (east to west) of six Pratt trusses, a Pennsylvania truss, and two more Pratt trusses carry the bridge to its western abutment. In addition, there are two approach spans, one at either end of the bridge.

Researchers are referred to D. Plowden, Bridges; the Spans of North America, for further material.

Transmitted by: Monica E. Hawley, Historian, 1984