

## A Note on Culverts

A final introductory note is necessary regarding discussion of culverts in the following report.

The 1979 Federal Highway Administration *Bridge Inspector's Training Manual* included the following definition of culvert

A small bridge constructed entirely below the elevation of the roadway surface and having no part or portion integral therewith. Structures over 20 feet in span parallel to the roadway are usually called bridges, rather than culverts; structures less than 20 feet in span are called culverts even though they support traffic loads directly [U.S. Department of Transportation 1979:G-13].

Culverts are concisely discussed in the Concrete Bridges section and referenced in the Stone Arch Bridges section of this report. Whether culvert structures are to be included in the comprehensive survey of historic bridges in Maryland will be decided prior to such survey. The technology applicable to bridges is transferable to culverts.