



THE WESTERN MARYLAND COUNTRYSIDE still retains much of its rural character, its barns, bridges, and farmhouses a testament to the immigrant's dream of an American paradise. And since the 1930s, the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service has recorded Washington County in large format photographs, measured drawings, and historical reports. More than 1,500 sites have been documented, some of which no longer exist. **AN EXHIBIT OF WORK** in the area, featuring mounted photographs and drawings with descriptive text, just ended its run at Antietam National Battlefield, moving in May to the National Main Streets Conference in Baltimore, an annual meeting of local groups dedicated to revitalizing downtowns. The exhibit tells the story of the region's architecture while reflecting on times past. **MUCH OF THIS LEGACY** is preserved in the vicinity of the battlefield. The bloodiest day in American history raged around places like the idyllic Burnside Bridge, shown here, rendering the landscape indelibly somber. Many of the county's barns and houses were impromptu hospitals or headquarters during Robert E. Lee's 1862 foray into the North. **OTHER PLACES ILLUSTRATE** the farming of the time, how people lived and moved goods. The county is home to an impressive collection of arched stone bridges and "bank barns," so called because they were built into hillsides, allowing ground floor access at two levels. **IN SIMILAR PROJECTS** around the country, HABS partners with local governments and preservation groups to safeguard our invaluable architectural legacy. **FOR MORE INFORMATION** on HABS work in Maryland, contact Martin Perschler at martin_perschler@nps.gov. To learn more about other HABS projects, go to www.cr.nps.gov/habshaer/habs.