

Octorara and Porters Bridge

Maryland Route 591 is a pair of state highways that form the old alignment of [U.S. Route 1](#) (US 1) near [Conowingo](#) in northwestern [Cecil County](#). MD 591A and MD 591B run on the northwest and southeast sides, respectively, of a now-removed 1885 bridge over [Octoraro Creek](#).

- MD 591A is designated Colora Road and has a length of 0.28 miles (0.45 km). The state highway begins at an oblique intersection with US 1 (Conowingo Road) on the northwest side of Octoraro Creek. Opposite Colora Road is Connelly Road, the original alignment of US 1 prior to 1928. MD 591A passes a few homes and parallels the right bank of Octoraro Creek before reaching its eastern terminus at a dead end adjacent to the site of the former bridge.^{[1][42]}
- MD 591B is designated Porters Bridge Road and has a length of 0.80 miles (1.29 km). The state highway begins at a dead end adjacent to the site of the former bridge on the left bank of Octoraro Creek. MD 591B heads east, crossing Love Run and intersecting Colora Road. The state highway turns northeast, paralleling the creek to the site of the present US 1 bridge, then turns east past several homes to an oblique intersection with US 1.^{[1][43]}

A bridge has existed at this site on Octoraro Creek since a bridge was constructed to serve Richard Porter's mill on the northwest side of Octoraro Creek in the late 18th century.^[44] A wooden [covered bridge](#) was constructed at the site around 1858 and washed away in a flood in 1884.^[45] A metal Pratt through [truss bridge](#) was constructed to replace Porter's Bridge in 1885.^[44] This truss bridge served the original state road, later designated US 1 in 1927.^[18] The state road west toward Conowingo was paved in 1911, while the state road east toward Rising Sun was completed by 1919.^{[16][46]} Porter's Bridge was bypassed when a relocation of US 1, including a new bridge over Octoraro Creek upstream, was completed in 1934.^[47] The old alignment was designated MD 591. Porters Bridge was closed in January 1978 after a storm caused irreparable damage to the eastern approach to the bridge. The bridge was dismantled around 2002.^[44]

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_state_highways_in_Maryland_shorter_than_one_mile_\(2%E2%80%9393699\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_state_highways_in_Maryland_shorter_than_one_mile_(2%E2%80%9393699))