

B&O RAILROAD

Originally, there were three tracks running past the Aberdeen B&O Station. Around the early 1960s, the two of the tracks were scrapped, leaving just a single line. This reflected the declining popularity of freight trains and the rise of commercial transportation via trucks and planes.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (B&O) was the first chartered railway in the United States, tracing its origins back to 1827. Established by Baltimore merchants and bankers to rival New York's hold on trade, the B&O revolutionized transportation and helped transform America into an industrial powerhouse.

On July 4, 1828, Charles Carroll, the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, laid the first stone for the B&O line at Mt. Clare in Baltimore. While the B&O initially flourished, it faced challenges and transitions with the emergence of the automobile and plane travel. In 1958, the B&O ceased passenger service at its Aberdeen station.

By 1971, the B&O's dominance over long-distance passenger travel ended when Amtrak took over passenger service nationwide. (Amtrak is the other rail line that runs through Aberdeen.)

After a series of mergers, in 1980 the B&O became a part of the CSX transportation network. In 1987, the B&O corporation dissolved, ending the railway's almost 200-year run.

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EARLY 1960S



Early 1960s' removal of track in progress.

Looking north towards the B&O station (on left) and W. Bel Air Avenue crossing.



Looking north. On the left, rail cars line up on the spur line that once crossed W. Bel Air Avenue to the canning warehouse across the street.



Looking south. The coal shed and tower seen in the distance on the left were torn down at the time of track removal.



Scammell China that was used in 1930 on the Royal Blue Line. Passengers could purchase plates, cups, and various Centenary China pieces from the train's dining cars.



Although the B&O no longer served passengers in 1978, they issued a commemorative plate for the 150th anniversary of the first stone being laid for the B&O rail line in the style of the popular B&O Centenary style.