

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Union Dam and ~~Tunnel~~ Mill Race

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Crosses the Patapsco in the park from Balto. Co. to Howard Co. near

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

U.S. 40, Catonsville

 VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE     MUSEUM  
 COMMERCIAL     PARK  
 EDUCATIONAL     PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 ENTERTAINMENT     RELIGIOUS  
 GOVERNMENT     SCIENTIFIC  
 INDUSTRIAL     TRANSPORTATION  
 MILITARY     OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Taylor Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21401

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL     STATE     COUNTY     LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

HO-534

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The dam spans the Patapsco (Baltimore and Howard counties) approximately 1.75 miles above Oella. The mill race parallels the east shore of the river.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

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SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Union Dam and mill race is included in the "Oella Historic District", entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 (see Oella form) and has been connected with the operation of the mill since the Union Manufacturing Company first began operations at Oella in 1808. The mill race connecting the dam with the mill is believed to be the longest race serving a single mill in the United States, with a length of 1.75 miles [although there are some longer ones serving more than one mill].

The opening of Liberty Reservoir in 1951 cut off for good and all the water supply to the dam and race. The dam was enlarged at least once; damage to the structure during Hurricane Agnes in 1972 revealed portions of the original dam within the present structure.

Recommendations

Routine maintenance of dam and race and recording by a qualified industrial-archeologist are called for. Procedures to secure against future floods should be investigated.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Interview, John McGrain, Paltimore County Planning Dept., 1979

"Oella" N.R. Form

Patapsco State Park Files

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
Maryland	Baltimore
STATE	COUNTY
Maryland	Howard

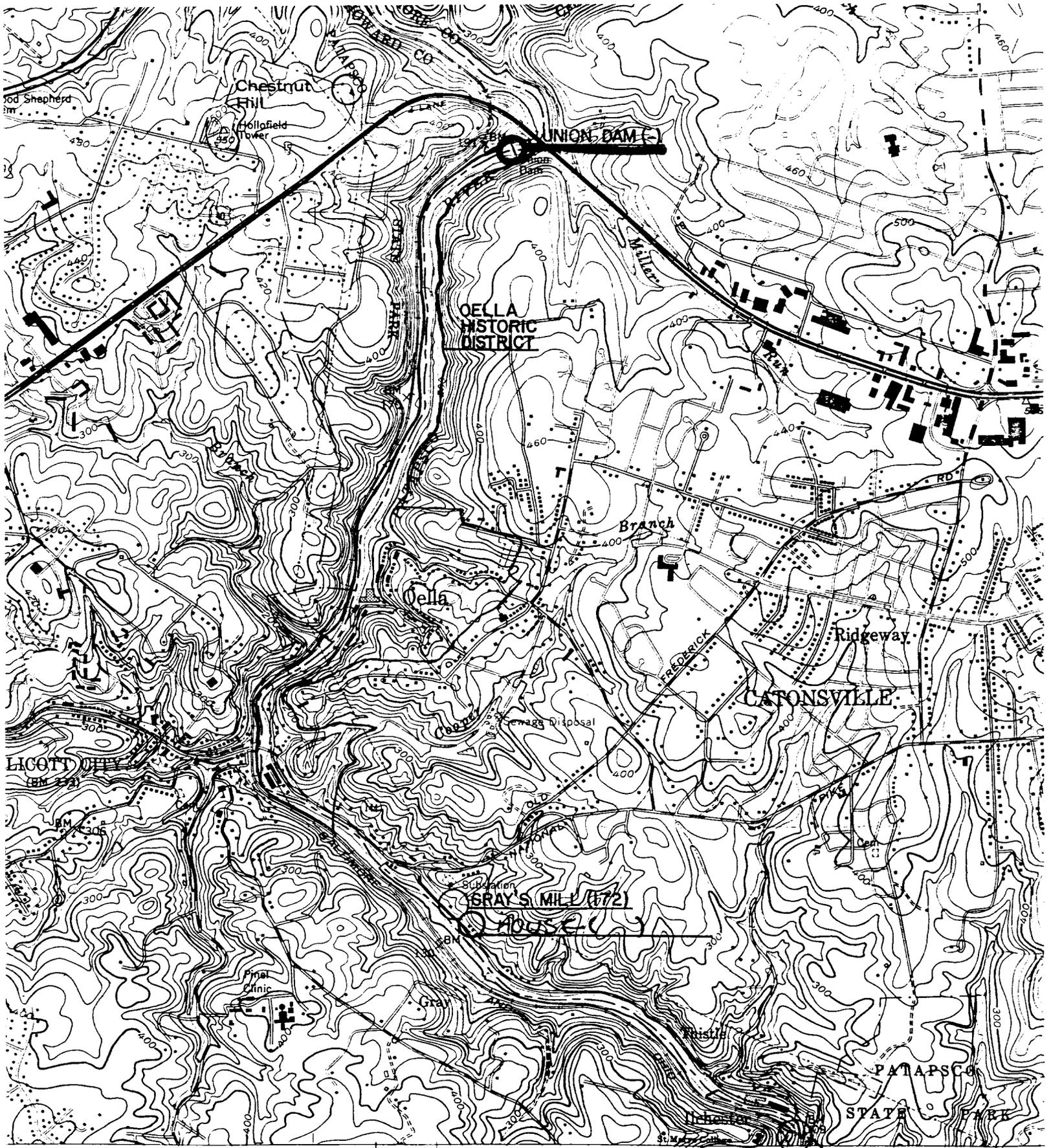
**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE	DATE
John D. Hnedak, Historic Sites Survey Team Captain	1978-79
ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE
Maryland Historical Trust	269-2438
STREET & NUMBER	STATE
21 State Circle	Maryland 21401
CITY OR TOWN	
Annapolis	

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



3 MI. TO MD. 175  
EST. BRIDGE 5.9 MI

345 47°30' 346 3470000 E

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA-1376 76

HO-534  
ELICOTT CITY  
QUAD

**PATTERSON VIADUCT  
WILLCHESTER BRIDGE & TUNNEL**  
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- |                  |       |                 |       |
|------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Heavy-duty       | ————— | Light-duty      | ————— |
| Medium-duty      | ————— | Unimproved dirt | ----- |
| Interstate Route | ————— | U. S. Route     | ○     |
|                  |       | State Route     | ○     |

0 FEET  
DATE OF 1929



ELICOTT CITY, MD



Ellicott City mill race

110-534

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

FIELD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: **Ellicott Mill Race**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Frederick Road at Oella Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Ellicott City**

STATE: <b>Md.</b>	CODE	COUNTY: <b>Baltimore Co.</b>	CODE

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: **John W. McGrain**

DATE OF PHOTO: **July 1972** (~~Roll 437~~)

NEGATIVE FILED AT:  
**34 Willow Avenue, Towson, Md. 21204 (Roll 437)**

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

looking northward up stone mill race from north edge of Frederick Road; this portion of mill race, previously filled up, was unearthed by 1972 flood. Also visible, stone piers of former trolley car approach to Patapsco River crossing by company-owned bridge.



Union Dam, from U.S. 40 bridge (195\_)

40-5341

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE

COUNTY

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FIELD

1. NAME

COMMON: **Union Dam**  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Just downstream of U.S. 40 bridge over Patapsco River**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Oella/Ellicott City**

STATE: <b>Md.</b>	CODE	COUNTY: <b>Baltimore/Howard Co.</b>	CODE
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: **John W. McGrain**

DATE OF PHOTO: **1950's**

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

**34 Willow Avenue, Towson, Md. 21204 (2 1/4 x 3 1/4 neg)**

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  
**Looking downstream from south side of U.S. 40 bridge**