

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: <u>90001660</u>	Date Listed: <u>11/7/90</u>	
<u>Hill, Walter, Hydroelectric Station</u>	<u>Rutherford</u>	<u>TN</u>
<u>Property Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>

Pre-TVA Hydroelectric Development in Tennessee MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Ray Federman
Signature of the Keeper

11/7/90
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Scale on map should be 1" = 400', which represents the rural character of the property and the best map available at this time.

Discussed and concurred in by Tennessee SHPO on November 7, 1990.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

16683

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 28 1990

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Walter Hill Hydroelectric Station
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number U.S. Hwy. 231 at Stones River N/A not for publication
city, town Murfreesboro N/A vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Rutherford code 149 zip code 37130

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Pre-TVA Hydroelectric Development in TN, 1901-1933
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Herbert L. Boyce 9/24/90
Signature of certifying official Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date
Tennessee Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Amy Federman 11/7/90

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY: energy facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof CONCRETE

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Walter Hill Hydroelectric Station is located in Rutherford County (population 95,948) on the East Fork of the Stones River. The site is located via a two hundred foot access road just off U.S. Highway 231, one half mile south of Walter Hill, and approximately six miles north of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. [See Appendices A and B]

Although a conundrum exists concerning the exact date, 1912 appears to be the most likely year for the construction of a small power station built by the Murfreesboro Light and Power Company at Walter Hill, on the East Fork of the Stones River, a mill site since 1804. After a flood in 1918 damaged the dam the Southern Cities Power Company purchased the site and built the extant power station soon thereafter. In 1926 the property was transferred to the Commonwealth Southern River Company.

A photograph from around the same date shows a two story frame mill building with gable supported by a stone foundation as firmly abutted against the hydroelectric station, most likely the housing for electrical transfer machinery. This helps explain the missing third wall of the structure. [See photographs] Likewise, a superintendent's office stood nearby. The picture is a graphic representation of the move towards electrification and the modernization it represented, and of cultural lag seen often times in such periods of fundamental transition in mores and ways of doing things. The old mill building and what appears to have been a brick factory in the distance most likely utilized the new hydroelectric power. Power continued to be produced at the Walter Hill site until 1934 until a subsidiary of Commonwealth Southern River Company, Murfreesboro Light and Power, shut down the generator. 1939 marked the acquisition of the property by the TVA, which continued to produce power until September 26, 1940 when the site was sold to the city of Murfreesboro. It ceased producing electricity in 1941. The site is currently leased by the City of Murfreesboro to the Tennessee Highway Department which manages it as roadside park.¹

¹Tennessee Valley Authority, Office of Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources, Water Systems Development Branch. "Small Hydro Program Reconnaissance Report Walter Hill Dam," Report No. WR28-2-510-112, prepared by the Hydro Planning Section, Norris, Tennessee, May 1980, p. 2, and; "Application for Preliminary Permit before the Federal Energy

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE
ENGINEERING

Period of Significance

1918 - 1933

Significant Dates

1918

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Walter Hill Hydroelectric Station is significant under National Register criterion C for engineering because it represents the kind of hydroelectric engineering projects typical at the time of its construction on the smaller rivers of the State of Tennessee. Its design and size, while not unique among its class in the Volunteer State, display the characteristic vertical emphasis of what can be called "early hydro-style." It provided the electric needs of the town of and environs of Murfreesboro until 1941 it ceased operation.

The Walter Hill Hydroelectric Station is likewise significant under National Register criterion A, as it represents a change in the business of trading, commerce, services and commodities, and the gradual introduction of electricity into everyday human existence during the early twentieth century in Tennessee.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	6
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5	5	6	2	0	0
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3	9	7	7	5	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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Walter Hill, TN 315 NW

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Walter Hill Hydroelectric Station include the dam, power house, and secondary elements. See accompanying map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Walter Hill Hydroelectric Station are sufficient to protect the historic resources.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. James B. Jones, Jr., Historic Preservation Specialist
organization Tennessee Historical Commission date September 1990
street & number 701 Broadway telephone (615) 742-6718
city or town Nashville state Tennessee zip code 37243-0442

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 3 Page 2

Walter Hill Hydroelectric Station

PROPERTY OWNER:

The City of Murfreesboro
Attn: His Honor Mayor Joe B. Jackson
City Hall
220 NW Broad
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

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Section number 7 Page 2 Walter Hill Hydroelectric Station

The dam is a concrete gravity structure approximately fifteen (15) feet high and 250 feet long with an overflow spillway section approximately 180 feet long.

The steel reinforced concrete foundation supports a brick powerhouse, approximately eighteen feet by twenty-four feet, located on the right (north) side of the Stones River. It originally housed a 192-kW vertical turbine and generator. The turbine intake consists of three openings, five feet wide in the powerhouse headwall which were controlled by three slide gates. The dam and power house were considered by the TVA "to be in good condition considering the age of the project."²

Regulatory Commission, submitted by the middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, October 17, 1980." See also: Carlton C. Sims, ed., A History of Rutherford County, (Murfreesboro, Tenn.: Carlton C. Sims, 1947), p. 217, and an unprocessed photograph of the Murfreesboro Light and Power Company on the Stones River at Walter Hill, ca. 1920-1929, in the Jo Conn Guild Collection, held currently by the TVA, in Norris, TN.

²Small Hydro, "Reconnaissance Report for Walter Hill Dam," TVA Report No. WR28-2-510-112, p.2.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY:

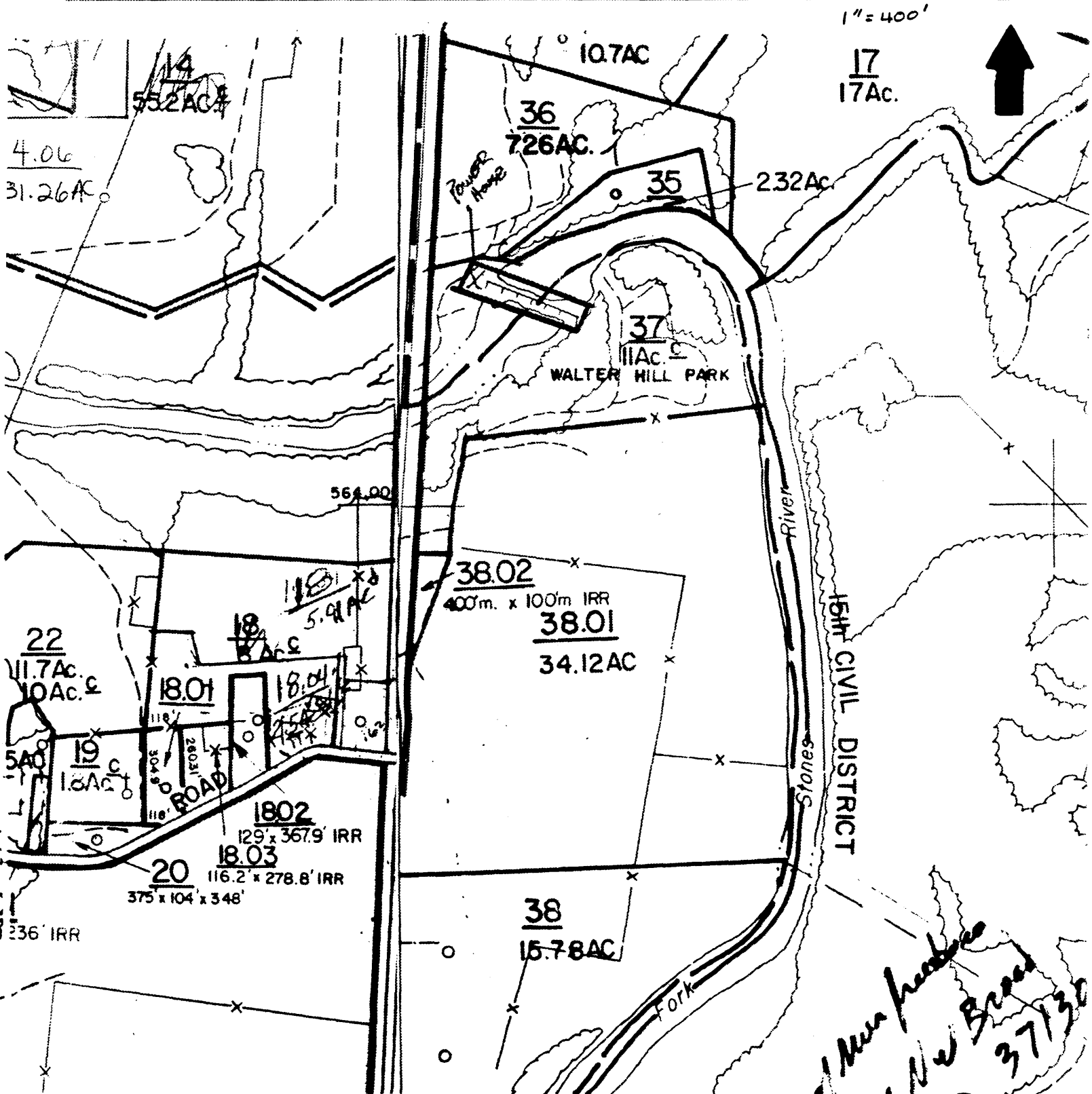
- Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation. "Application for Preliminary Permit before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, submitted by the Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, October 17, 1980."
- Sims, Carlton C. ed. A History of Rutherford County. Murfreesboro, Tenn.: Carlton C. Sims, 1947.
- Tennessee Valley Authority, Office of Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources, Water Systems Development Branch. "Small Hydro Program Reconnaissance Report Walter Hill Dam," Report No. WR28-2-510-112, prepared by the Hydro Planning Section, Norris, Tennessee, May 1980.

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Walter Hill Hydroelectric Station



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Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 1 _____ Walter Mill Hydroelectric Station

Walter Hill Hydroelectric Station
U.S. Highway 231 at East Branch of the Stones River
Murfreesboro vicinity, Rutherford County, Tennessee

Photos By: James B. Jones, Jr.

Date: March 10, 1989

Neg: Tennessee Historical Commission
701 Broadway
Nashville, Tennessee

Walter Hill Pre-TVA Hydroelectric Station, looking southwesterly on the Stones River, showing triptic window configuration, overflow openings, trash racks, intake section, transmission wire support, and stone foundation of old mill.

#1 of 9

Walter Hill Pre-TVA Hydroelectric Station, looking westerly, showing dam and power house, tail race retaining wall, and old mill foundation on the Stones River.

#2 of 9

Walter Hill Pre-TVA Hydroelectric Station, looking north, showing dam powerhouse and tail race.

#3 of 9

Walter Hill Pre-TVA Hydroelectric Station, looking north, showing physical context of downstream side of complex on the Stones River. Powerhouse on the left.

#4 of 9

Walter Hill Pre-TVA Hydroelectric Station, looking southwesterly, showing trash gates, powerhouse foundation and superstructure, and remains of mill foundation (in foreground).

#5 of 9

Walter Hill Pre-TVA Hydroelectric Station, looking northerly, showing walkway, foundation and turbine housing, and superstructure.

#6 of 9

Walter Hill Pre-TVA Hydroelectric Station, looking northerly, showing tail race retaining wall, powerhouse complex, remains of transmission wire support, and dam.

#7 of 9

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Continuation Sheet**

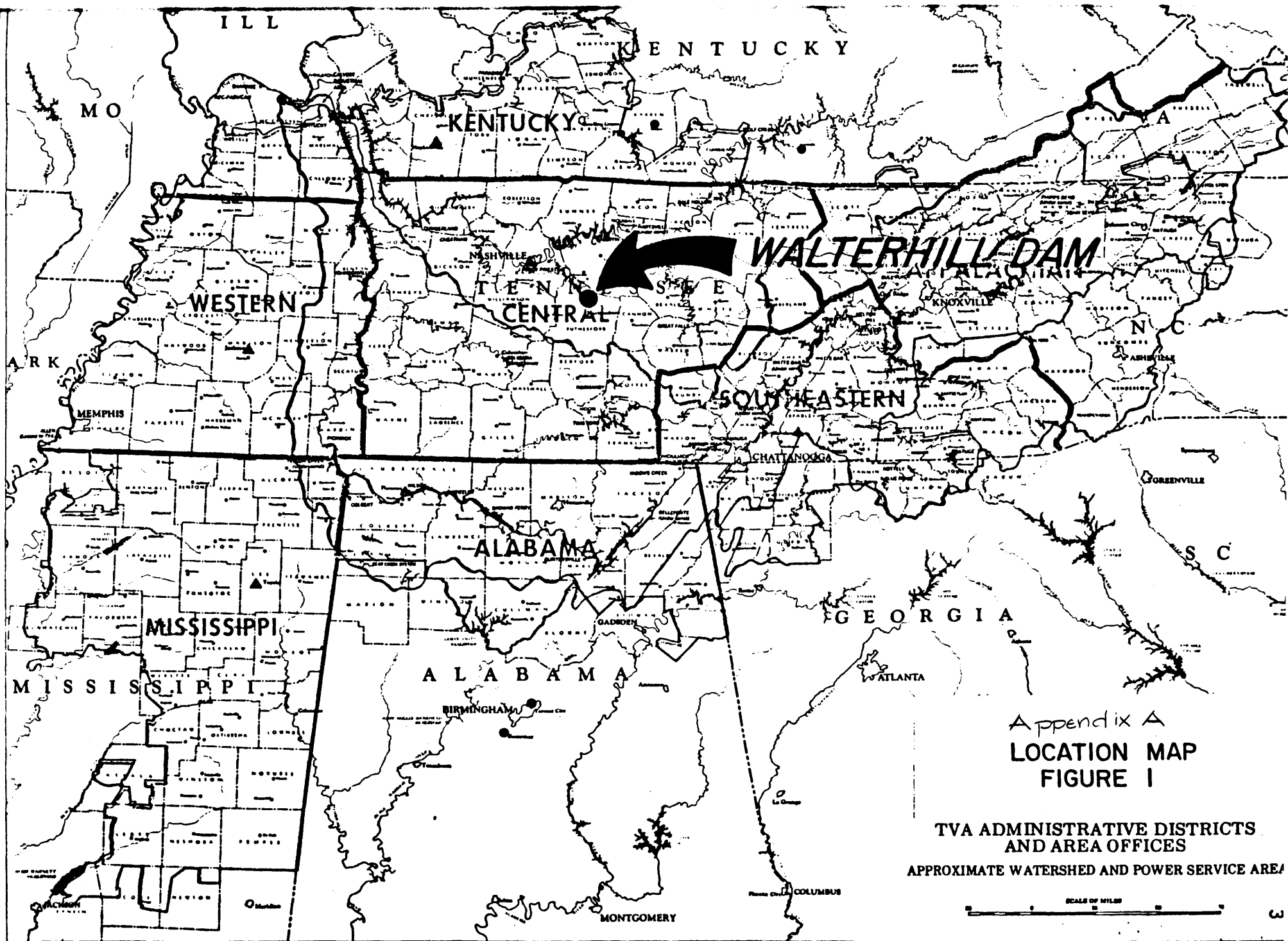
Section number _____ Photos _____ Page 2 _____ Walter Mill Hydroelectric Station

Walter Hill Pre-TVA Hydroelectric Station, looking easterly, showing interior of station which housed the generator; also shown are foundations for former ancillary buildings of the complex. Open wall was once attached to a wooden structure that may have housed transmission equipment and/or offices.

#8 of 9

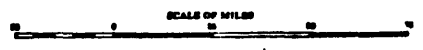
Historic View, ca. 1925.

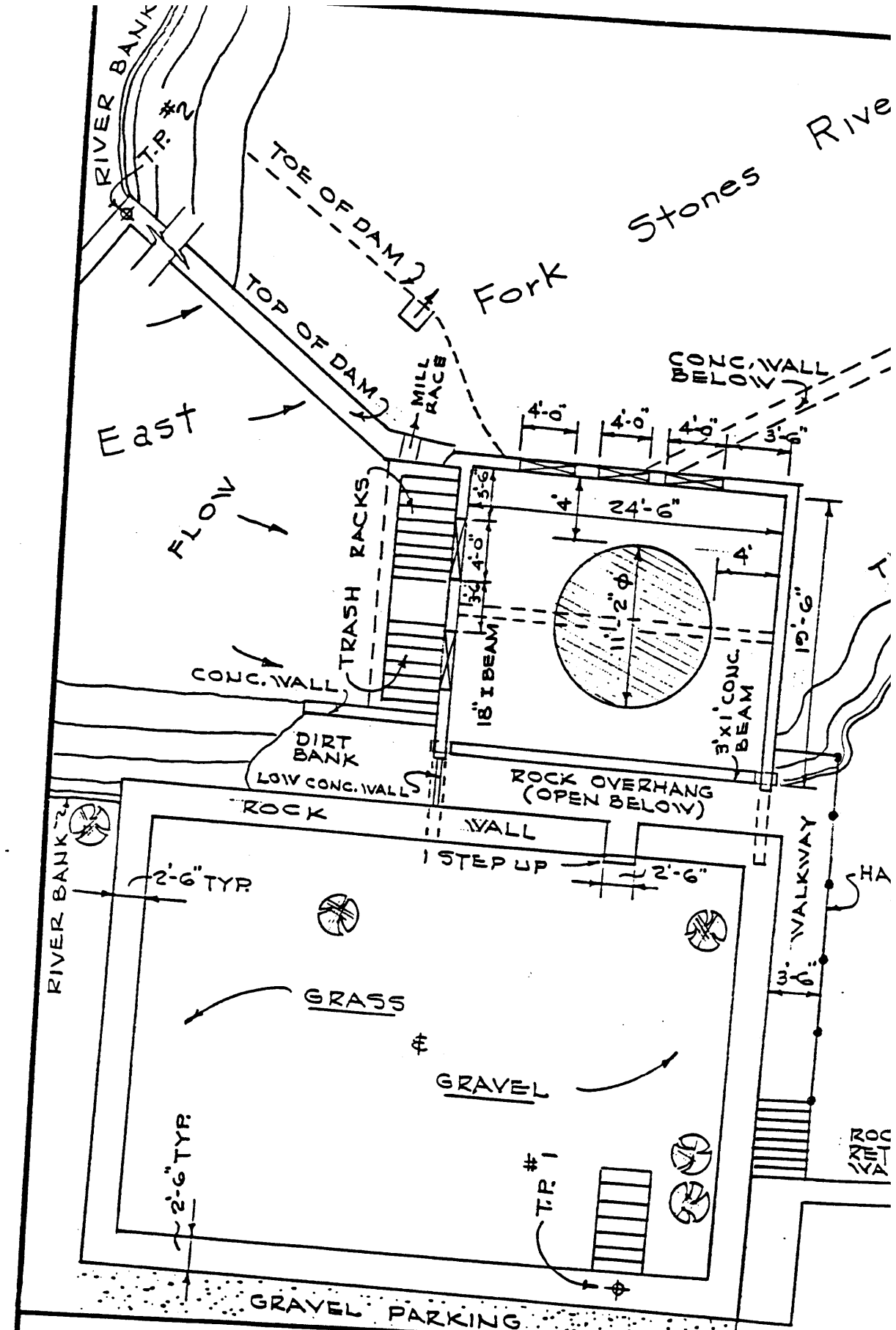
#9 of 9



Appendix A
 LOCATION MAP
 FIGURE I

TVA ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICTS
 AND AREA OFFICES
 APPROXIMATE WATERSHED AND POWER SERVICE AREA



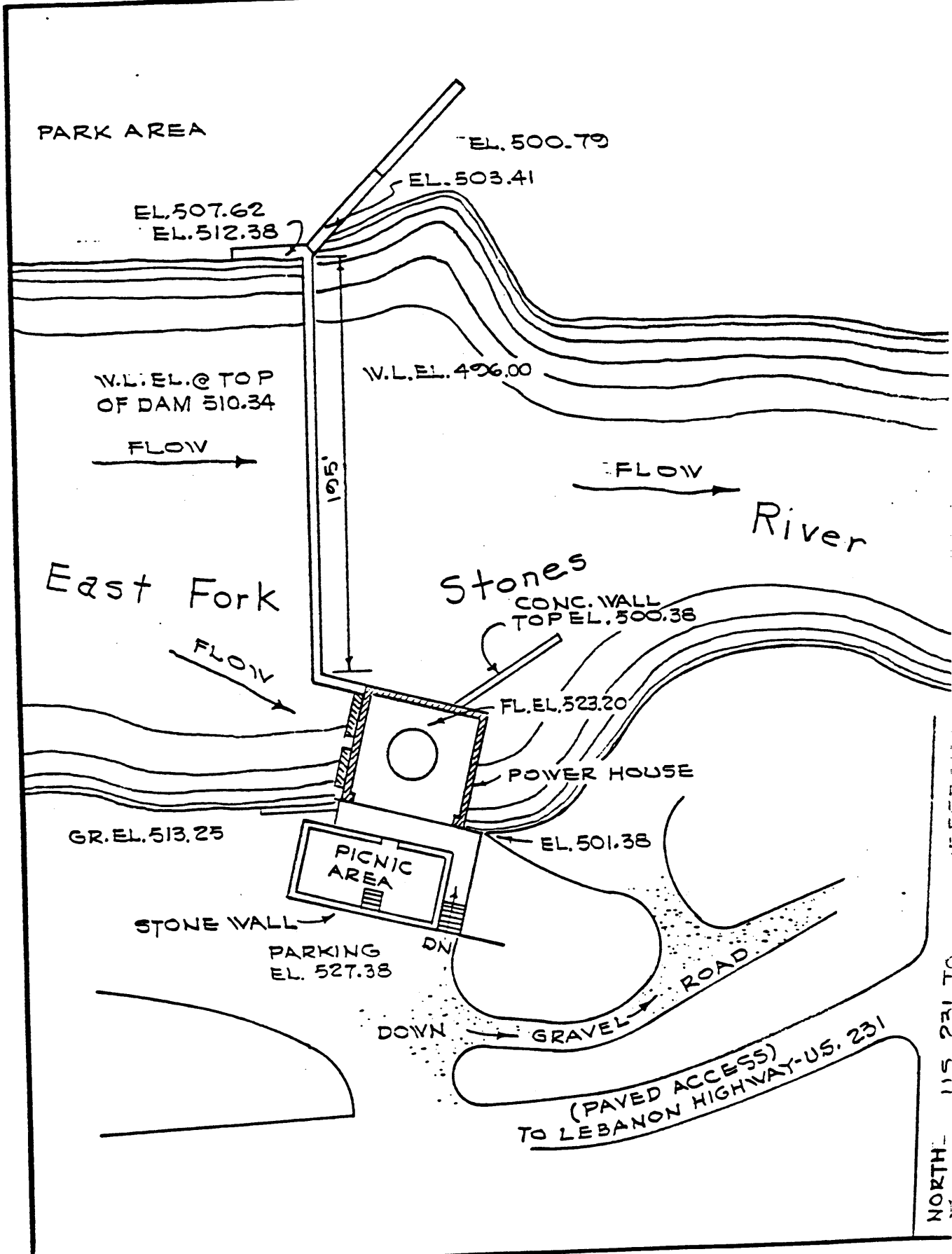


ALLEN & HOSHALL INC.
 ENGINEERS ARCHITECTS CONSULTANTS

Memphis, TN. Jackson, MS. Knoxville, TN. Nashville, TN.

DRAWN	D.V.B.	JOB NO.	697E2001
CHECKED	V.V.B.	DATE	OCT, 1981
APPROVED	V.V.B.	SCALE	NOT TO SCALE

WALTERHILL DAM SITE
 WALTERHILL Appendix D
**EXISTING POWERHOUSE
 PLAN VIEW**



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WALTERHILL DAM SITE
Appendix C

WALTERHILL TENNESSEE

EXISTING FACILITIES
SITE PLAN

DRAWN

NORTH 115 231 TO

