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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

JUN 16 1989

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 Pistol Creek Dam and Mill Race
other names/site number Pistol Creek Dam and Mill Race

2. Location

street & number Along Pistol Creek between Church Avenue and Ellis N/A not for publication
city, town Street - Maryville N/A vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Blount code 009 zip code 37801

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes sub-headers for Contributing and Noncontributing resources.

Name of related multiple property listing: Hist. & Arch. Resources of Blount Co.

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. Signature of certifying official: Herbert L. Hager, Deputy SHPO, Tennessee Historical Commission, Date: 6/8/89

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: 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:)

Entered in the National Register 7/25/89 (with signature)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/Dam and Millrace

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/Park

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concretewalls N/A

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roof N/Aother N/A

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Pistol Creek Dam and Mill Race consists of a reinforced concrete dam and mill race on Pistol Creek erected ca. 1900. The dam is approximately ten feet in length and was originally another eight feet to nine feet in length across the entire creek. An eight to nine foot section of the dam has been removed to allow free flow of the water. On the north side of the creek is a reinforced concrete, twenty foot section of the mill race. The race is shaped like a flattened U and directed water several hundred yards to mills downstream. Across the top of the concrete race are a series of concrete cross ties which tie into the metal bars in the concrete for added reinforcement. Further downstream is a 100' section of the original concrete race. This section is a concrete lined race approximately three feet in depth and five to six feet wide. The sides of the race slope outwards. The site also contains three ca. 1976 pedestrian bridges of wood construction which are included as non-contributing structures. The site is located in downtown Maryville along Pistol Creek in Bicentennial Park.

**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)

Industry  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance  
ca. 1900 - ca. 1917  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates  
ca. 1900  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 Pistol Creek Dam and Mill Race are significant under criterion A for their association with the growth and development of Maryville industries in the early 20th century. The town of Maryville was founded adjacent to Pistol Creek in the 1790s and by the early 19th century the waters of the creek had been harnessed to supply power for several clothing and grist mills. A dam was built at the present site of the concrete dam and a mill race excavated which extended several hundred yards along the south bank of the creek. By the mid-1800s the Pistol Creek area contained the major industries of the community and employed several dozen workers. By the early 1900s most of these industries had closed or moved to other locations and eventually all of these mill buildings were razed. The dam and mill race are the only pre-1940 sites associated with the milling industry and heritage of Maryville.

The present concrete mill race and dam appears to have replaced an earlier dam and race at this point around 1900. The use of reinforced concrete became a popular building material in the early 1900s and was utilized to construct the dam and bed of the race. The race was built to serve primarily the Huffstetler Flour Mill which stood several hundred yards downstream adjacent to the creek. The race provided water to the turbine wheel to power the mill. Several other industrial buildings were located adjacent to the mill race such as the Anchor Woolen Mills but it is not clear if these industries utilized the water for their operations. By 1917, this flour mill complex was operated by the Williams Brothers who converted the mill from water to electric power. Use of the dam and race was discarded soon after. In recent years this section of Pistol Creek has been converted into a park and the mill dam and race remain as historic site features.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Blount County Deed Records. 1800 - 1989. Blount County Courthouse, Maryville, Tennessee.

Burns, Inez E. History of Blount County, Tennessee: From War Trail to Landing Strip. Tennessee Historical Commission, Mary Blount Chapter DAR, 1957.

Morgan, John. Blount County Cultural Resource Survey. Tennessee Historical Commission, Nashville, Tennessee.

See continuation sheet

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

- 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 Approximately 1.40 acres.

UTM References

A 17 23117110 39603110  
 Zone Easting Northing

C         

B           
 Zone Easting Northing

D         

Maryville Quad

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for the Pistol Creek Dam and Mill Race is illustrated on accompanying Blount County tax map 58-A, lots 8, 10, 10.01, and 9.01, which is drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary for the Pistol Creek Dam and Mill Race includes all lots which contain the existing sections of dam and mill race. This includes the above described parcels which are located on both sides of Pistol Creek. No other sections of the race are extant.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Philip Thomason  
 organization Thomason and Associates date 3/30/89  
 street & number P.O. Box 121225 telephone 615-383-0227  
 city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs Page 1 Hist. and Arch. Resources of Blount Co.

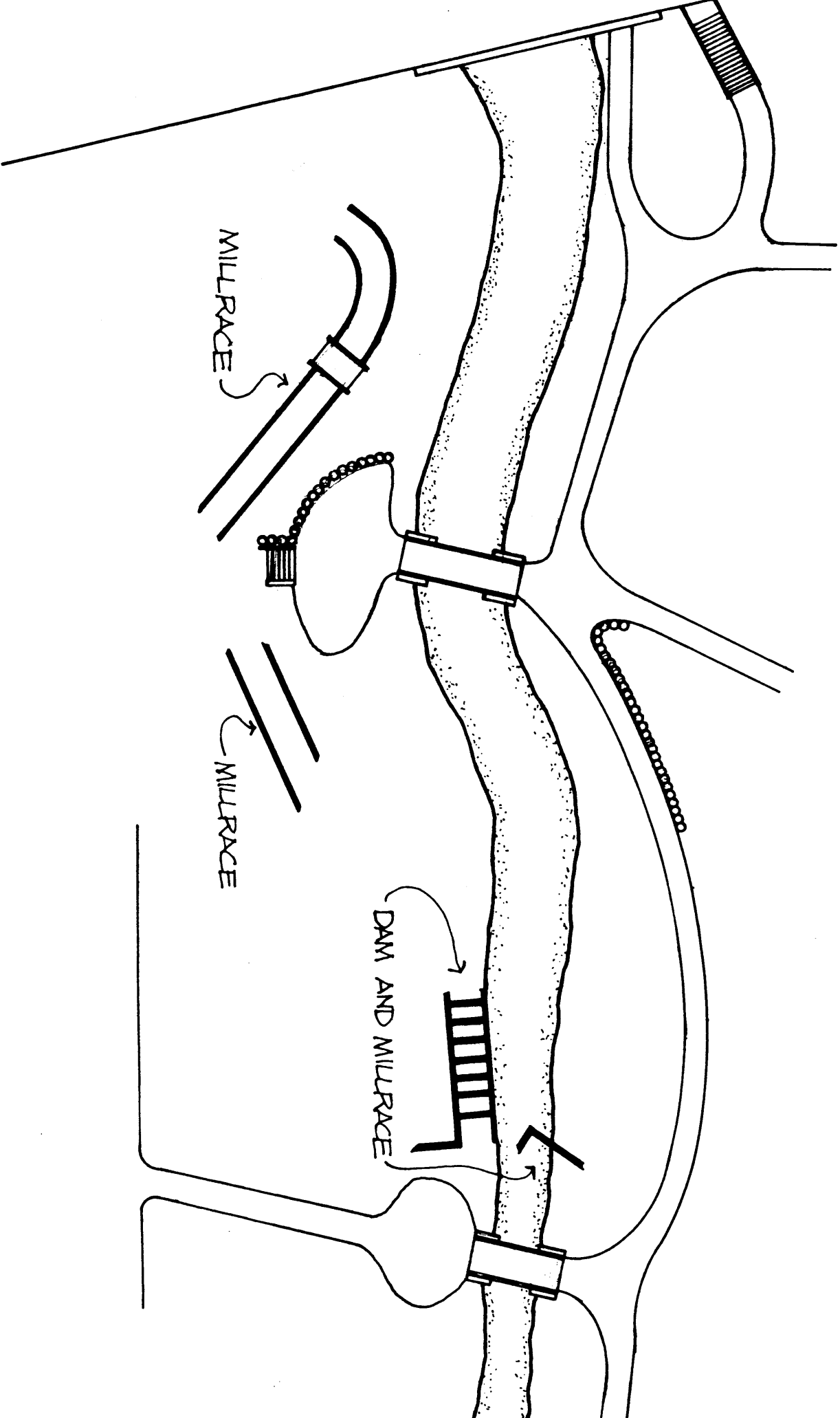
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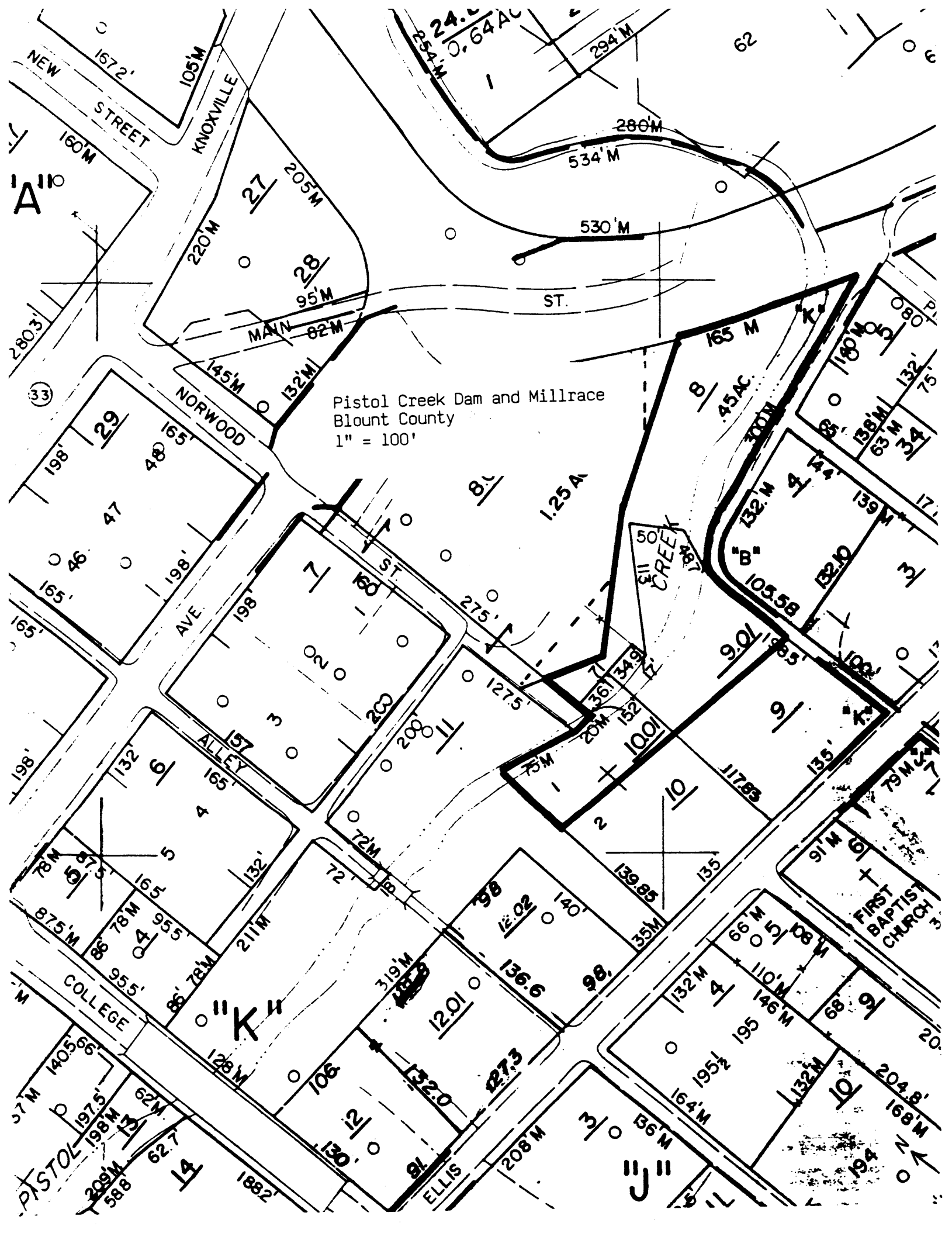
Pistol Creek Dam and Millrace  
Church Street, Maryville, Blount County, TN  
Photographs By: Thomason and Assoc.  
Date: Fall, 1988  
Location of Neg: THC

View: Towards northeast of dam and race.  
Photo # 1

View: Towards northeast of race.  
Photo # 2

PISTOL CREEK  
DAM AND MILLRACE





Pistol Creek Dam and Millrace  
Blount County  
1" = 100'

A 110

33

511  
CREEK

FIRST  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH

