NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

1002

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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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 Ocoee No. 1 Hydroelectric Station
other names/site number Parksville Dam

2. Location

street & number U.S. Highway 64 and Ocoee River Mile 11.9 N/A [ ] not for publication
city, town Parksville [X] vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Polk code 139 zip code N/A

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
[ ] private	[ ] building(s)	1	____ buildings
[ ] public-local	[X] district	____	____ sites
[ ] public-State	[ ] site	1	____ structures
[X] public-Federal	[ ] structure	____	____ objects
	[ ] object	2	0 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 [X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Herbert L. Harper — 5/22/90
Signature of certifying official — Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official — Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Tennessee Historical Commission
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:) _____

Mark L. Barker — Entered in the National Register — 5 July 1990
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)
INDUSTRY: energy facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)
N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)
foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK
roof CONCRETE
other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Ocoee No. 1, or Parksville, Hydroelectric Station is located in Polk County, (population 13,602) Tennessee, in the mountainous southeastern section of the state. It is at Ocoee River mile 11.9 at U. S. Highway No. 64/State Highway No. 74, sixteen miles east of Cleveland, Tennessee.

The Ocoee No. 1 site would become the first major hydroelectric facility to provide power to Chattanooga and other regional cities. Actual work began in 1910, and the first concrete was poured in 1911. Ocoee No. 2 was completed in 1914. The production facility served the electrical demands of Cleveland, Chattanooga, Athens, Sweetwater, Loudon, Lenoir City, and Knoxville, Tennessee, as well as Rome and Dalton, Georgia.[1]

The dam is a concrete, gravity-type with an arched spillway section, designed so that the pressure of the lake behind it is transferred to the dam abutments to provide stability. The spillway section's length is 362 feet, while the entire dam measures 840 feet. It's maximum height is 135 feet, while its maximum width at the base is 110 feet. Wooden flashboards, seventy inches in height, wash out when submerged two feet. There are four

[1] "Progress in Water Power Development," The Resources of Tennessee, Vol. 1, No. 6 (December 1911), pp. 238-241. See also: E. Raymond Evans, and Vicki Karhu, "Inventory of Historic Architecture in Polk County, Tennessee," October 1984, pp. 17-20, Tennessee Historical Commission, and; Robert L. Johnson, "Comparative Evaluations and Proposals for Preservation of TVA's Oldest Hydroplants," December 1988, (hereafter: Johnson, "Comparative Evaluations") and; TVA, Office of Natural Resources and Economic Development, Division of Water Resources, Water Systems Development Branch, Rehabilitation Studies, Ocoee No. 1, Report No. WR28-1-63-100, May 1986, and; Chattanooga Times, May 11, 12, 1911, and; SCN, August 1, 1974, No. 76, and; "The Ocoee Hydro-Electric Development," Engineering Record, Vol. 65, No. 25, pp. 676-679, and; Doran, "Early Hydro," THQ, Vol. XXVII (1968) pp. 73-74, and; John A. Switzer, "The Ocoee River Power Development," The Resources of Tennessee, Vol. II, No. 2 (February 1912), p. 42. See also: National Register of Historic Places Portfolio for Ocoee No. 2, on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission/State Historic Preservation Office, Nashville, Tennessee.

[X] See continuation sheet

seven-by-twenty-foot motor-operated hinge gates on top of the dam between the arch spillway and the powerhouse section. Two four-foot diameter sluices, of the Venturi type, are hand operated.

The five turbine intakes are served by one, twenty by seventeen and three quarter (17.75) foot trash rack. There are five penstock, one per unit, each steel line in concrete, and each eleven by eleven feet, and each eighty feet long.

The thirty-five foot wide by 165-foot long three-story powerhouse is composed of a concrete substructure, brick and steel superstructure, and features clerestory lighting[2] (See Appendix A). A number of buildings on the site were once the residences of plant managers, but now serve as offices and storage buildings for TVA employees.[3]

The Ocoee No. 1 site is unique inasmuch as it is the oldest operating hydroelectric facility in the TVA system. Not only is this true, but much of its generating machinery is original to the plant in 1912. According to one industrial archaeologist and expert in the material culture of the field, Ocoee No. 1 "is a classic mainly-intact turn-of-the-century hydroplant with a concrete gravity dam...[and] a lavish array of control equipment and switchgear... characteristic of turn-of-the-century engineering practice...[all of which is]...still not only in place, but in present operation."[4] The site "survives as the oldest and most original of the power plants in the TVA system...."[5]

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[2]Tennessee Valley Authority, Division of Engineering Construction. Water Control Projects and other Major Hydro Developments in the Tennessee and Cumberland Valleys, Technical Monographs, (Knoxville, Tennessee: TVA, August 1954), Chapter 25.

[3]Site visit, April 1989, by SHPO staff.

[4]Johnson, "Comparative Evaluations," p. 5.

[5]Ibid., p. 7

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)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
COMMERCE	1910-1933	1910
ENGINEERING		
PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT		

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: Creager, W.P. & White, J.G., Engineering Co.

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

The Ocoee No. 1 pre-TVA hydroelectric station is significant under criterion C for engineering because it represents the kind of early large-scale, professionally-designed steel-reinforced concrete hydroelectric engineering projects typical of electrical power development in the state of Tennessee throughout the early years of the twentieth century. Its curvilinear spillway section, while not unique, is shared by only one other site in the state, at Calderwood, in Blount County (NR 1989). It's design shares consistency in construction materials, genre, temporal limits, and utilitarian functions with other larger, pre-TVA hydroelectric sites on Tennessee's larger rivers, and with its younger sister Ocoee No. 2, already afforded National Register designation. Hydroelectricity has been continually produced there since 1912, serving a wide variety of industrial and domestic electric needs in two states. Although the site has been the object of engineering safety adjustments, it still retains sufficient integrity to reflect the criteria for engineering significance as set forth in the registration requirements for Pre-TVA Hydroelectric sites in the cover form, "Pre-TVA Hydroelectric Development in Tennessee, 1901-1933."

The Ocoee No. 1 pre-TVA hydroelectric station may be also significant under criterion A for commerce in the State of Tennessee, as it represents the transition from private, possession of property, to public ownership of public utilities that occurred from 1901 to 1933 in Tennessee. It also represents the introduction of a new public utility business, that of supplying electricity, that would become one of the major hallmarks of the twentieth century in Tennessee and, thus, fundamentally representative of a change in the business of trading, production, commerce, communications, and commodities in a wide range of territory in the State of Tennessee. Additionally, the Ocoee No. 1 is significant under criterion A for flood control planning, as manifest by the creation of the first artificial lake in Tennessee. The Ocoee No. 1 site also may be important to Industrial Archaeology inasmuch as listing in the National Register may aid in the preservation of scientific/industrial artifacts which may be likely to yield information important in our technological history. However the site

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

[X] 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:

- [X] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 6 acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	714420	3885860
B			
C			
D			

[ ] See continuation sheet

Parksville, TN. 126SW

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the Ocoee No. 1 Hydroelectric Station follow the footprints of the dam and the powerhouse.

[ ] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries are sufficient to protect the historic integrity of the site.

[ ] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James B. Jones, Jr., Historic Preservation Specialist

organization Tennessee Historical Commission date May 1990

street & number 701 Broadway telephone (615) 742-6718

city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37243-0442

remains unevaluated for archeological significance and this area falls outside the scope of this multiple property nomination.

Promoted in the early 1900s by J. W. Adams, a prominent contractor in Chattanooga, the Ocoee No. 1 site would become the first major hydroelectric facility to provide power to Chattanooga and other regional cities. The C. M. Clark interests of Philadelphia formed the Eastern Tennessee Power Company to construct the project. Actual work began in 1910, and the first concrete was poured in 1911. There were three distinct labor camps at the construction site, one for white workers on the north side of the river, a separate negro camp west of the quarry on the south side of the Ocoee, and a camp designated for foreign laborers. There was also a boarding house, a rock crushing facility, and a concrete mixing plant. Company officials and financial backers visited the construction site in late 1911, and vice-president of the C. M. Clark Company confidently predicted that:

> when we furnish electricity to help make Chattanooga grow...we are simply doing that which...will attract manufacturing enterprises....The future of Chattanooga must be in manufacturing lines...

Ocoee No. 1, like Ocoee No.2 (NR 1979), was designed and constructed by the J. G. White Engineering Company of New York, under the direction of Hydraulic Engineer W. P. Creager, author of many books on hydroelectric design, most notably The Hydroelectric Handbook (1927). Ocoee No. 1 hydro plant began operation on January 27, 1912, when power was first delivered, and has operated ever since. It, along with the Ocoee No. 2 plant completed in 1914, formed a hydroelectric production facility that was to serve the electrical demands of Cleveland, Chattanooga, Athens, Sweetwater, Loudon, Lenoir City, and Knoxville, Tennessee, as well as Rome and Dalton, Georgia.[1]

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[1] "Progress in Water Power Development," The Resources of Tennessee, Vol. 1, No. 6 (December 1911), pp. 238-241. See also: E. Raymond Evans, and Vicki Karhu, "Inventory of Historic Architecture in Polk County, Tennessee," October 1984, pp. 17-20, Tennessee Historical Commission, and; Robert L. Johnson, "Comparative Evaluations and Proposals for Preservation of TVA's Oldest Hydroplants," December 1988, (hereafter: Johnson, "Comparative Evaluations") and; TVA, Office of Natural Resources and Economic Development, Division of Water Resources, Water Systems Development Branch, Rehabilitation Studies, Ocoee No. 1, Report No. WR28-1-

On October 26, 1989 a Memorandum of Agreement between the Tennessee Historical Commission and TVA was signed on Ocoee No. 1. In March 1990 Ocoee No. 1 was inundated with flood waters, the amount of damage is unknown at this time. The site is currently be evaluated to see if it will be placed back into operation.

The site retains integrity in its powerhouse, dam, and original generating equipment, dating from 1912 and which is still utilized today to produce electricity. The loss of the coal-burning auxiliary-generating facility does not constitute sufficient loss of integrity to compromise the site's ability to convey its role in the development of hydroelectricity in Tennessee.

63-100, May 1986, and; Chattanooga Times, May 11, 12, 1911, and; SCN, August 1, 1974, No. 76, and; "The Ocoee Hydro-Electric Development," Engineering Record, Vol. 65, No. 25, pp. 676-679, and; Doran, "Early Hydro," THQ, Vol. XXVII (1968) pp. 73-74, and; John A. Switzer, "The Ocoee River Power Development," The Resources of Tennessee, Vol. II, No. 2 (February 1912), p. 42. See also: National Register of Historic Places Portfolio for Ocoee No. 2, on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission/State Historic Preservation Office, Nashville, Tennessee.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chattanooga Times, 1910-1917.

Doran, William A. "Early Hydro-Electric Power in Tennessee," Tennessee Historical Quarterly, Vol. XXVII, No. 1 (Spring 1968), pp. 73-74.

Evans, E. Raymond and Vicki Karhu. "Inventory of Historic Architecture in Polk County, Tennessee," October, 1984, pp. 17-20. On file at the Tennessee Historical Commission/State Historic Preservation Office in Nashville.

Johnson, Robert L. "Comparative Evaluations and Proposals for Preservation of TVA's Oldest Hydroplants," December, 1988. Report for the Tennessee Valley Authority's Office of Cultural Resources. Copy on file at Tennessee Historical Commission/State Historic Preservation Office in Nashville.

National Register of Historic Places File for Ocoee No.2. On file at the Tennessee Historical Commission/State Historic Preservation Office, Nashville, Tennessee.

----------. "The Ocoee Hydro-Electric Development," Engineering Record, Vol. 65, No. 25, pp. 676-679.

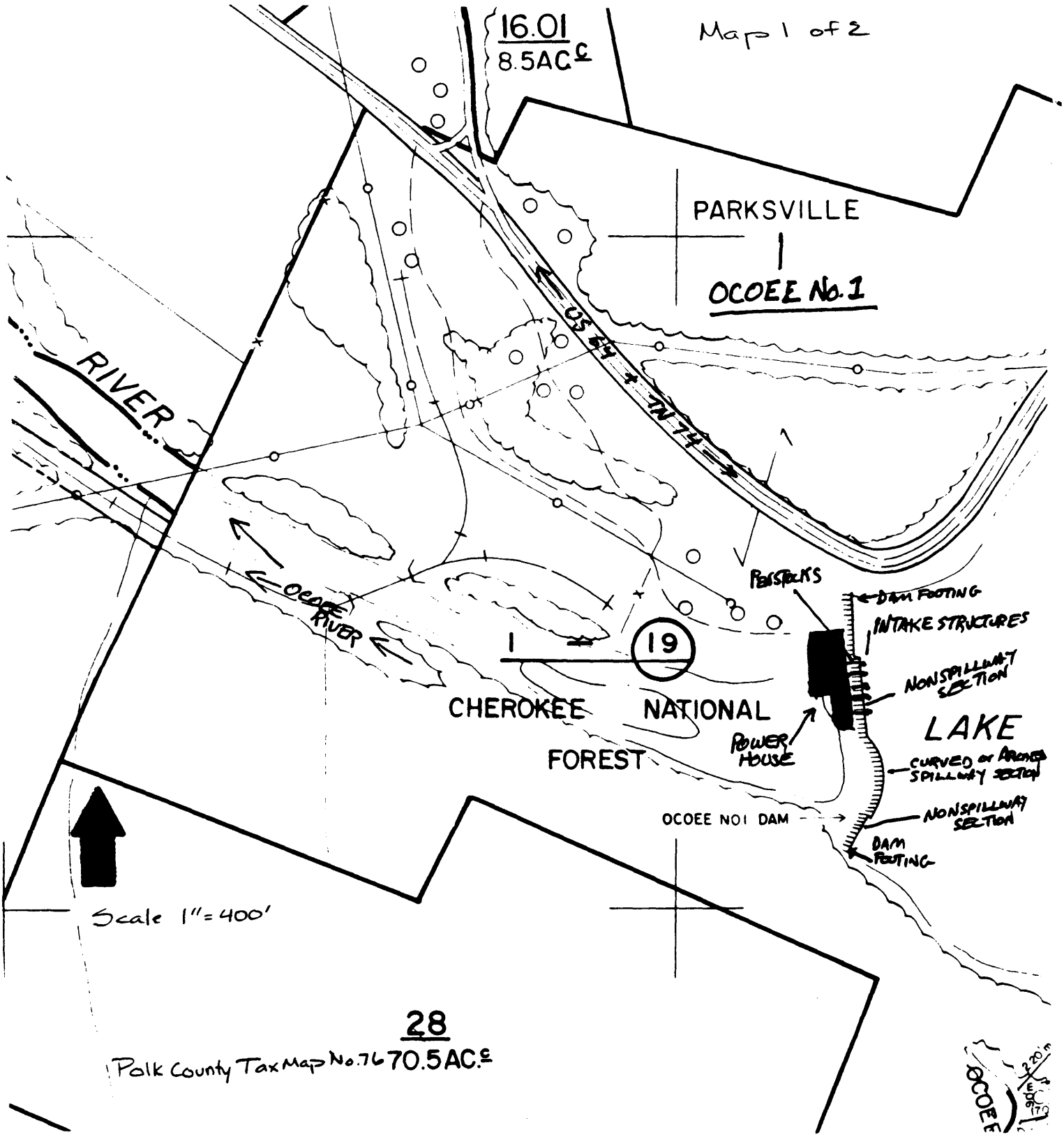
----------. "Progress in Water Power Development," The Resources of Tennessee, Vol. 1, No. 6 (December 1911), pp. 238-241.

Switzer, John A. "The Ocoee River Power Development," The Resources of Tennessee, Vol. II, No. 2 (February 1912), pp. 42-47.

System Control News, No. 76, August 1, 1974.

Tennessee Valley Authority, Division of Engineering Construction. Water Control Projects and other Major Hydro Developments in the Tennessee and Cumberland Valleys, Technical Monographs. Knoxville, Tennessee: TVA, August 1954.

Tennessee Valley Authority, Office of Natural Resources and Economic Development, Division of Water Resources, Water Systems Development Branch. Rehabilitation Studies, Ocoee No. 1, Report No. WR28-1-63-100, May 1986.


16.01
8.5AC±
Map 1 of 2
PARKSVILLE
OCOEE No. 1
US 64 + TN 74
RIVER
OCOEE RIVER
PENSTOCKS
DAM FOOTING
INTAKE STRUCTURES
NONSPILLWAY SECTION
LAKE
CURVED or ARCHED SPILLWAY SECTION
NONSPILLWAY SECTION
DAM FOOTING
POWER HOUSE
OCOEE NO1 DAM
1
19
CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST
Scale 1"=400'
28
Polk County Tax Map No. 76 70.5AC±
OCOEE

Ocoee No. 1 Hydroelectric Station
off U. S. Highway 64 on the Ocoee River
Parksville vicinity, Polk County, Tennessee
Photos by: James B. Jones, Jr.
Date: April 1989
Negs: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

#1 of 7 - Ocoee No. 1 dam, looking south.

#2 of 7 - Ocoee No. 1 dam, looking south; note curvilinear spillway with wooden flashboards.

#3 of 7 - Ocoee No. 1 dam's curvilinear spillway, looking south.

#4 of 7 - Ocoee No. 1 dam and powerhouse, looking southeast.

#5 of 7 - Ocoee No. 1 dam, showing flood gate, looking southeast.

#6 of 7 - Operative antique oil governor for generators at Ocoee No. 1 powerhouse.

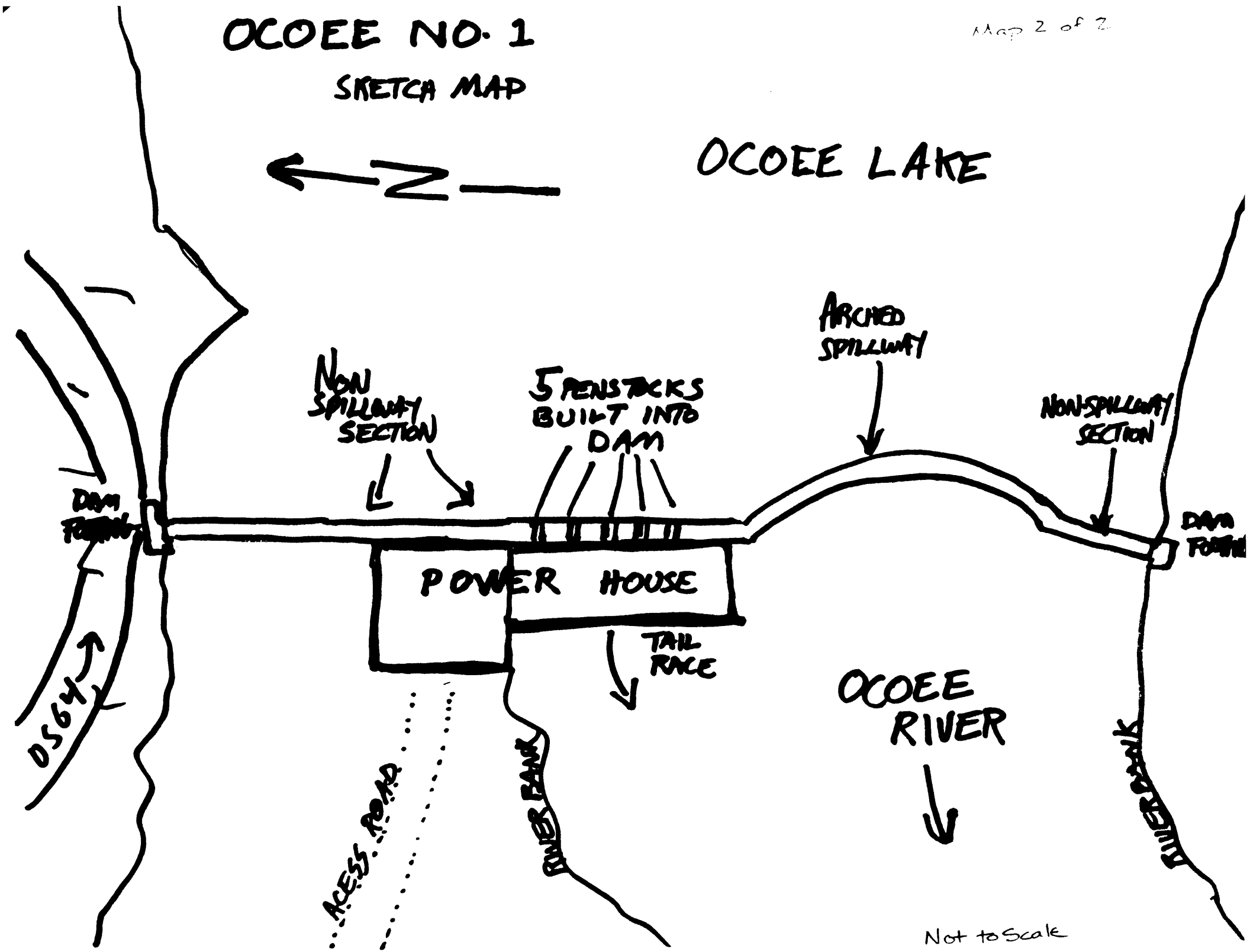
#7 of 7 - View of original generators at Ocoee No. 1 powerhouse.

Historic View

#1 of 1 - Ocoee No. 1 (Parksville) site in 1929; coal burning auxiliary power plant clearly visible, not extant in 1989. Looking E. (Ocoee Lake in background.)

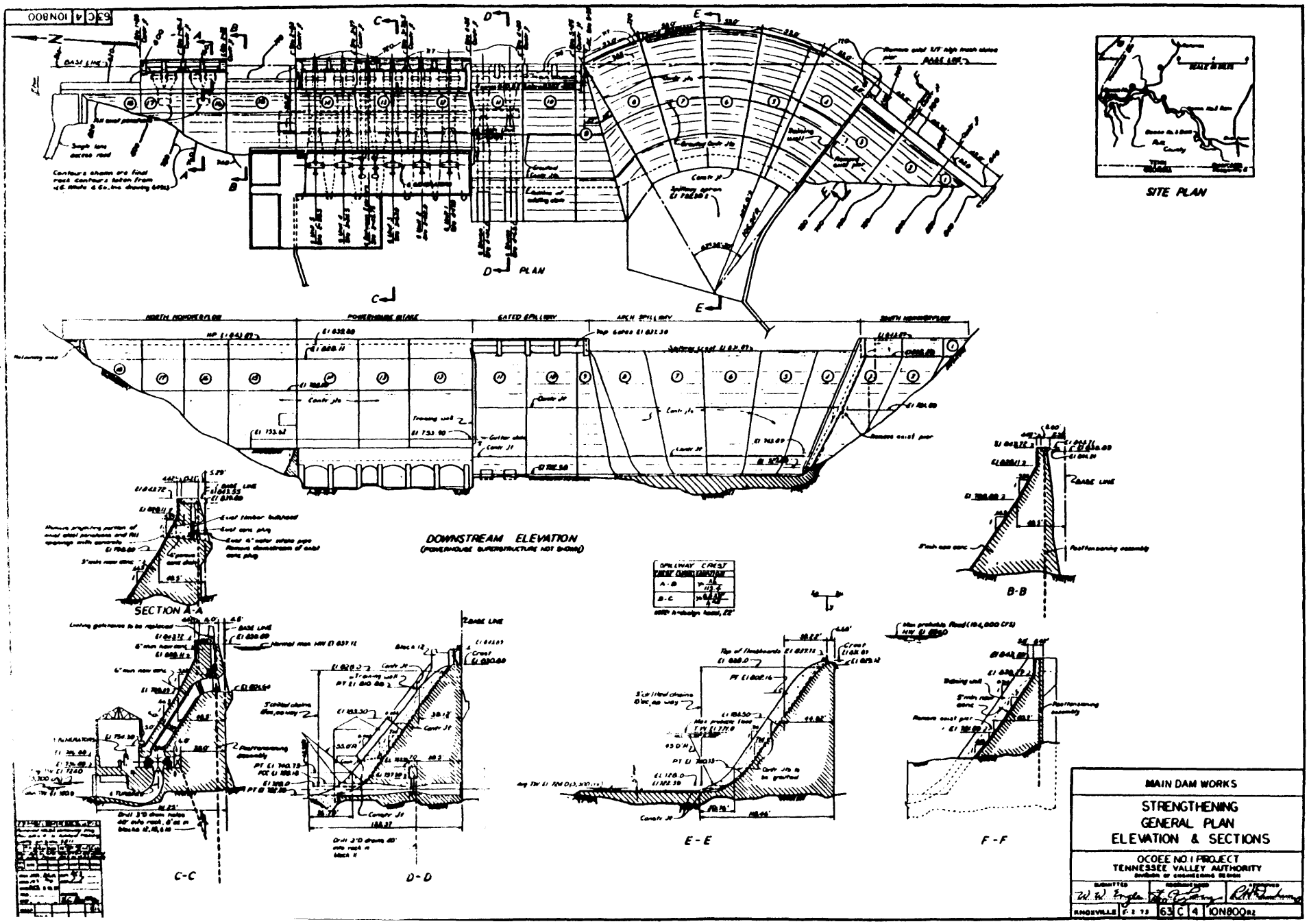
OCOEE NO. 1

SKETCH MAP

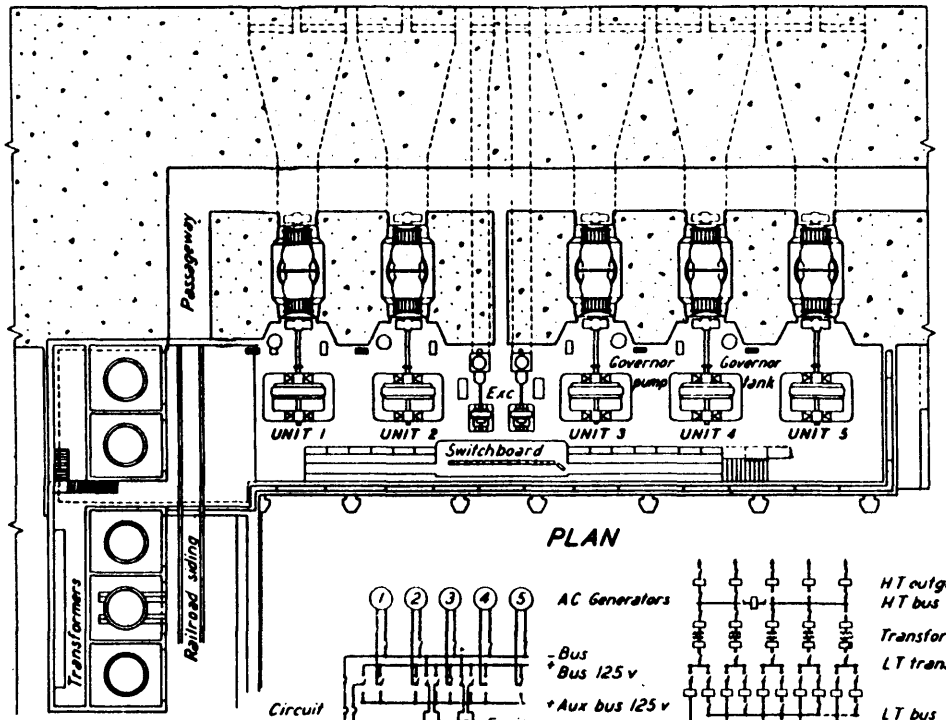


Not to Scale

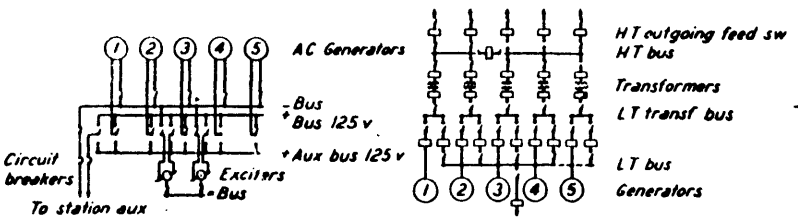
Ocoee No. 1 Hydroelectric Station Figure 1



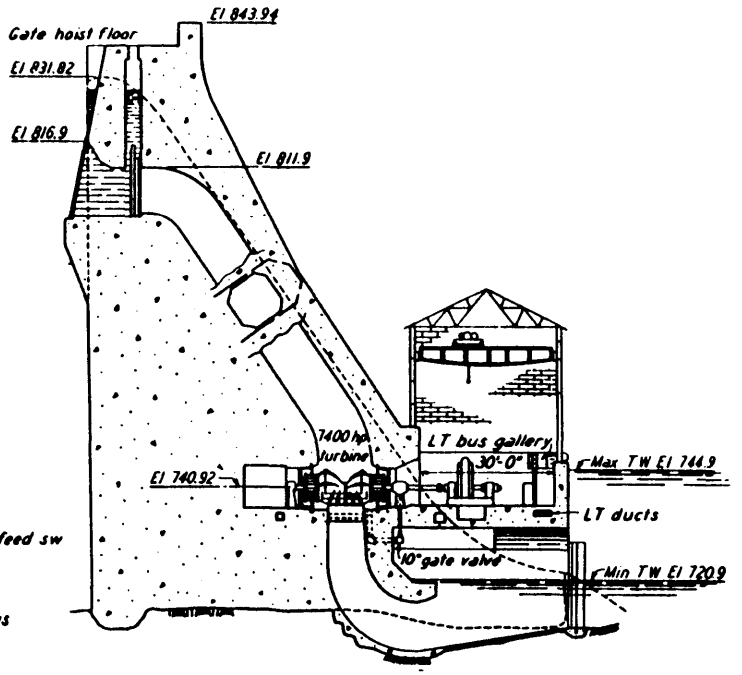
Ocoee No. 1 Hydroelectric Station Figure 2



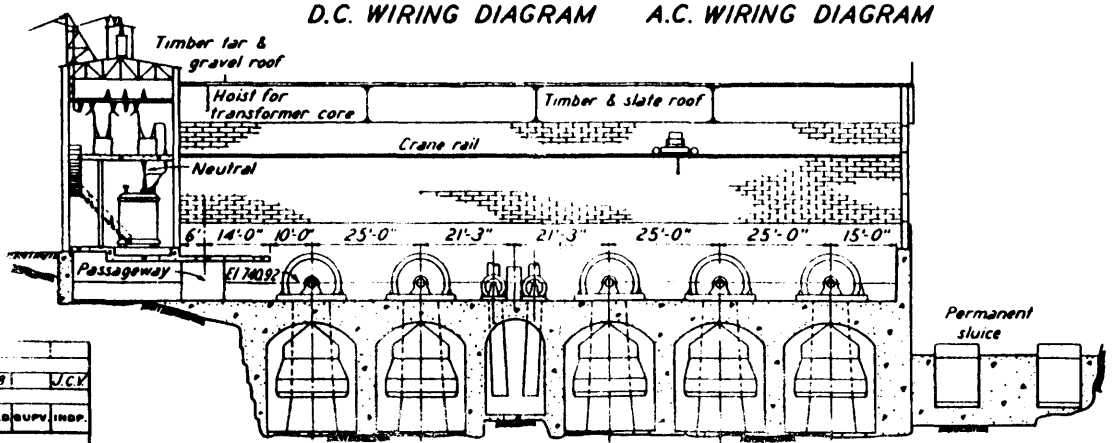
PLAN



D.C. WIRING DIAGRAM A.C. WIRING DIAGRAM



SECTION



SECTIONAL ELEVATION

TAKEN FROM TEP CO DRAWING: 18A24

NOTE:
Elevations are USC & GS 1936 supplementary adjustment.

Scale 20 0 20 40 Feet

REV. NO.	DATE	MADE	CHKD	SUPV	INSP.
1	5-5-41	HCF	T.B	J.C.V	
Elevations revised					

DRWN. COMPUTED
TRCD. & MD ENGINEER
CHKD.

PLAN, SECTIONS AND WIRING DIAGRAMS

OCOEE NO. 1 PROJECT
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
GENERAL OFFICE ENGINEER

SUBMITTED	RECOMMENDED	APPROVED
KNOXVILLE	6-10-41	G PP 4 121G79R1