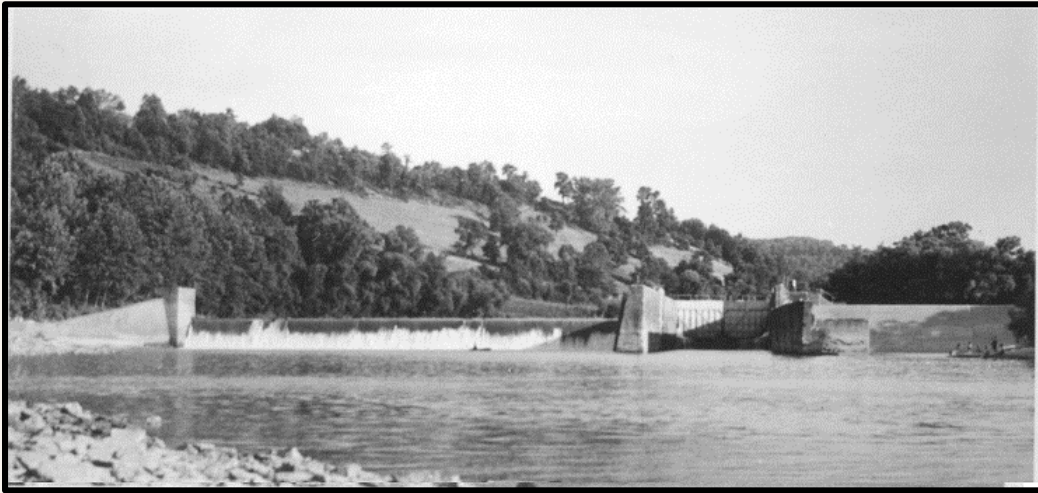
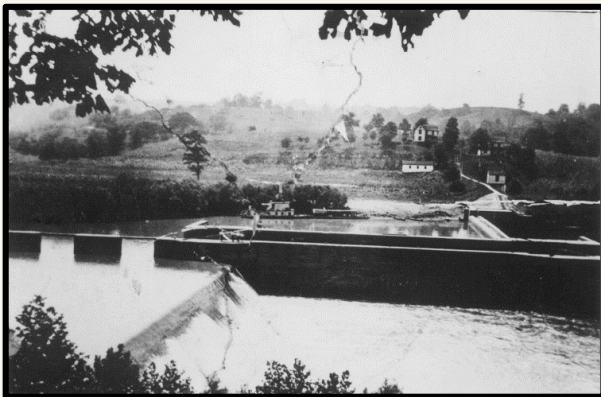


Daily Life at Lock No. 10



Lock No. 10 from the early or mid-twentieth century. Courtesy of the Kentucky River Museum Collections.



Lock No. 10 reservation during the early twentieth century. Courtesy of the Kentucky River Museum Collections.

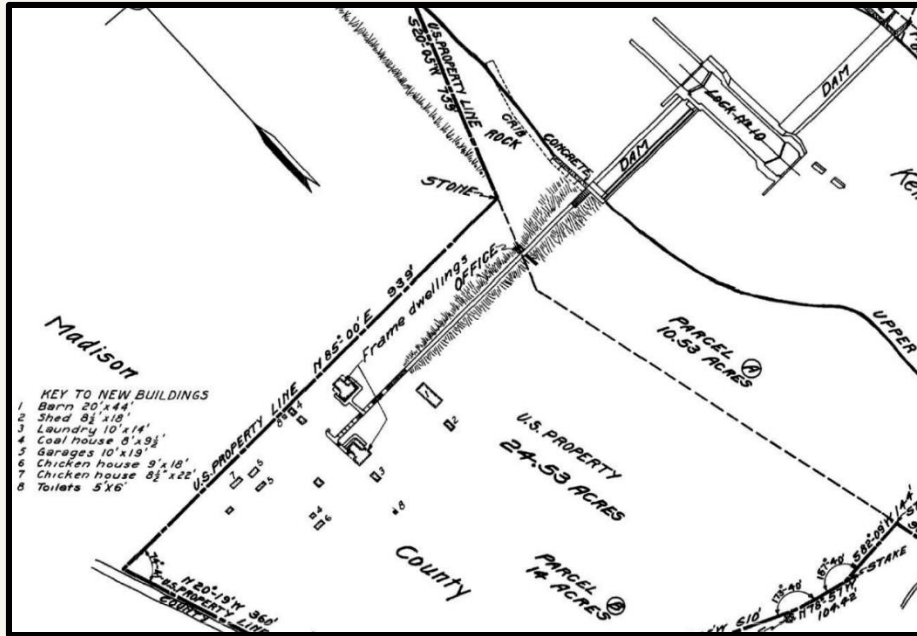


Lock No. 10 reservation circa 2016. Courtesy of Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.

On the Kentucky River, the lockmaster, the lockman, and their families lived on government-owned land containing the lock and dam known as a reservation. Typically, the site included two residences (referred to as lockhouses), domestic outbuildings, outbuildings for storing equipment, and stables and barns for keeping livestock.

The upper and lower lockhouses on the Lock No. 10 reservation are each two stories in height and have a “T”-shaped plan when viewed from above. They feature a kitchen, dining room, and sitting room on the first floor and three bedrooms on the second floor. The lockmaster typically lived in the upper lockhouse and the lockman occupied the lower lockhouse. The lower lockhouse at Lock No. 10 was built in 1904 and was relocated to the hill overlooking the river after the 1905 flood. The upper lockhouse was destroyed during the 1905 flood and was rebuilt in 1906.

The buildings at Lock No. 10 reflect standardized design plans developed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The lockhouses and outbuildings at Lock No. 10 are similar to those constructed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers along the Kentucky River during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The lockhouses, office, laundry buildings, coal house, and barn at Lock No. 10 have been restored to reflect their historic appearance.



Portion of 1925 plat map of Lock No. 10 showing the lock and dam, lockhouses, and other structures on the reservation. Courtesy of Stantec.

In addition to the lockhouses, the United States Army Corps of Engineers also provided a variety of buildings for the lock workers and their families. The upper and lower lockhouses on the Lock No. 10 reservation each had a separate laundry building where the family washed their clothes and a coal house to store coal for the stove and fireplaces. The lockhouses did not originally have running water. Water for cooking and bathing was pumped from a cistern outside. Water was collected from the roofs of the dwellings and was diverted by gutters to the underground cisterns.

Although added later, there were historically no bathrooms inside the houses; instead, the families used outhouses, also called privies. A two-seated privy was included in the laundry building near the lower lockhouse, but detached outhouses were also located to the rear or side of the lockhouses. Garages were added to the property as automobiles became more popular, and storage sheds were constructed to house the lock mechanisms and other equipment utilized in daily life on the reservation.



Lower lockhouse laundry building and coal house (left) and upper lockhouse laundry building and well pump (right) circa 2016. Courtesy of Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.



Lower lockhouse laundry and coal house during the early or mid-twentieth century. Courtesy of the Kentucky River Museum Collections. The Boonesboro Beach resort, established in 1909, is visible in the background.



At Lock No. 10, a small office was constructed along the berm that extends from the dam to the lockhouses. This was the second office built on the reservation; the first office was swept away by the floodwaters in March 1905. Here, the lockmaster and lockman oversaw the daily operation of the lock and made entries in the logbook. Next to the office is a bell for boats wishing to pass through the lock. Ringing the bell notified the lockmaster that a boat was waiting at the lock.



The lock and dam reservation was often located miles from town, so the lock workers and their families had to be self-sufficient and produce most of what they needed. They planted gardens with corn, potatoes, beans, and other vegetables, and they raised livestock, including cattle, hogs, and chickens. A barn for keeping livestock was built at the base of the hillside just below the lockhouses at Lock No. 10. Two chicken houses were located behind both dwellings but are no longer standing.

Lock office (top) and barn (bottom) at Lock No. 10 circa 2016. Courtesy of Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.

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