

Patapsco Project README File
Maryland Geological Survey
November 30, 2012

This README file describes the original Water and Water Power Rights - Patapsco Project notebook as well as information about the digital version of the notebook – scanning specifications, organization of the digital (.pdf) file, the names and file descriptions of non-pdf files, etc.

The Patapsco Project Notebook

Between 1932 and 1933, Baltimore City's Department of Public Works investigated water and water power rights – essentially, the active, inactive, and ruined mills and dams – along the Patapsco River and its tributaries in Maryland. For each of the 27 “privileges,” the investigators followed the format outlined in a Water and Water-Power Rights questionnaire in collecting data about each site (e.g., location and description of privilege, description of dam and plant). In addition to the textual information, the report includes (a) 45 labeled photographs of all of the investigated privileges – their mills, plants, dams, or ruins and (b) 41 figures depicting property plats, general plant maps, and sections through some of the dams, including a map showing the locations of 23 of the 27 Patapsco privileges.

Currently in the possession of the Maryland Geological Survey (MGS), the notebook, although still intact and readable, is showing its age – its handwritten pages are turning brown and brittle, oversized figures are torn or beginning to tear along fold lines, and photographs are coming unglued from the pages to which they are attached. As the existence of the notebook has become more widely known, others have expressed an interest in its contents. To preserve the book from additional damage from handling, MGS decided to scan it.

Scanning the Notebook

Summary: all pages, including figures, were scanned at 300 dpi, TIFF format; in addition, photographs were scanned as separate, cropped images at 600 dpi, TIFF format. The 300-dpi images were merged to create a single Acrobat Adobe .pdf file, PatapscoProject.pdf.

Details: The pages of the original notebook were written or printed on one side only. Prior to scanning, page numbers, in consecutive order beginning with 1, were written lightly in pencil on the back of each page, in the lower left corner.

Each page of the notebook was scanned at 300 dpi in TIFF format and assigned a file name in the form P#-###.tif, where P# is the Privilege Number (1-27) and ### is a page number, from 1 through 375. Pages associated with a single Privilege Number were stored together in a folder labeled P#.

Once all of the pages were scanned as TIFF images, the pages associated with a particular Privilege Number were merged into a .pdf file using Acrobat Adobe Professional, version

7.0. These Privilege-Number-based “chapters” were labeled Chapter#.pdf, where # is the Privilege Number, and stored in the same P# folder.

Pages in each chapter were renumbered to reflect the Privilege Number. For example, instead of P27-370 through P27-375, the page numbers associated with Privilege 27 in the hardcopy of the notebook, the digital pages were renumbered P27-1 through P27-6.

Finally, all of the chapters were merged into a single document, and a newly compiled table of contents, including lists of figures, photographs, and tables (charts), was added to the beginning of the document. In the final digital document, bookmarks allow the reader to jump from the table of contents to a particular chapter (Privilege), figure, photograph, or chart by clicking on the underlined section name and number (e.g. Figure 1).

Directory and File Structure

- README.doc – This file, in Microsoft Word format
- PatapscoProject.pdf – The entire Patapsco Project Notebook with a newly compiled table of contents, which allows the reader to jump directly to a particular chapter (Privilege), figure, photograph, or chart, in Adobe Acrobat .pdf format
- 28 individual chapters in directories labeled Intro, and P1 through P27. Each directory contains the TIFF images of the pages in that section of the notebook (e.g., P9-186, P9-187, etc.) as well as all of the pages renumbered and merged as a pdf document (e.g., Chapter9.pdf)
- A directory labeled Photos, which contains the 600-dpi scans of the cropped photographs in the notebook. Files are labeled P#-##, where P# is the Privilege Number and ## is the (renumbered) page number on which the photo appears in the notebook. Sometimes, if more than one photo appears on the same page, the file name includes an A or B; A indicates that the photo appears at the top of the page, and B, at the bottom.
- WaterPowerRights_PatapscoTOC_ConsecutivePageNos.pdf – An alternate table of contents, with the same information as the table of contents in the PatapscoProject.pdf file, except that the page numbers are consecutive (1-375), instead of being grouped by chapter (e.g., P1-1, P1-2, P1-3, etc.)
- A directory labeled CDCover, which contains the artwork for the CD cover on which the above files are stored, created by Avery label software.

Suggested Credit for Use of the Notebook and its Contents

Office of Advisory Engineers on Water Supply, 1933 (unpublished), Water and Water Power Rights - Patapsco Project: Baltimore, Md., Baltimore City Department of Public Works, Public Improvement Commission, 375 pp. (digitized by the Maryland Geological Survey)