

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient, decorated with numerous realistic water droplets of various sizes. Some droplets are large and prominent, while others are small and subtle. They are scattered across the slide, with a higher concentration in the top-left and bottom-right corners, creating a fresh and thematic visual for a presentation about water.

HALL'S RIFLE WORKS AND THE SHENANDOAH CANAL: A FRAUGHT RELATIONSHIP IN THE AGE OF WATERPOWER

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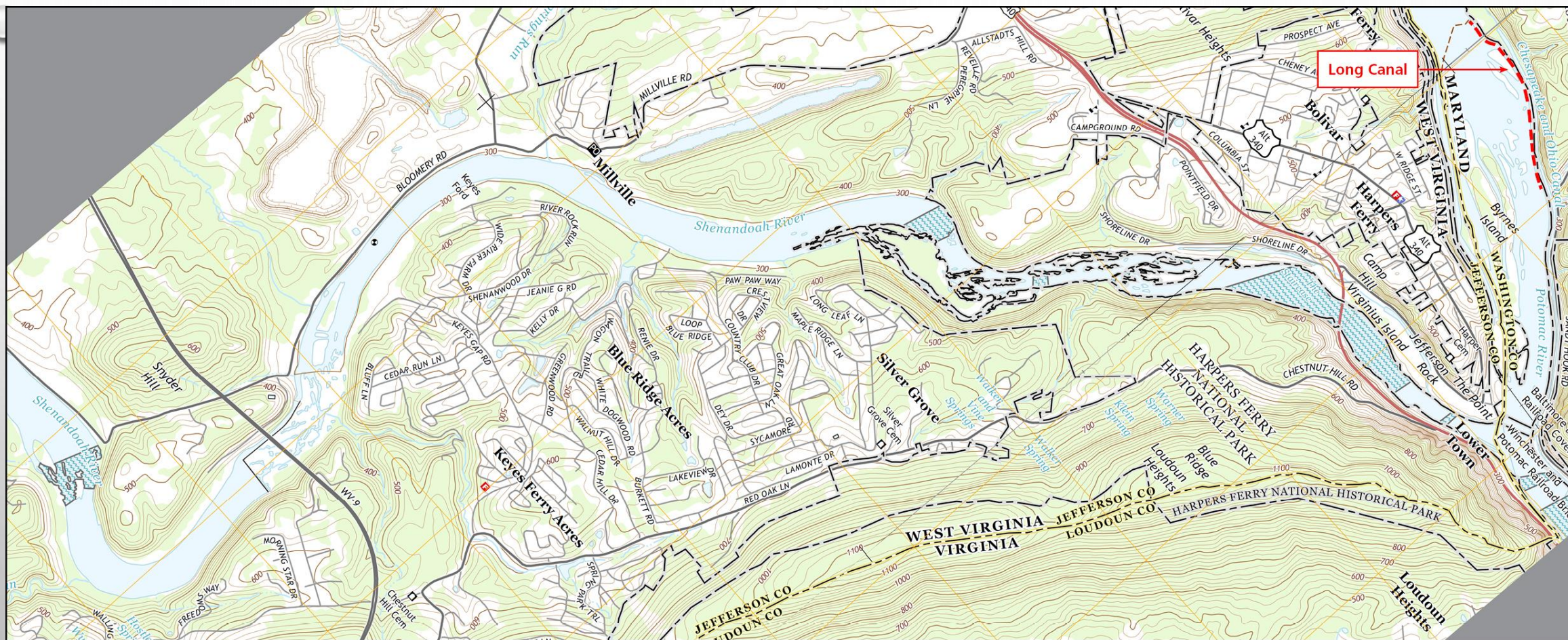


THE PATOWMACK COMPANY

In 1785, the Patowmack Company was organized for the purpose of opening navigation on the Potomac River to boats of shallow draft.

George Washington championed the extension of commerce into the remote regions of Maryland and Virginia and served as the company's first president.





U.S. ARMORY & ARSENAL

The selection of Harpers Ferry for a new U.S. Armory & Arsenal was another result of George Washington's 1785 visit.

On September 28, 1795, Washington wrote Secretary of War James McHenry that the site "affords every advantage that could be wished for water works to any extent."

Over the objections of the War Department, which claimed that "no water work would be safe" from exposure to floods, Washington's view prevailed.



SHENANDOAH CANAL

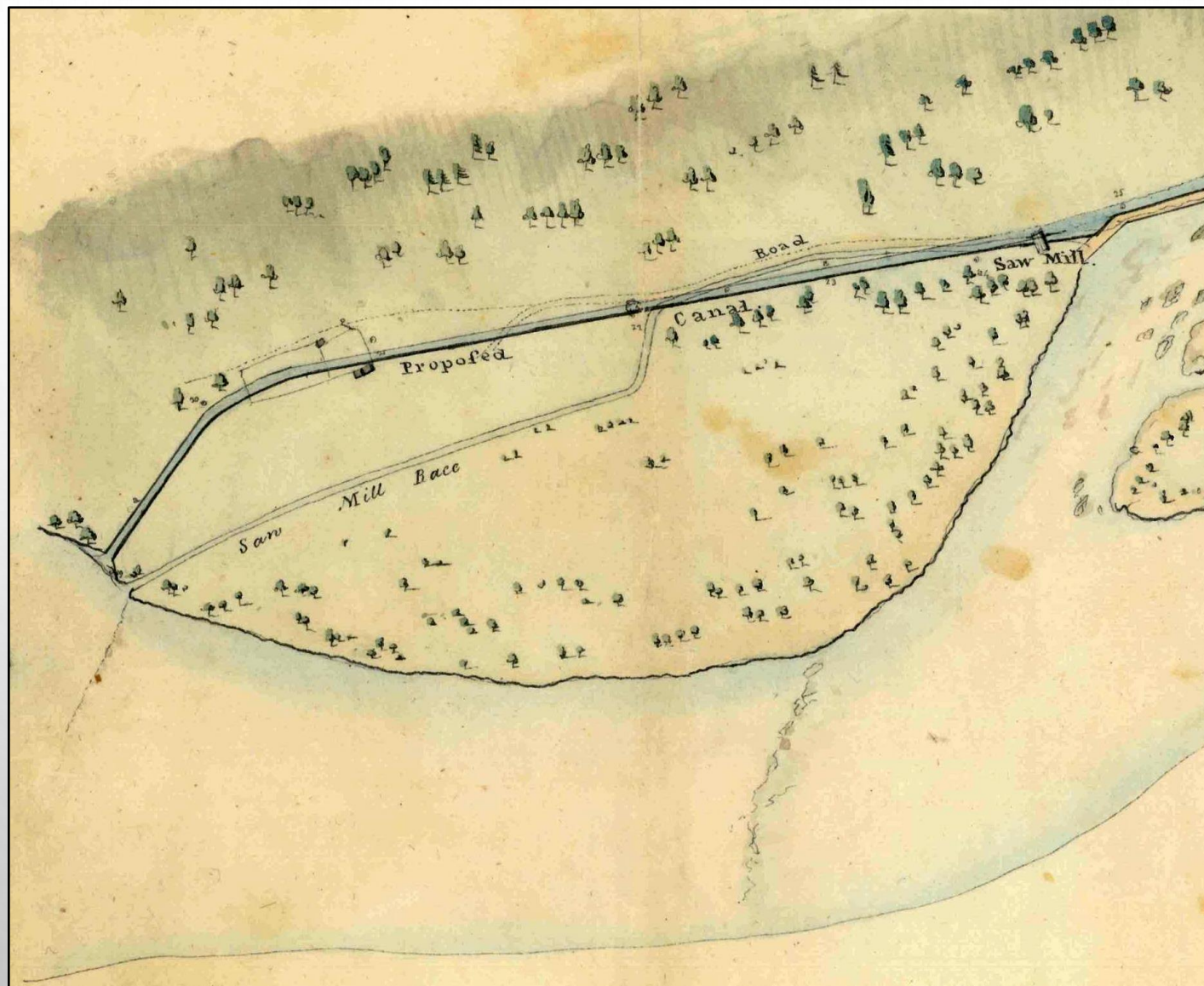
The original terms of the Patowmack Company's 1785 charter had stipulated that **all** the river's major tributaries should be opened to commerce.

In 1802, the Virginia General Assembly passed an act authorizing the Patowmack Company to open the Shenandoah River to navigation from Harpers Ferry to Port Republic, a distance of 165 miles.

PLAN

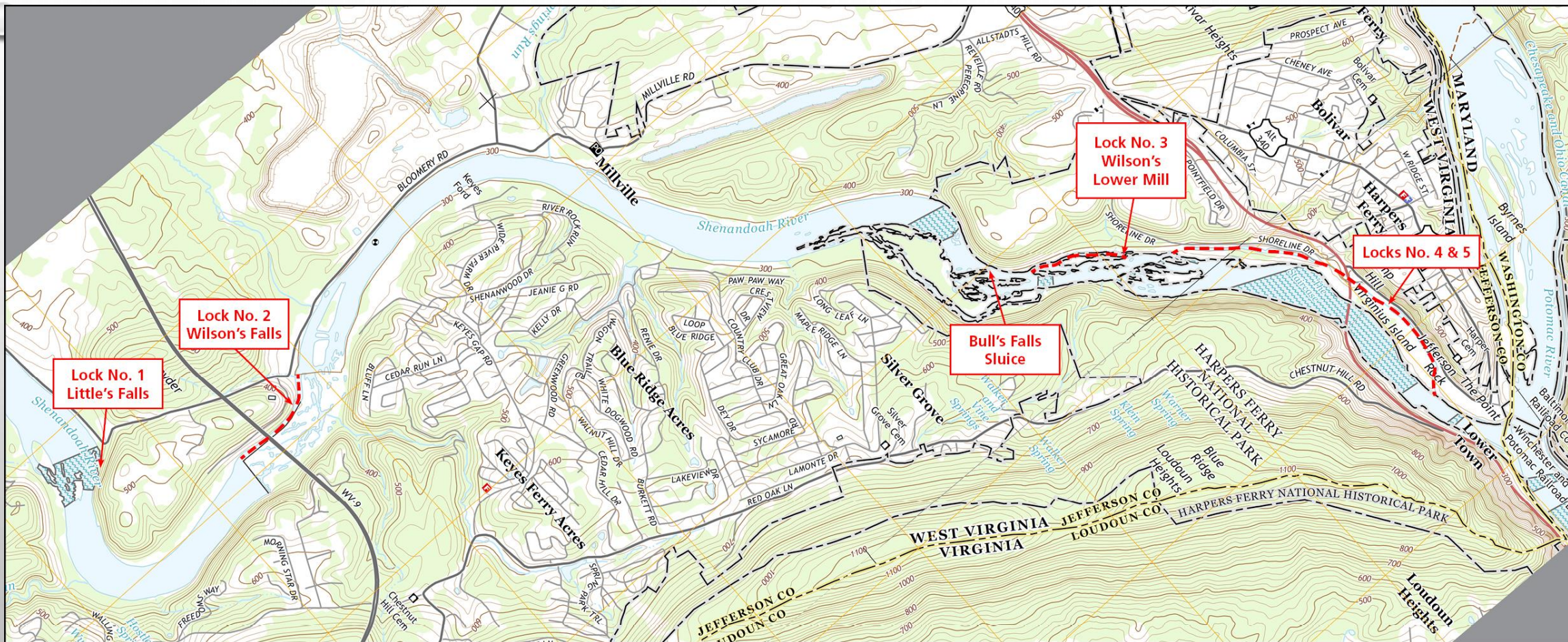


Section



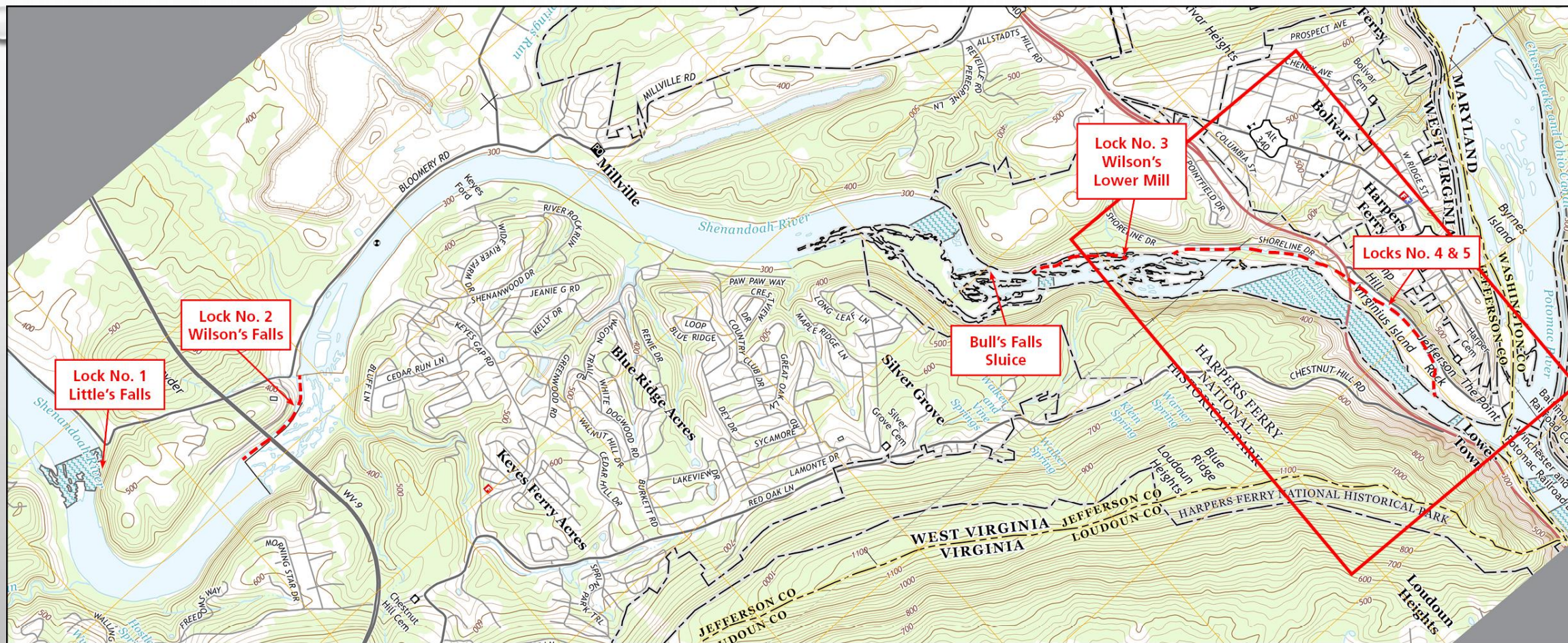
SHENANDOAH CANAL

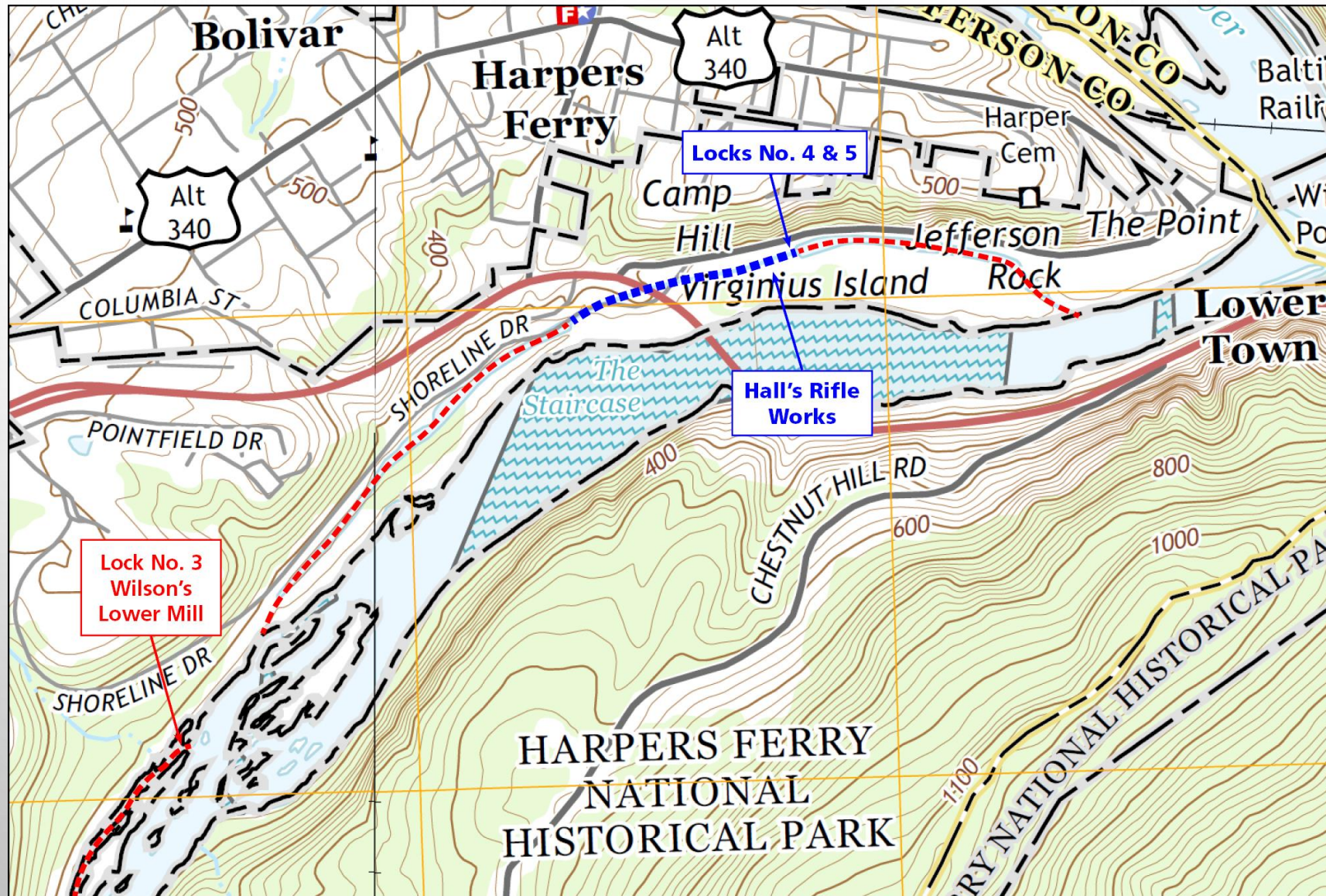
Between 1805 and 1806, the Patowmack Company raised over \$15,000 from stock subscriptions and work was pushed forward on the Shenandoah River from Little's Falls downstream to Harpers Ferry, a distance of 6½ miles.











TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT

In consideration whereof they agree that the United States may have the full use and benefit of the Surplus water in said canal.

...do hereby grant unto the United States as aforesd. for ever hereafter the right and privelege of drawing waters from any part or parts of said Canal for the use of any water works which may hereafter be erected on any part of the Public Lands in so far as may consist with the free complete and uninterrupted use of the said Canal by the said Company....

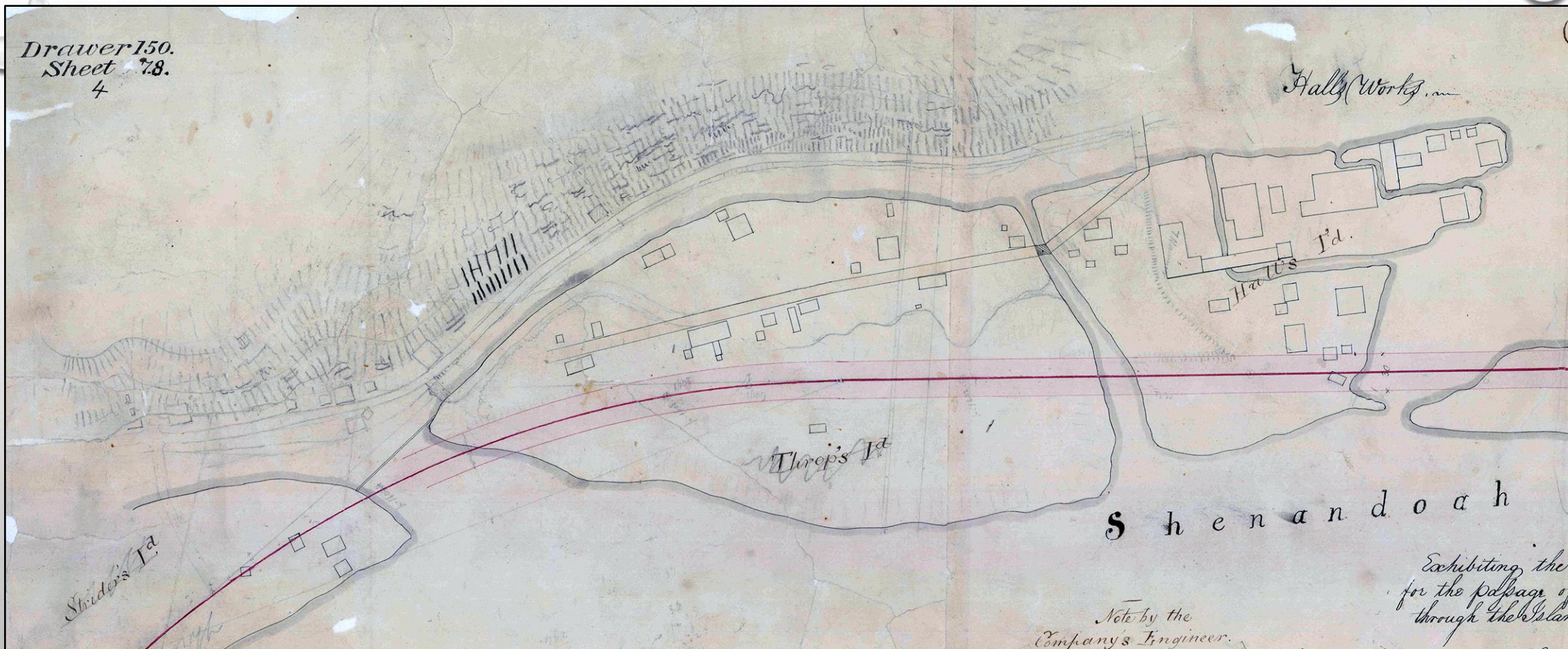
HALL'S RIFLE WORKS

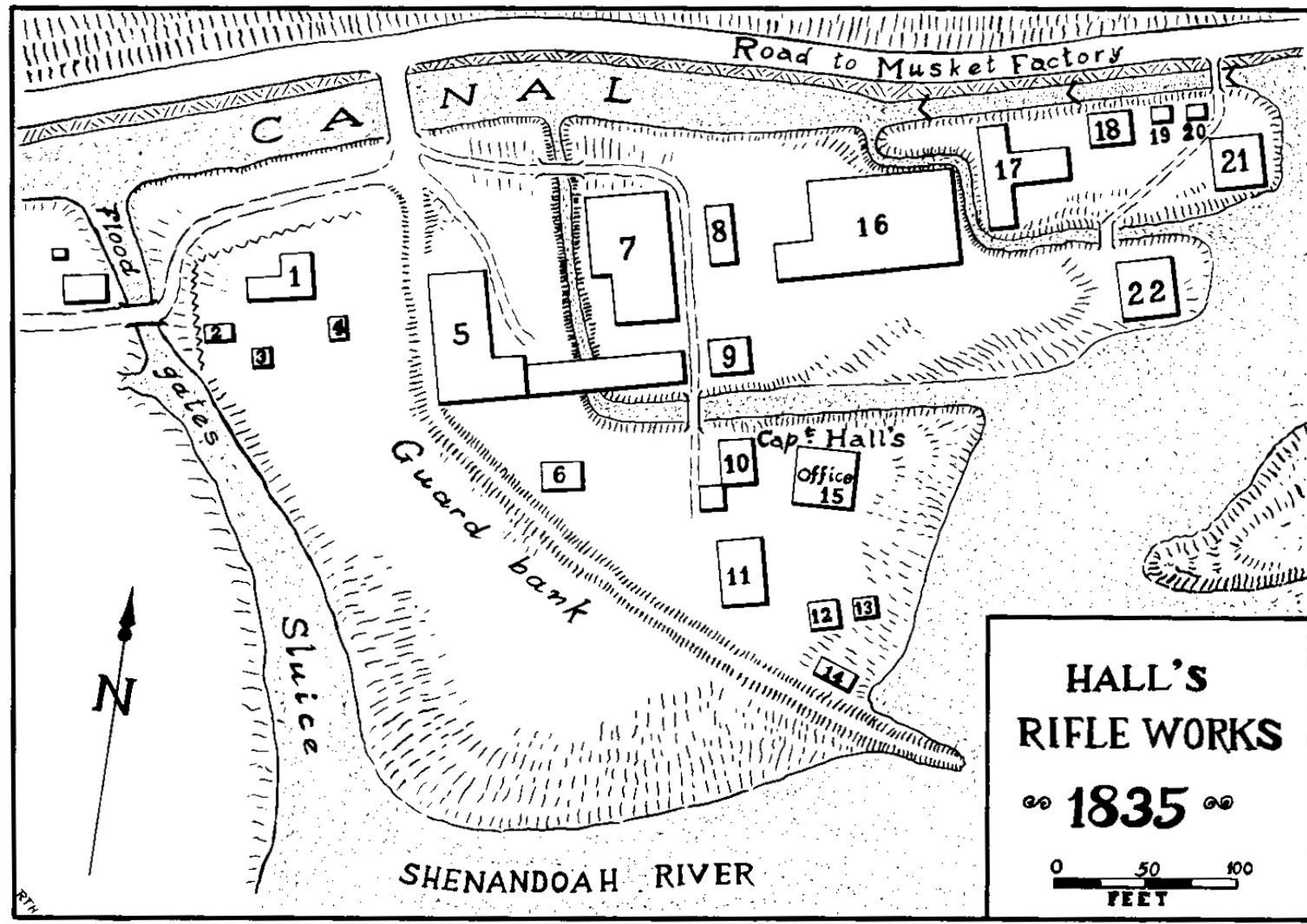
On March 19, 1819, John H. Hall signed a contract with the War Department to produce 1,000 breech-loading rifles.

The government obtained \$600 for “Fitting up the old saw mill & a water wheel to the same,” and the building was converted into a machine shop.

A new two-story stone blacksmith shop was also erected, and Hall took possession of both buildings in 1820.

Drawer 150.
Sheet 78.
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HALL'S RIFLE WORKS

July 18, 1831: *My business has now become greatly exposed or will be soon, in consequence of needing a larger supply of water to carry additional machinery viz. grind stones & iron grinding apparatus – all the water that can now be obtained by the aid of the dams alluded to is barely sufficient for the works on the Shenandoah and when the grinding machinery becomes ready for operation, it is evident, will prove deficient in quantity to an injurious extent....*



HALL'S RIFLE WORKS

September 18, 1832: *Our machines are, at times, almost entirely stopped for want of water, and our business is greatly retarded by it.*



HALL'S RIFLE WORKS

In November 1832, John Strider wrote the Secretary of War that “the United States are using at their works on the Shenandoah about three feet of my fall” and admonished the government “for trespassing on my rights & using my property.”

HALL'S RIFLE WORKS

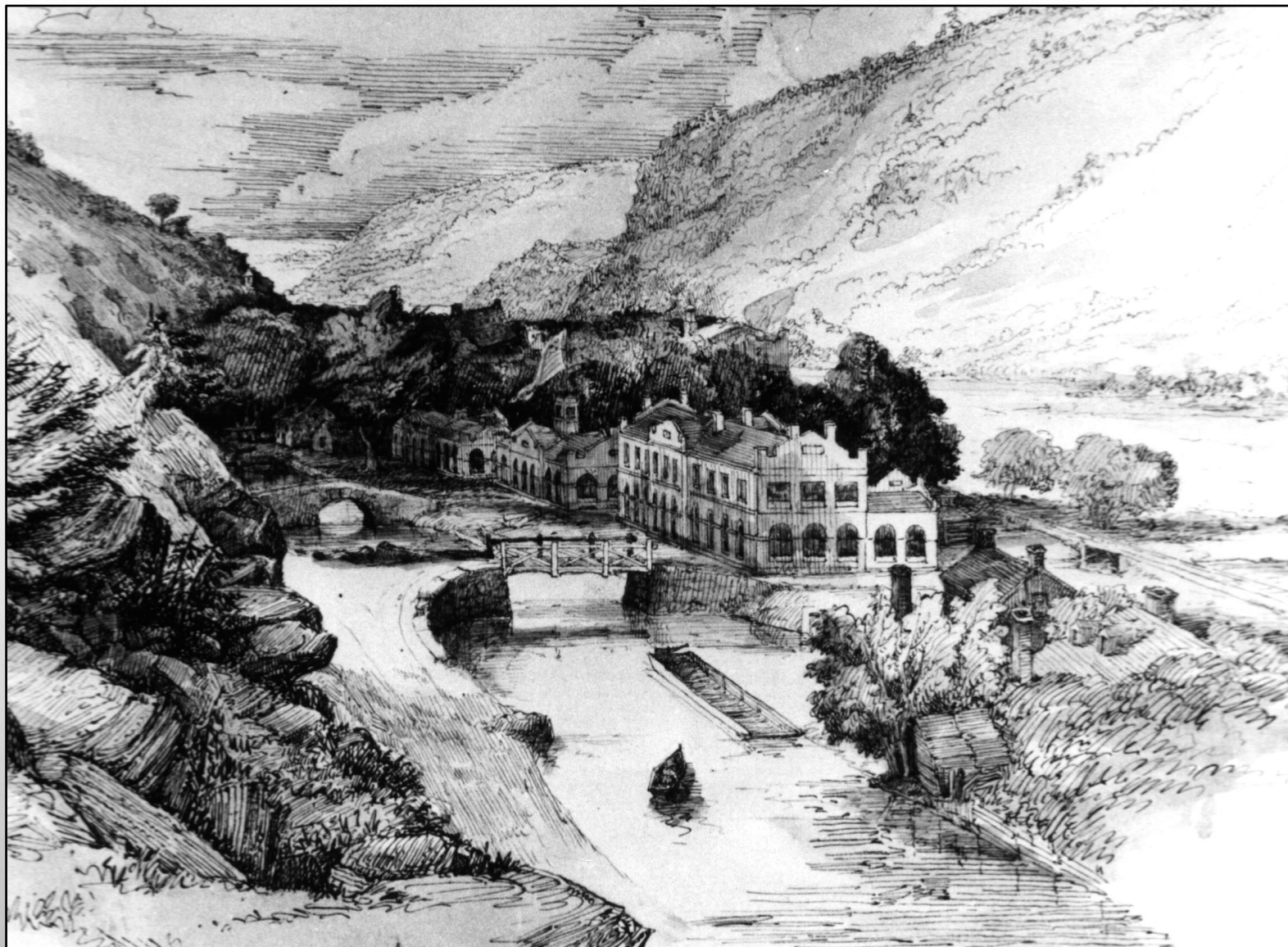
Thomas Griggs, Jr. to Gen. George Rust: *Strider complains that the United States for the purpose of supplying their works at Harpers Ferry with a sufficient water power (**not necessary for the purpose of navigation**) have erected a dam in the river & the effect of this is to throw the water back on his mill wheel thereby lessening its power to his injury.*

HALL'S RIFLE WORKS

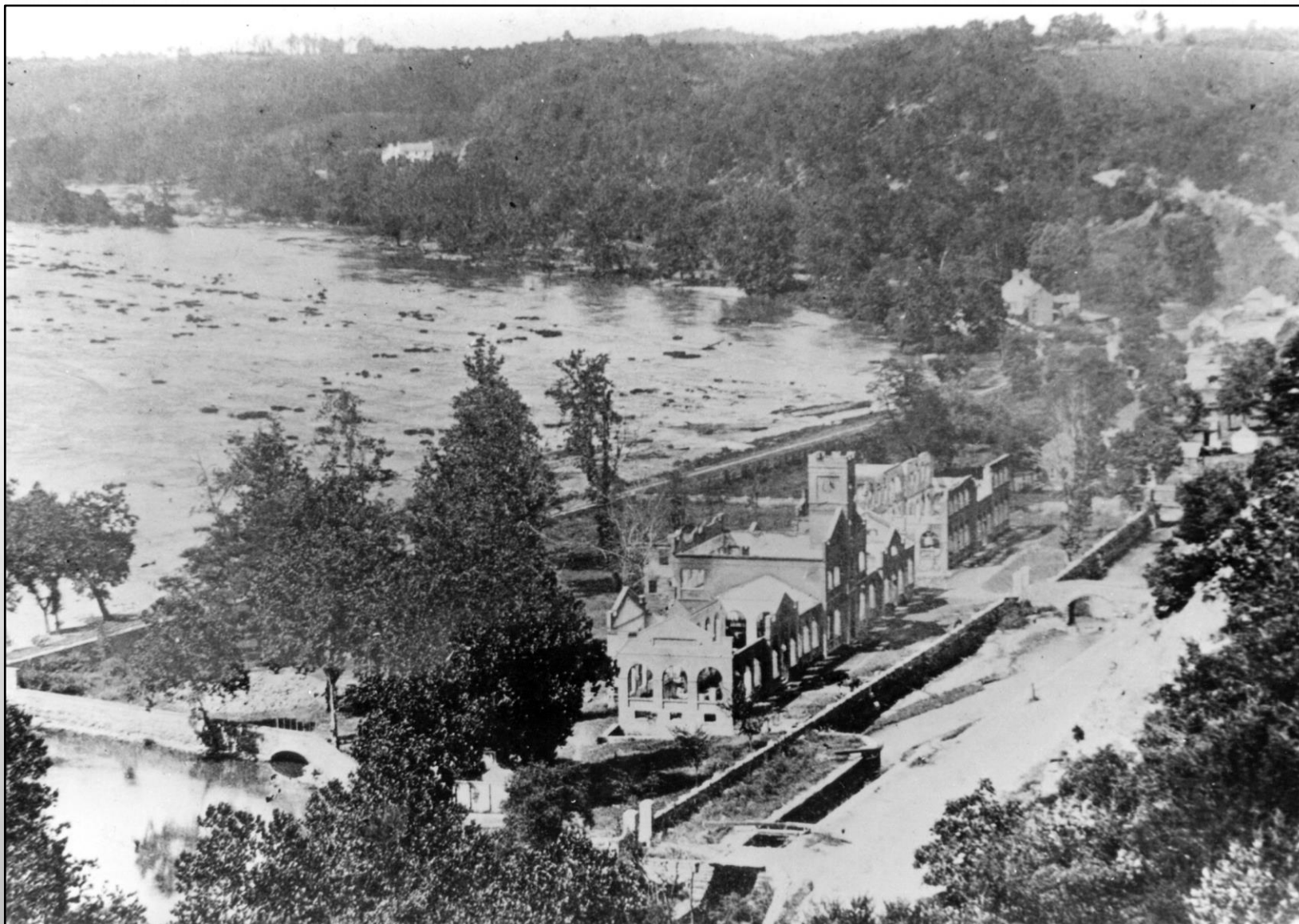
In the opinion of Thomas Griggs, Jr., “a sufficiency of water for the purposes of navigation can be thrown into the canal without effecting the operation of Striders Mill,” and the use of the existing surplus water in the canal was “the extent of the right and privilege of the United States.”

HALL'S RIFLE WORKS

In May 1833, the government finally came to an agreement with John Strider to purchase “the right of water power on the Shenandoah river between the mills of said Strider and the Rifle Factory” for a sum of \$2,600.







LAST YEARS OF THE SHENANDOAH CANAL

On February 19, 1867, the “Spirit of Jefferson” reported:

The Shenandoah river has been in fine navigable condition for the last ten days, and large quantities of plank, iron, &c., have been brought down from the Page valley. Some thirty or forty of the sturdy boatmen from good old Page spent a night in town last week...

LAST YEARS OF THE SHENANDOAH CANAL

On May 9, 1882, the Shenandoah River Navigation Company relinquished all its rights, interests, and property to the United States government and disbanded.

