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SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN

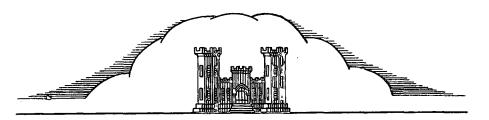
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CURWENSVILLE RESERVOIR

WEST BRANCH SUSQUEHANNA RIVER PENNSYLVANIA

design memorandum no. 13

MASTER PLAN



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers
Baltimore, Maryland 21203

DECEMBER 1968

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

BALTIMORE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS P.O. BOX 1715 BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203

NABEN-R

16 December 1968

SUBJECT: Curwensville Reservoir, Pennsylvania - Design Memorandum

No. 13, Master Plan

Division Engineer, North Atlantic

ATTN: NADPL-R

1. Reference is made to paragraph 9, EM 1130-2-302, change 3, 1 April 1960.

2. In compliance with the provisions of the above reference, the subject Master Plan is forwarded for review and approval. Six copies are inclosed, 3 for NAD and 3 for OCE.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

Incl (sext)

as

5.11/1 by lew

Chief, Engineering Division



CURWENSVILLE DAM AND RESERVOIR - Pool level at approximate elevation 1164, two feet above recreation lake level. Recreation area shown in left center.

Photo 6804090 12 April 1968

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers Baltimore, Maryland 21203

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN

CURWENSVILLE RESERVOIR

WEST BRANCH SUSQUEHANNA RIVER, PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGN MEMORANDUM NO. 13

MASTER PLAN

Related Reports

Design Memorandum No.	<u>Title</u>	Submission Date	Approved by OCE
1	Hydrology and Hydraulic Analysis	July 1959	Sep。1959
2	General Design Memorandum	Oct. 1959	Dec。1959
3	Preliminary Master Plan	Feb。 1960	Apr. 1960
4	Real Estate	Feb。 1960	May 1960
5	Concrete Aggregates	June 1960	July 1960
6	Railroad and Highway Relocations	Jan。 1961	Mar. 1961
7	Corrosion Mitigation	June 1961	Mar _° 1961
8	Geology, Soils, and Embankment	Mar. 1962	June 1962
9	Spillway	Mar. 1961	May 1961
10	Utility Relocations	June 1961	May 1962
11	Outlet Works	Apr。 1962	July 1962
12	Cemetery Relocation Plan	June 1962	July 1962
13	Master Plan	Dec。 1968	
14	Sedimentation Ranges and		
	Investigations	Oct. 1967	Nov。 1967
•	Revisions	•	
•	•	: Date Ap	proved

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SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN

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DESIGN MEMORANDUM NO. 13

MASTER PLAN

1968

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CURWENSVILLE RESERVOIR

DESIGN MEMORANDUM NO. 13

MASTER PLAN

1968

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN

CURWENSVILLE RESERVOIR

WEST BRANCH SUSQUEHANNA RIVER, PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGN MEMORANDUM NO. 13

MASTER PLAN

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1. Project authorization. The Curwensville Dam and Reservoir Project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1954 (Public Law 780, 83rd Congress, 2nd session) in accordance with House Document No. 29, 84th Congress, 1st session.
- 2. Project purpose. Curwensville Reservoir is a unit in the comprehensive flood control plan for the West Branch Susquehanna River. This reservoir has the primary objective of reducing flood heights at Curwensville, Clearfield, Renovo, Lock Haven, and Williamsport, Pennsylvania, as well as at other localities on the West Branch Susquehanna River. The project will also reduce flood heights on the Susquehanna River downstream from Sunbury, Pennsylvania.
- 3. <u>History</u>. The Curwensville Reservoir project was designed and constructed under the direction of the Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers. Construction for the necessary relocation of railroads and highways was initiated in May 1962. The construction of the dam and appurtenant works was started in April 1963 and was operationally completed in November 1965.
- 4. Purpose of master plan. The purpose of this Master Plan is to present a guide for the administration of the project lands; to assure preservation of its scenic, biological, and recreational resources; and to assure coordination with interested Federal, State, and local agencies. This Master Plan supplements the Preliminary Master Plan, Design Memorandum No. 3, dated February 1960.

B. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT

5. Location. Curwensville Dam is located in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, on the West Branch Susquehanna River, 0.6 mile upstream from the bridge on State Route 453, which is near the southern limits of the borough of Curwensville, and about 10 river miles above Clearfield and 185 river miles above the mouth of the West Branch at Sunbury, Pennsylvania. The location of this project is shown on plate 13-1.

6. Reservoir description. The reservoir is located in a narrow valley with steep slopes at the downstream portion becoming more gentle in the upstream reaches. The surrounding ridges and slopes are wooded, and the valley floor, above the limits of the recreation lake, is fairly well covered with light timber and brush. In the upper reaches of the reservoir the valley floor was used to a limited degree for farming. Clay mining has been and is an important industry in this area and considerable strip mining was carried on in the reservoir area immediately upstream from the dam and on the adjacent hillsides. Most of the pits and spoil piles in the reservoir area resulting from this strip mining have been leveled, filled and landscaped or are inundated by the recreation lake. All spoil piles within the recreation lake area were graded to elevation 1,150 so as not to present a boating hazard. A large abandoned excavation exists on parcels 223 and 224 (see plate 13-2b). No development is presently proposed for this area. Existing topography and vegetation adequately screen this area from the lake and recreation areas.

7. Engineering features.

- a. The dam consists of a rolled earthfill embankment having a maximum height of 131 feet above the streambed and a top elevation of 1,257. It has a top width of 25 feet and is about 2,850 feet in length. The spillway is located on rock, 1,500 feet northerly of the left abutment of the dam. The spillway is 530 feet in length and has a crest elevation of 1,228. The outlet conduit is 15 feet in diameter and is controlled by three 5.5-foot by 12-foot gates.
- b. At spillway crest the reservoir inundates about 3,020 acres, the recreation lake 790 acres, and the conservation lake 540 acres.
- c. Pertinent dam and reservoir data are summarized in table 13-1.
- 8. Recreation lake. The design of the project, as constructed, included a permanent conservation and recreation lake at elevation 1,155, with a surface area of 540 acres. This lake was first impounded in November 1965. The lake level was maintained by a bypass system in the outlet works. Shortly after impoundment of the lake, local interests and the Department of Forests and Waters, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, requested that a summer recreation lake with a greater surface area be provided. As a result of this request, the Chief of Engineers approved the establishment of a summer lake at elevation

TABLE 13-1 PERTINENT DATA

		Percent
Drainage areas	sq. mi.	Controlled by Dam
West Branch Susquehanna River:		
at Curwensville Dam	365	100
at Clearfield, Pa.	487	75
at Renovo, Pa.	2,975	12
at Williamsport, Pa.	5,682	6 . 4
Elevations (feet above mean sea level)	·	
Top of dam		1,257.0
Guide taking line for easements		1,233.0
Spillway crest (flood control pool)		1,228.0
Guide taking line for fee acquisition		1,190.0
Upper limit of clearing		1,164.0
Recreation lake		1,162.0
Conservation lake		1,155 ₀ 0
Dam		
Type		Rolled earthfill
Length		2,850 feet
Height above streambed		131 feet
Width at top		25 feet
Width at base (maximum)		900 feet
Spillway		
Type		Excavated channel with
••		concrete control sill
		in saddle
Length of crest		500 feet
Height above streambed		102 feet
Outlet works		
Type		Controlled conduit
Number of circular conduits		1
Diameter of conduit		15 feet
Number of service gates		3
Type of gates		Hydraulic slide
Size of gate		5.5 x 12 feet
Reservoir		
Surface area: Flood control pool		3,020 acres
Recreation lake		790 acres
Conservation lake		540 acres
Shoreline: Recreation lake		19 miles
Conservation lake		16 miles
Land acquired		
Fee		2,877 acres
Easements		820 acres
Edsements		$\frac{3,697}{3}$ acres
		- y

- 1,162 to provide a surface area of 790 acres. This lake will be provided during the period 15 May through 15 September of each year and is maintained through regulation of the service gates. The conservation lake, elevation 1,155, will not be maintained until such time as water quality improves sufficiently to permit the development of a fishery.
- 9. Reservoir ownership. Plates 13-2a thru 13-2d show: tracts acquired in fee and by flowage easement; the bounds and acreage of individual tracts, names of former owners, and outgrants made for relocated highways and the railroad. The guide taking line for fee acquisition was established at elevation 1,190, the level of the five year flood frequency. The guide taking line for flowage easements was the 1,233 foot contour, five feet above the spillway crest, elevation 1,228. Additional acreage was acquired for borrow, construction, and recreation areas.
- 10. Mineral rights. There are no outstanding mineral rights on lands acquired in fee except for the following listed parcels on which it was determined that all mineable minerals have been removed or the removal of which would not interfere with the operation of the project:

Parcel no.	Acres
125	49.18
200-3	0.08
201-2	0.40
205	98.41
348-1	0.25
348-2	0.04
35 9	5.40
410-1	1.42
410-2	2.64
411	3.34
504	3,42
507	18.80
605	0.29
632	1.06
717	1.43

On a number of tracts on which flowage easements were acquired, mineral rights were not subordinated or extinguished.

C. PROPOSED LAND USAGE

11. Priority. All reservoir lands, except those reserved for project operation and maintenance, are designated for priority one use as defined in EM 1130-2-302 and ER 405-2-835.

12. Recreation. Land and water areas leased to the Department of Forests and Waters, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for parks and recreational purposes are shown on plates 13-2a thru 13-2c.

13. Fish and wildlife management.

- a. Wildlife. The Pennsylvania Game Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Corps of Engineers cooperated in the development of a General Plan for wildlife management for the areas shown on plates 13-2d through 13-2f. A license for exclusive use of such areas necessary for the proper development of a wildlife management program will be granted the Pennsylvania Game Commission.
- b. Fish management. The river, prior to establishment of the reservoir, did not support fish life because of the high acid content from mine drainage from upstream sources. Recent testing of the reservoir indicates that the water quality has improved to such a degree that it may now support fish. The Pennsylvania Fish Commission recently surveyed the stream from the dam downstream to Clearfield and found conditions favorable for the establishment of a fishery and made an initial stocking of chain pickerel. Investigation of the reservoir, including testing of the impoundment and the river upstream of the reservoir is continuing. When it is determined that the reservoir provides a suitable environment for fish life, the Pennsylvania Fish Commission will be requested to initiate a program of fish management in the reservoir.
- 14. Removal of minerals. Those portions of tracts 108 and 119 lying north of the relocated railroad and highway contain extensive deposits of refractory clay and coal. Inquiries concerning the availability of this clay have been made by a local refractory operator. These clay deposits can be removed without interfering with present and future project operations if adequate controls and requirements for backfilling of all excavations and appropriate landscaping are imposed.
- 15. Other. All lands not immediately required for Priority One use, or for fish and wildlife management are available for interim outleasing for agricultural purposes.

D. RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

16. General. The Corps of Engineers provided basic facilities consisting of a boat dock and launching ramp and grading for parking and beach area and constructed the primary access road except for base

course and wearing surface. The cost for the Federal portion of this work was \$235,000 including engineering and design and supervision and administration. A lease for park and recreational purposes has been granted to the Department of Forests and Waters, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth will construct all required recreational facilities and will operate and maintain the area. The Commonwealth assumed responsibility for the recreation area in the spring of 1966. Picnic areas were constructed, temporary sanitary and boating facilities were provided. Attendance at the reservoir was reported as 101,000 in 1966 and 107,400 in 1967.

17. Commonwealth plan of development. The Department of Forests and Waters had programmed funds for capital improvement as follows:

1965-67 biennium = \$344,000 1967-69 biennium = \$258,000 1969-71 biennium = \$200,000

The Legislature has not appropriated funds as programmed and construction has not proceeded as scheduled. The Department of Forests and Waters has funds on hand and plans to let a contract for the construction of a marina facility, sanitary facilities, water supply, and paving of access roads and parking areas during the winter of 1968 or the spring of 1969. A Master Plan for recreation development is shown on plate 13-3.

E. BEAUTIFICATION

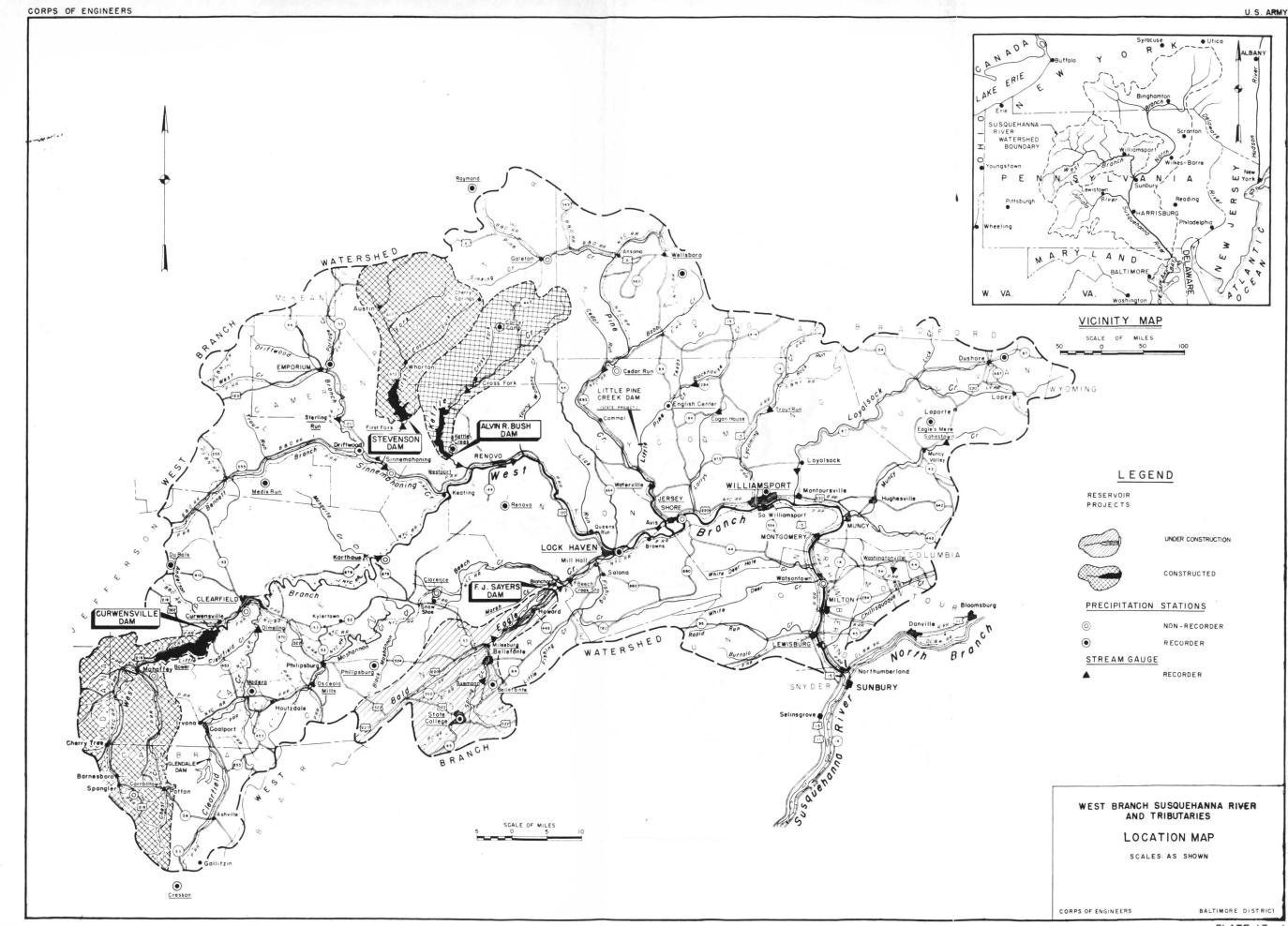
- 18. Dam and administration area. Landscaping, including shrub and tree planting, has been accomplished in the area downstream of the dam, at the observation area, adjacent to the outlet channel and at the residence and shop area.
- 19. Recreation area. The Department of Forests and Waters will include landscaping within the recreation areas, necessary reforestation and timber management.

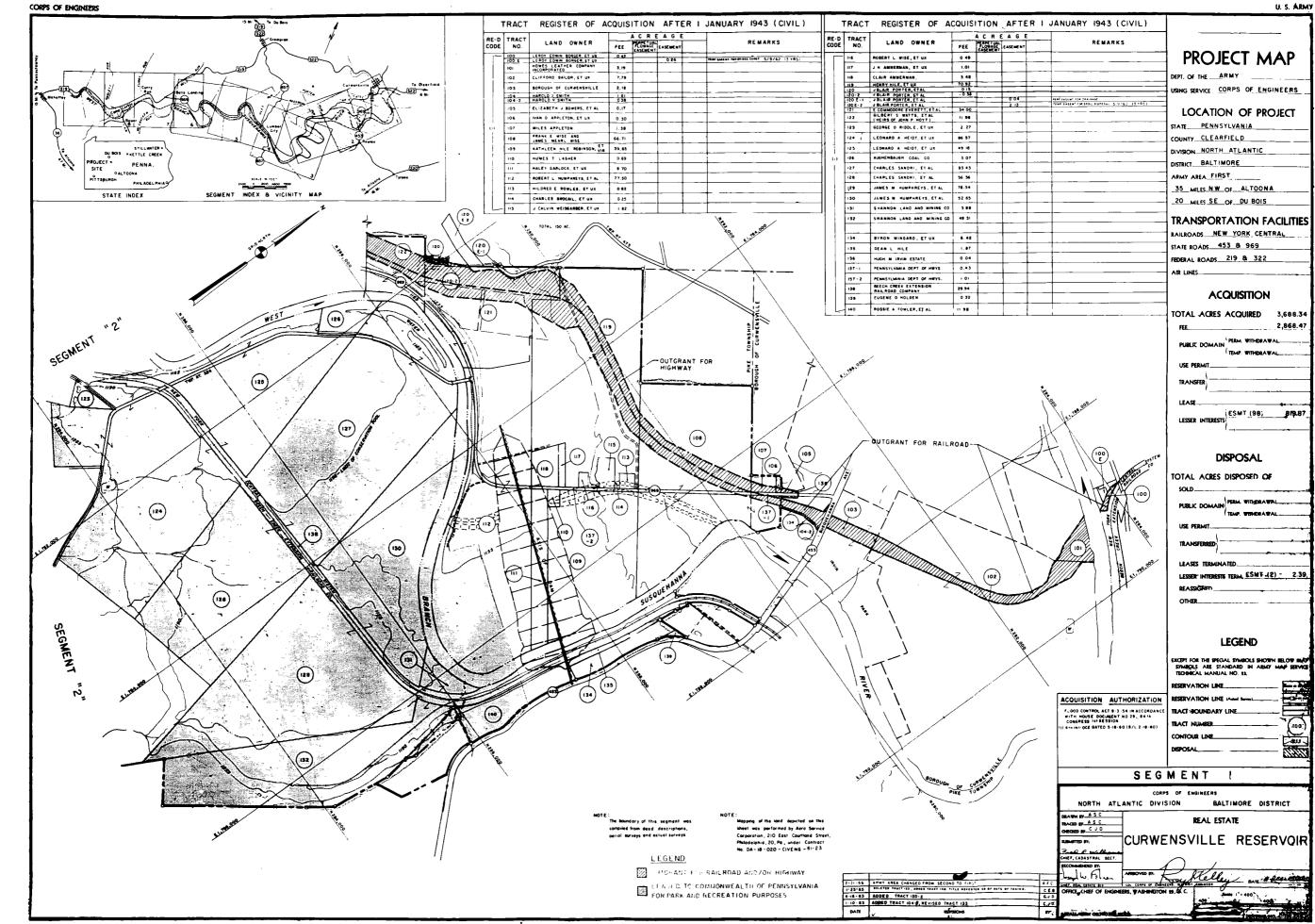
F. COORDINATION

20. Concurrence. This Master Plan has been reviewed by the Baltimore District Real Estate Division and this Division concurs in the proposed plan for the administration and management of project lands and waters outlined Cherein.

MALCOLM F. STEELE

Chief, Real Estate Division





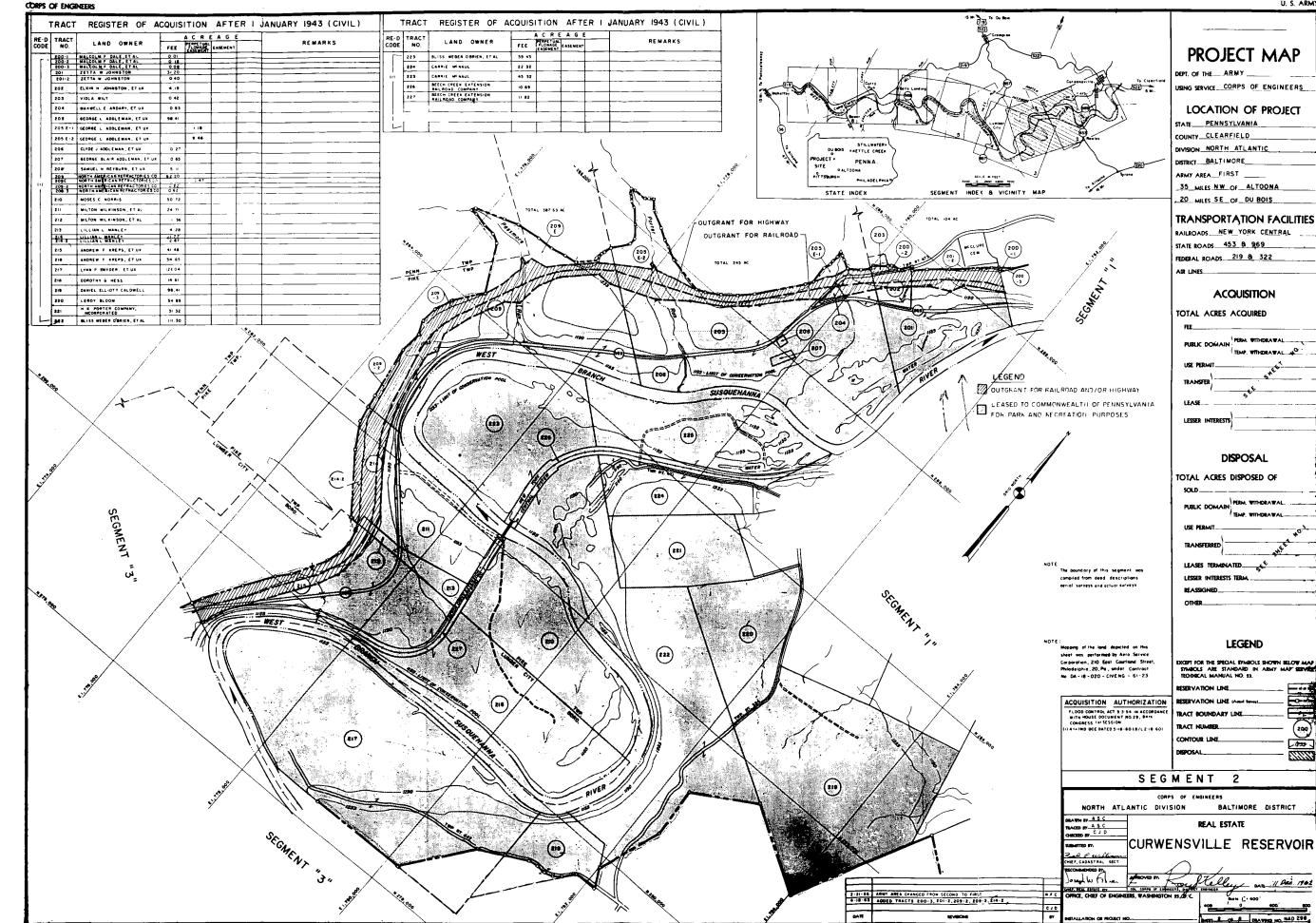


PLATE 13 - 20

