

AL-II-B-013

LOCK HOUSE #70 and LIFT LOCK  
C & O Canal at Greensprings Road  
1845

Lock House #70 is one of seventy-five lock houses located along the C & O Canal. It is a rectangular frame building covered with weatherboard and was originally used to house a locktender and his family. Like the other Lock Houses along the canal, Lock House #70 is owned by the National Parks Service which is currently responsible for its maintenance and upkeep.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0101500422  
AI-II-B-013

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Lock House #70 and Lift Lock

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Along C & O Canal at Greensprings Rd.

sixth

CITY, TOWN

Oldtown

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Allegany

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

National Parks Service

Telephone #: 202-343-1100

STREET & NUMBER

C St. Between 18th and 19th Sts.

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 470

Folio #: 251

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

AL-II-B-013

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Lock House #70 and Lift Lock #70 are located along the C & O Canal at Greenspring Road in Oldtown, Allegany County.

Lock House #70 is a rectangular frame building that is two stories high and three bays wide. It is covered with weatherboard. The entire facade is supported by low pillars msde of stone and cement. The roof is gabled with eaves and a soffit covered with tin. The main entrance is located on the north side of the building under a partially enclosed shed-roof porch. The entrance itself consisted of a verticle panaled door with replaced hardware. Windows in the building have plain wooden trim with cornices. Those on the 2nd floor have been boarded up while those on the first floor are covered with shutters. One original brick chimney is located in the interior of the building.

The house is structurally sound and retains much of its original fabric and appearance.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lift lock Houses along the C & O Canal were built to house the locktender and his family. The locktender was on call 24 hours a day and his job was to maintain and operate his respective lock. 74 locks were built along the 184 mile canal to ascend the 609 foot rise from Georgetown to Cumberland. The canal opened for navigation to Cumberland on October 10, 1850, so the lock houses in Allegany County were probably built in the late 1840's.<sup>1</sup>

The locktender's salary was only \$25.00 a month, but he was granted the lock house to live in and an acre of land for a garden. Many of them also had hogs, chickens, or a cow or two that would also graze on the land.

If a boat approached at night, it was necessary to arouse the locktender. When near the lock, the mule driver would loudly chant, "Lock ready -- Lock ready -- Hey -- ey -- ey, Lock!", and the steersman in the back of the back of the boat would sound off a bugle. The locktender would then signal with a lantern as to whether or not the lock was ready to enter. It took ten to fifteen minutes for a canal boat to clear the lock with the help of the boat crew as well as the locktender. This same system was used for all of the 74 years the canal was in operation.<sup>2</sup>

The canal ceased operation in 1924, and many of the locktenders remained in the houses until they found other jobs. Construction materials of lift-lock houses in Allegany County include frame and log with stone foundations. Their use is now limited in this county to public viewing in the C & O Park areas, although specific entrance into them is restricted.

1. History of Western Maryland, Scharf: Everts Pub. Co., Philadelphia, 1882, p. 712
2. Wolfe George, I Drove Mules on the C & O Canal, Dover Graphic Co., Dover, 1969, p. 51

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 121.75 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

John Nelson, Steve Beale, Joan Baldwin

9/1/76

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

777-8991

STREET & NUMBER

507 National Highway

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Lavale

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

INVENTORY NO. A1-11-B-013

470/251

DATE: 8/5/76

121.75 Acres

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: Lock House #70 + Lift Lock

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Along C+O Canal, in Oldtown - At Greenspring Rd

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: North

NAME OF OWNER: National Parks + Recreation

ADDRESS: C St. between 18th + 19th St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 202-343-1100

STORIES: 1( ) 2() 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) BAYS: 1( ) 2( ) 3() 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) 7( ) ( )

WINGS, ADDITIONS: Porch

Dwelling Shape: (square, cross, rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
- BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
- STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- LOG
- Other: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS Plain

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE Stone + Cement Pillars

WATER TABLE: None, FLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1( ) 2/2( ) 6/6( ) 9/6( ) 9/9( ) other( )  
+ Boarded pegged ( ) nailed ( ) wide ( ) narrow ( ) mitred ( ) pediment ( )

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: North  
HARDWARE: original ( ) replaced ()  
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN  
Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)  
original ( ) replaced ( ) Rafter Ends, Modillions, Dentils, Frieze, Architrave

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, SHED, MANSARD, GAMBREL, FLAT, FORMERS # -  
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original ( ) replaced ( )

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed () hip ( ) gable ( )

CHIMNEYS: NUMBER 1 BRICK () STONE ( ) CORBELLED () original () replaced ( )  
LOCATION: Flush end ( ) Inside end ( ) Outside end ( ) Central () Interior ( )

ARCHES: Door and window: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

Use - No Longer Used  
Significance -  
Date Constructed - 1836-1840  
Condition - Good

Key points regarding interior architecture.

1. Floor plan

No through hall--How many rooms long and deep?  
Where is stairway? Straight or winding?

With through hall--Rooms on both sides? How many?

Rooms on one side only? How many?

Is stair in through hall?

Open or enclosed? Straight--one run. Straight--landing

How many? Curved.

If not in hall, where is stair?

2. Wall finish: plaster, paneled, board partition

Note presence of chair rail, cornice, etc.

3. Fireplaces: How many? Parallel to walls or diagonal in corner?

Mantels: wood--mouldings, pilasters, columns  
masonry--marble(what color? ), brick

3. Doors: on the inside of exterior doors, note the presence of applied flush boards and their direction (diagonal, vertical, horizontal). In general are doors paneled or ledge or other?

4. Door and window trim: plain, architrave; fluted, reeded; pilasters

5. Kitchen: Where is original if extant or known (marked by very large fireplace)? Separate building; wing to principal dwelling; within principal dwelling? On which floor of any of the above?

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/15/2010 BY 60322 UCBAW/STP/STP

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AI-II-B-026

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AI-II-B-027 AI-II-B-020

AI-II-B-019

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AI-II-B-012

AI-II-B-018

AI-II-B-002

AI-II-B-009

AI-II-B-011

AI-II-B-007

AI-II-B-024

AI-II-B-013

AI-II-B-015

AI-II-B-014

AI-II-B-017

AI-II-B-016

AI-II-B-010

AI-II-B-013

Lock House #701 - Lift Lock

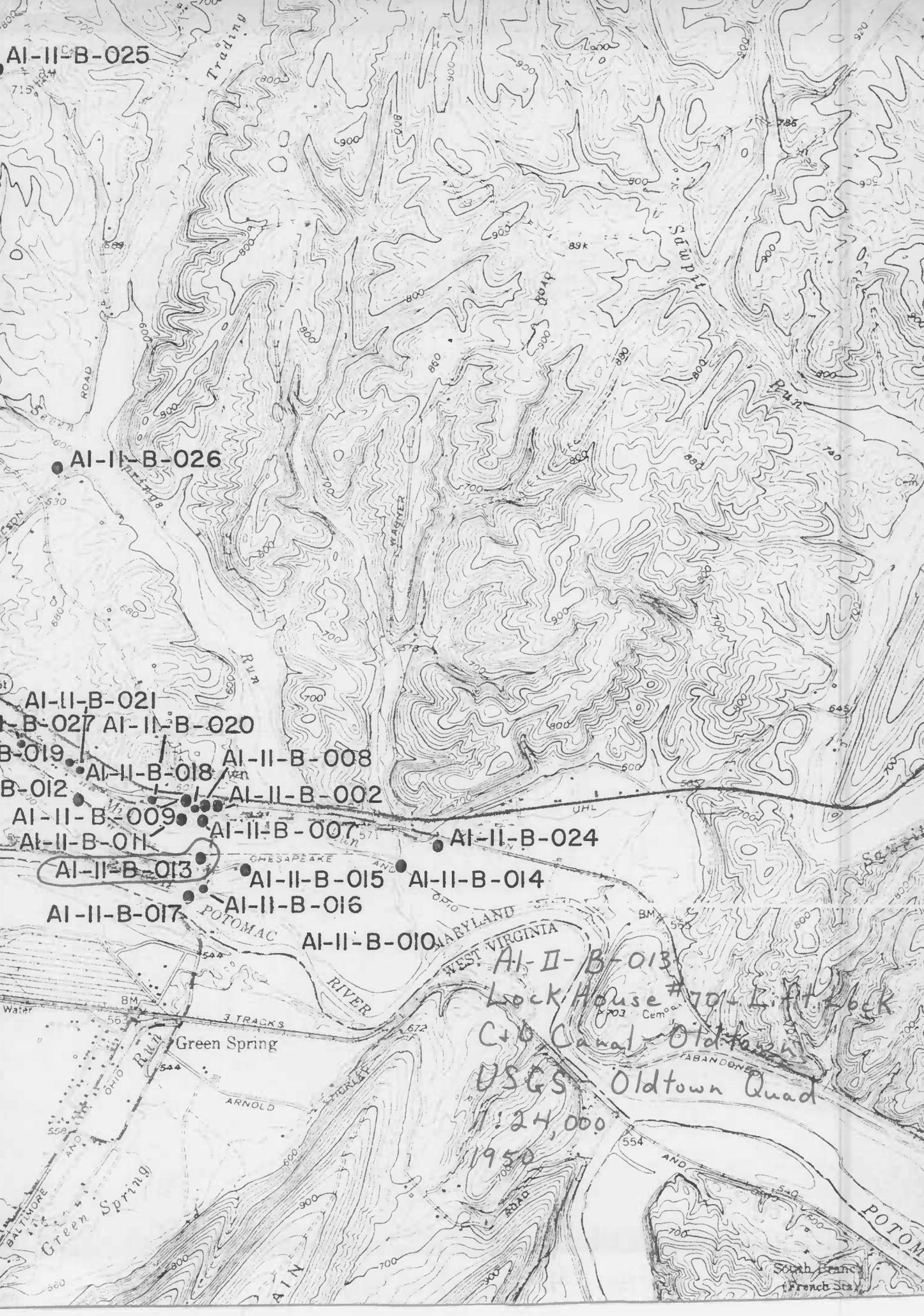
C & O Canal - Oldtown

USGS - Oldtown Quad

1:24,000

1950

5263 11 SW (PATTERSON CREEK)  
CUMBERLAND 14 MI  
SPRING GAP 5.4 MI  
32°30'  
4378



South Branch  
(French Sta)



Lift lock #70

A1-II-B-013

C+O Canal at Greenspring Rd.

Oldtown

John E. Nelson

815176

~~East~~

west



LOCK HOUSE # 70

A1-11-B-013

C to Canal at Greenspring Rd.

Cleatown

John E. Nelson

8/5/76

~~North East~~

South west



Lock House, # 70

A1-11-B-013

C+O Canal at Grassspring Rd.

Oldtown

John E. Nelson

815176

~~6451~~

South EAST