

AL-II-B-012

LOCK HOUSE #71 and LIFT LOCK
C & O Canal at Oldtown
1845

Lock House #71 is one of 75 lock houses located along the C & O Canal. It is a rectangular frame building covered with bevel siding and was originally used to house a locktender and his family. The house is located next to Lift Lock #71 for it was the locktender's job to maintain and operate his respective lock.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

0101490422
AL-II-B-012

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Lock House #71 and Lift Lock

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Along C & O Canal in

sixth

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Oldtown

VICINITY OF

Allegany

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

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 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 | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <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 & 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-012

| 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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lock House and Lift Lock #71 are located along the C&O Canal in Oldtown, Allegany County.

Lock House #71 is a rectangular shaped frame building that is two stories high and three bays wide. The house is covered by bevel siding. The entire structure is supported by a low stone foundation. The roof is gabled with a soffit and eaves and is covered with tin. The main entrance is a vertically paneled door which is covered by a semi-enclosed shed roofed porch. The windows have plain trim with a cornice and at present have been boarded up to prevent vandalism. There are two corbeled brick chimneys located at the flush ends of the building.

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

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| 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 |
| 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.¹

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.²

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 DATAACREAGE 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 BYNAME / TITLE John Nelson, Joan Baldwin, & Steve BealeORGANIZATION Allegany County Historic Sites SurveyDATE 9/1/76

STREET & NUMBER

507 National Highway

TELEPHONE

777-8991

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-012

470/251 ~~473/586~~

DATE: 8/4/76

121.75 Acres ~~283/65~~

REMEMBERING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: Lock House # 71 + Lift Lock

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Along C+O Canal in Oldtown

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: Southeast

NAME OF OWNER: National Parks + Recreation

ADDRESS: C St. Between 18th + 19th St.

Washington, D.C. 202-343-1100

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

WINGS, ADDITIONS:

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 _____

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOG, BRICK, STONE

WATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, 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: _____

HARDWARE: original() replaced()
PAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN
Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards
Paneled

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, DORMERS #
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original() replaced()

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

CHIMNEYS: NUMBER 2 BRICK() STONE() CORBELED() 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 - 1840's
Condition - Fair - 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 08-14-2010 BY 60322 UCBAW/STP/STP

AI-II-B-025

AI-II-B-026

AI-II-B-021

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

AI-II-B-019

AI-II-B-018

AI-II-B-008

AI-II-B-012

AI-II-B-002

AI-II-B-009

AI-II-B-007

AI-II-B-024

AI-II-B-011

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-012

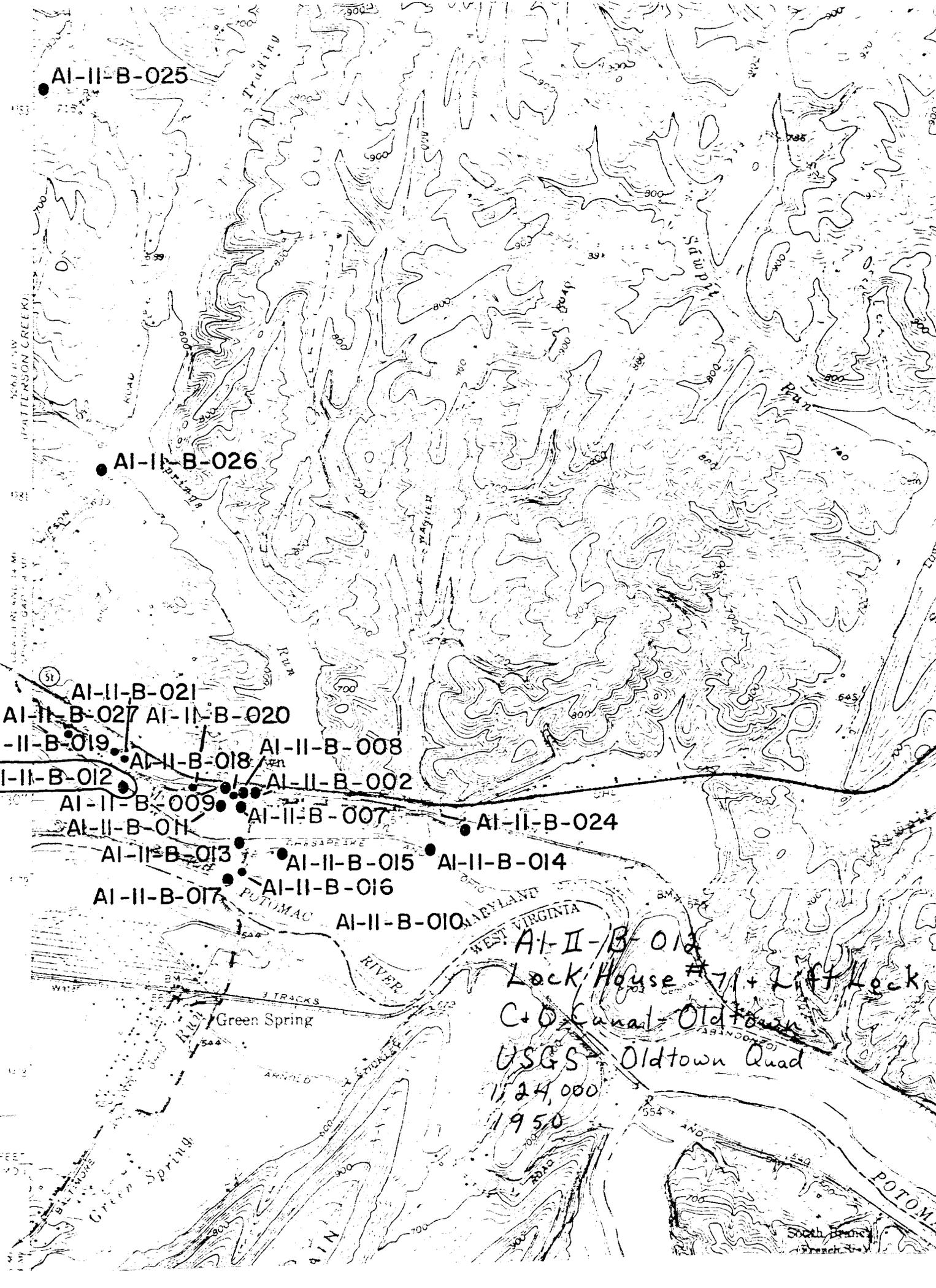
Lock House # 71 + Lift Lock

C+O Canal - Oldtown

USGS - Oldtown Quad

1:24,000

1950





Lift Lock #71

A1-11-B-012

C+O Canal

Oldtown

John E. Rusison

8/4/76

~~WEST~~

WEST



LOCK HOUSS, #71

A1-11-B-012

Along CTO Canal

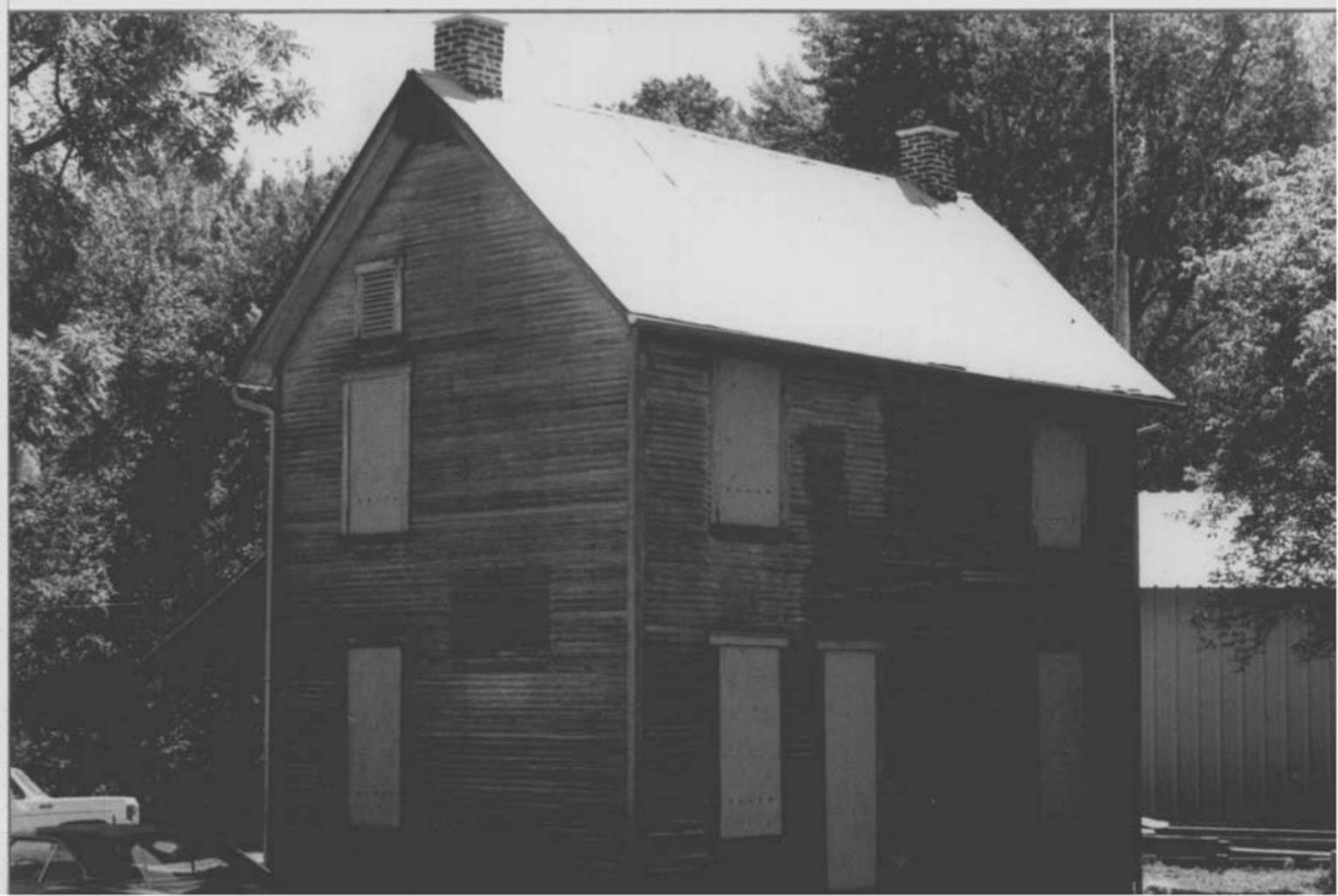
Old town

John E. Nelson

814176

~~SOUTH EAST~~

NORTH WEST



LOCK HOUSE, # 71

A1-11-B-012

Along CTO Canal

Oldtown

John E. Nelson

8/4/76

~~North West~~

SOUTH EAST