

**INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM****NHDHR INVENTORY #DUR0018****Name, Location, Ownership**

1. Historic name Oyster River Dam
2. District or area Durham historic district (National registry)
3. Street and number Between 14 and 20 Newmarket Rd. (Rt.108)
4. City or town Durham
5. County Stafford
6. Current owner The Town of Durham

**Function or Use**

7. Current use(s) Dam - impoundment for Mill Pond
8. Historic use(s) Dam

**Architectural Information**

9. Style not applicable
10. Architect/builder Daniel Chesley
11. Source Durham Historic Assoc.
12. Construction date 1913 – replacing wooden dam
13. Source Durham Historic Association
14. Alterations, with dates Fish ladder added in 1974
15. Moved? no  yes  date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exterior Features**

16. Foundation poured concrete
17. Cladding concrete
18. Roof material does not apply
19. Chimney material does not apply
20. Type of roof does not apply
21. Chimney location does not apply
22. Number of stories does not apply
23. Entry location does not apply
24. Windows does not apply

**Site Features**

25. Setting City/Town Neighborhood within historic district
26. Outbuildings None
27. Landscape features Pond – Oyster River

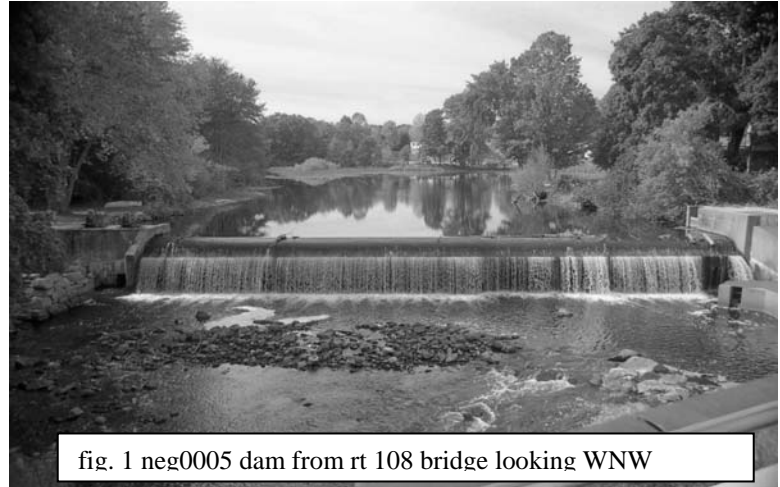


fig. 1 neg0005 dam from rt 108 bridge looking WNW

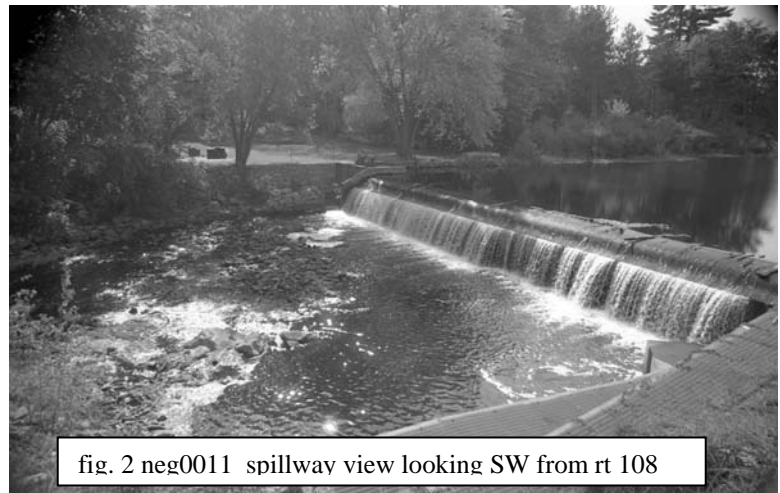


fig. 2 neg0011 spillway view looking SW from rt 108

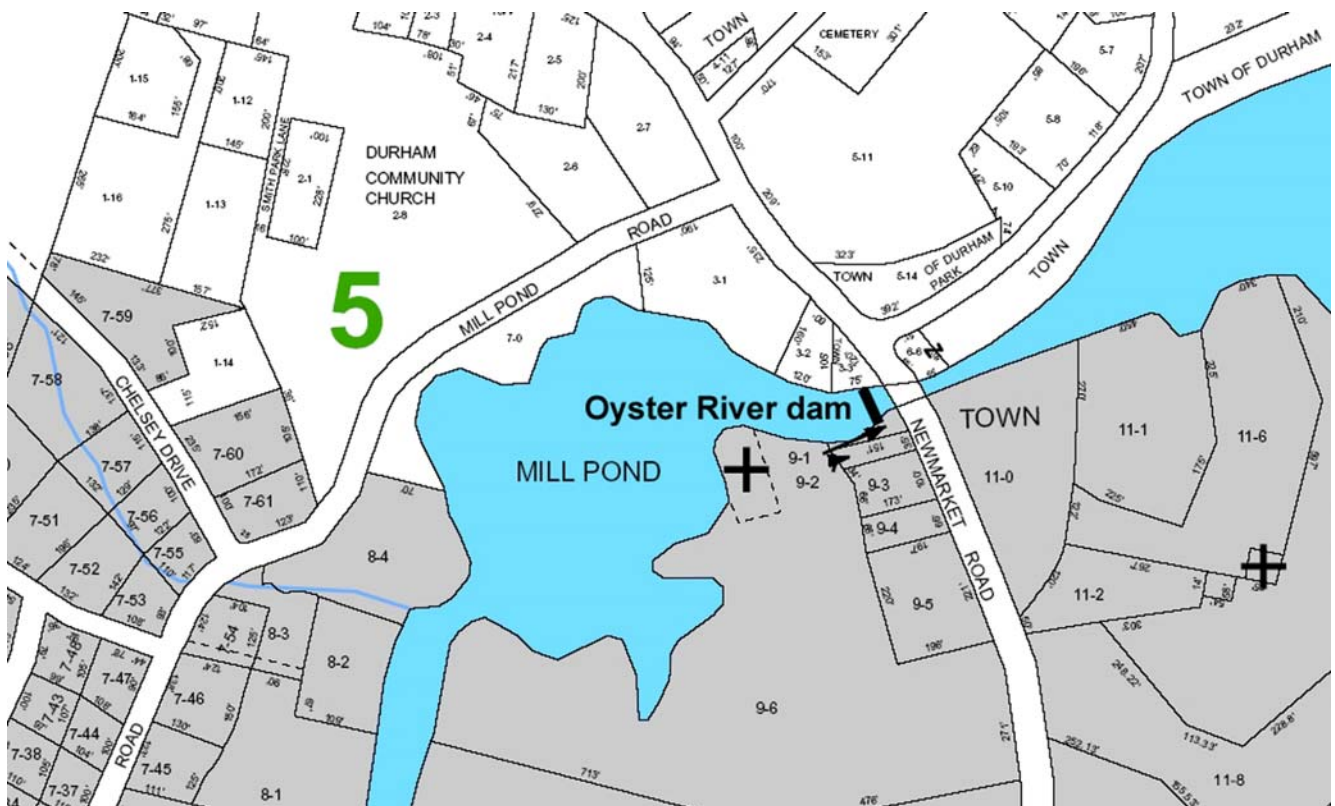
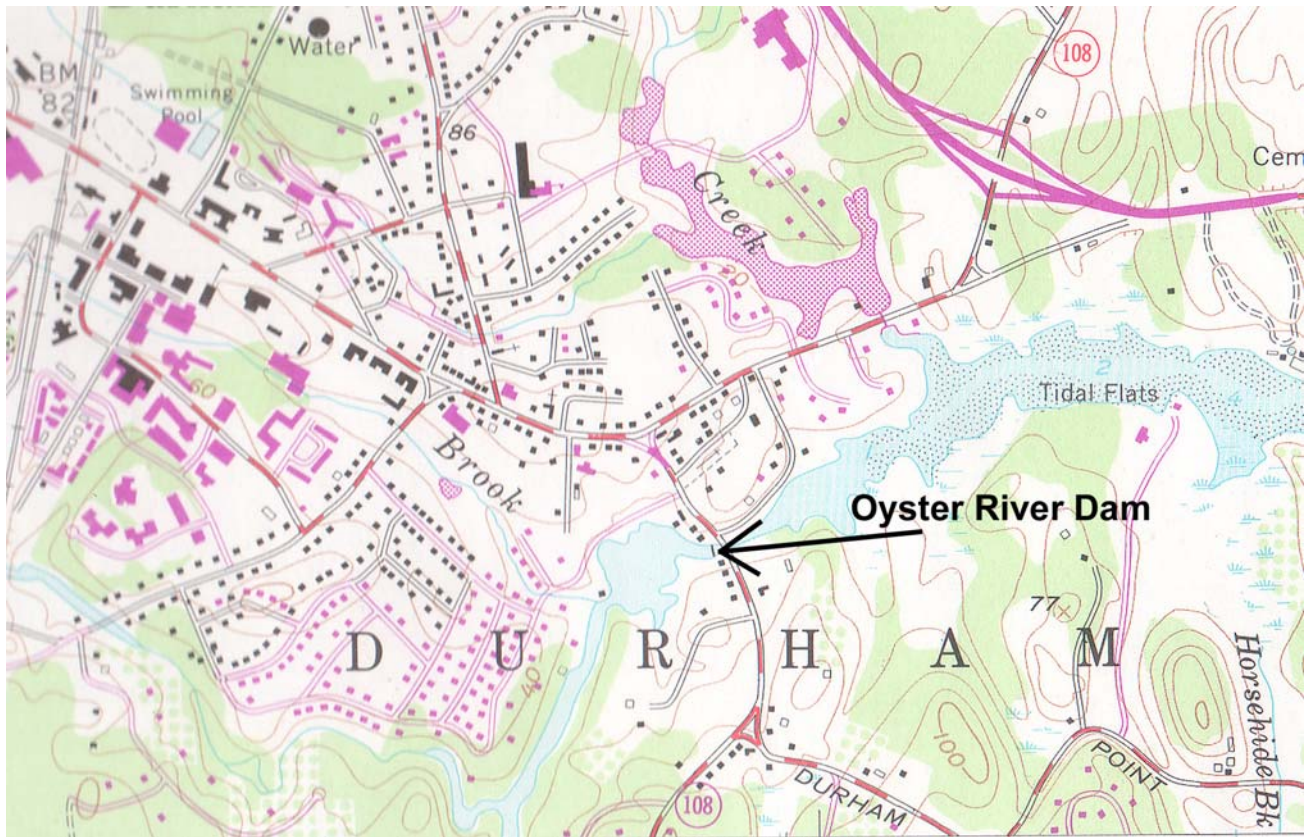
28. Acreage less than one
29. Tax map/parcel # 5-3-3
30. UTM reference zone 19, 343929E, 4777137N
31. USGS quadrangle and scale Dover West 7.5 minute

**Form prepared by**

32. Name Richard H. Lord, DHA and Andrea Bodo, DHDHC
33. Organization Durham Historic Association, Durham Historic District and Heritage Commission
34. Date of survey 09/16/2008

35. Photo #1 and #2
36. Date c.2008
37. digital photos \_\_\_\_\_ Direction: WNW and SW
38. Negative stored at: included with application

INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM



**INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM****NHDHR INVENTORY #** DUR0018**41. Historical Background and Role in the Town or City's Development:**

There have been mills at this site from the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century through the 1950s when the last mill building finally collapsed. Stackpole's "History of Durham" p.71, cites a grant in 1649 to Valentine Hill to erect a sawmill at the Oyster River Falls. Durham Historic Association records reference the Mill Pond as early as 1740 and mills were constructed at both ends of the original wooden dam to harness the water power. These included a saw mill, grist mill, tannery, blacksmith shop, monumental stonework manufacturing, a cider mill and a shingle factory. These mills represented the center of Durham's commerce throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century and first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and continued to be used into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The wooden dam washed out c. 1912 and in 1913 a replacement poured concrete dam was constructed by Daniel Chesley with funds contributed by Elizabeth Onderdonk, step-daughter and heir of wealthy mining engineer and former Durham benefactor Hamilton Smith, whose estate is the present day Red Tower on Main St. in Durham. For a brief period of time following its reconstruction, it was known as Onderdonk Dam.

A fish ladder was constructed and significant repairs were made to the dam in 1974. A local newspaper article at the time stated "The repairs being made to the Mill Pond dam are intended to preserve one of Durham's most cherished landmarks."

Due to its highly visible location to vehicles passing over the adjacent bridge on Rt.108, its lovely waterfall and the beautiful reflections of other Durham landmarks in the Mill Pond formed by its impoundment, the Oyster River dam continues to be regarded as one of the most important scenic highlights for visitors to the town of Durham.

**42. Applicable NHDHR Historic Contexts:**

4, 22, 23, 30, 38, 48, 53, 54, 130 which happened within period of significance 1913-1955

**43. Architectural Description and Comparative Evaluation**

The Durham Falls Dam (Dam No. 071.03), also known as the Mill Pond Dam, is a low-head concrete dam that was constructed in 1913 to replace the last of a series of timber dams which had stood at the site since the mid-1600s. The dam is New Hampshire's earliest known example of an Ambursen dam, a type of dam that relies on a series of evenly-spaced concrete buttresses, anchored in the bed of the river, to support a slanted upstream apron. The apron terminates at a slightly overhanging downstream lip beyond the crest or apex of the apron. The lip of the dam precipitates the stream flow in an even sheet of water beyond the toes of the buttresses which, especially in early examples of this dam type, have no infill between them and are thus exposed to view whenever water is not passing over the crest of the apron.

The Durham Falls Dam measures 140 feet in length and is 10 feet high. It stands at the fall line (the natural head of tide or dividing point between fresh and brackish water) on the Oyster River, which drains an area of some twenty square miles. The dam impounds a pond of approximately twenty-four acres of surface area.

A concrete upstream fish ladder, built in 1975, ascends to the top of the dam at the northern stream bank. The downstream entrance to the fish-way is near the dam. The walls of the passage extend in a downstream direction at a slight upward angle, then turn ninety degrees at the stream bank and ascend at a ten-degree pitch to a level box, with an exit opening, at the crest of the dam. The two parallel concrete walls of the fish passageway are open to daylight at the top but are covered with steel grating for security. The top of the ladder structure bears a bronze tablet indicating that the fish-way was constructed by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department in cooperation with the Town of Durham and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The bronze tablet mounted at the top of the fish-way reads, "1975/OYSTER RIVER FISHWAY/CONSTRUCTED BY/ N. H. FISH & GAME DEPARTMENT/--COOPERATORS--/ TOWN OF DURHAM/U. S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE"

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Mounted at the head of the fish ladder is a second bronze tablet that was undoubtedly affixed to an original abutment of the dam before fish passage was provided in 1975. The tablet reads:

THIS DAM WAS ERECTED  
BY MRS. EDITH ONDERDONK  
IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER  
HAMILTON SMITH  
—1913—  
CHARLES ELBERT HEWITT, ENGINEER  
D. CHESLEY & CO., CONTRACTORS

The dam retains its original streambed buttresses, which are the essential elements of the Ambursen type of dam (see below). Photographs taken before rehabilitation of the dam in 1974 show that the downstream lip of the dam apron had then eroded across its length, exposing reinforcing steel in several areas. These photographs suggest that the original downstream edge of the apron terminated in a simply rounded lip. The current apron apparently represents a full replacement of the 1913 covering. It terminates in an ogee curve that throws the water away from the toe of the dam somewhat more effectively than did the original design.

Although Ambursen dams attained nationwide popularity during the early to mid twentieth century, only six others have been identified thus far in New Hampshire.<sup>2</sup> The most monumental of these is a 550-foot-long structure that created the Ayers Island Hydroelectric Station on the Pemigewasset River in Bristol, New Hampshire. Still in use for electrical generation, this dam was built in 1923 and raised from fifty to eighty feet in crest height circa 1932.<sup>3</sup>

Until recently, an Ambursen dam of moderate height and length stood on the Bearcamp River in Tamworth, New Hampshire. This was built in 1929 as a power source for South Tamworth Industries, manufacturers of architectural millwork, experimental and prefabricated housing, and other wooden products, including toys. The dam was unusual in having a wooden apron rather than the traditional concrete slab covering. Abandoned after a fire in 1943 stopped the business, the dam was largely removed in 2003 in an effort to create unimpeded water flow in the Bearcamp River.<sup>4</sup>

#### **44. National or State Register Criteria Statement of Significance:**

The Durham Falls Dam is the earliest concrete buttress-type or Ambursen dam yet identified in New Hampshire, and is one of seven known examples of the type in intact condition in the state. The current dam was built in 1913 with funds provided by Mrs. Edith Angela Congreve Onderdonk, a local philanthropist, to honor the memory of her step-father, Hamilton Smith, to maintain the beauty of the millpond by which her family chapel and cemetery stood, and also to continue to supply water power to the adjacent Jenkins Mill, which continued in operation for a variety of uses through the early twentieth century.<sup>5</sup> The present dam was built by Daniel

<sup>2</sup> In the order of their construction, the other six intact Ambursen dams listed in the Inventory of Dams of the Dam Bureau of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, are: 1. Dam No. 096.01, "Grafton Pond Dam," Truell Lake, Bicknell Brook Recreation Area, in Grafton, built 1918, owned by the New Hampshire Water Resources Council; 2. Dam No. 022.04-05, Pierce Dam on the Contoocook River at Monadnock Paper Mills in Bennington, Hillsborough County, built 1921, owned by Monadnock Paper Mills, Inc.; 3. Dam No. 031.15, Ayers Island Dam on the Pemigewasset River in Bristol, built 1924, enlarged in 1932, owned by Public Service Company of New Hampshire; 4. Dam No. 134.10, Plant No. 1 or Scytheville Dam on the Mascoma River in Lebanon, built 1926, owned by the City of Lebanon; 5. Dam No. 178.02, "Caplan" Dam on the Sugar River in Newport, built in 1928, owned by William B. Ruger, Jr.; 6. Dam No. 053.01, Blow-Me-Down Pond Dam on Blow-Me-Down Brook at Saint Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, built for water supply in 1934, owned by the United States, National Park Service. The Inventory of Dams of the Dam Bureau of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services is largely limited to dams that pose a danger to human life or property if they fail, so there may be additional low-head Ambursen dams in New Hampshire that are presently unaccounted for.

<sup>3</sup> H. M. Nabstedt, "The Bristol Dam, An Important Water Power Development," *Granite Monthly* 55 (1923): 425-428. For more on the current status of this large example of the Ambursen type of dam, see "Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of Hydropower Licensing, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Relicensing the Ayers Island Hydroelectric Project in the Pemigewasset/Merrimack River Basin, FERC Project No. 2456-009, October 1994," copy on file at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources.

<sup>4</sup> See Preservation Company, survey form for "South Tamworth Industries Historic Area," TAM-STI Area, copy on file at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources.

<sup>5</sup> Hamilton Smith (1840-1900), the step-father of Edith Angela Congreve Onderdonk, was himself a leading benefactor of the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts and the town of Durham. Smith was a descendant of a prominent Durham

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Chesley of Durham, a noted stonemason and contractor, who pioneered in the use of concrete in this area. The dam is therefore eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Places under Criterion A for industry and Criterion C for its significance in engineering.

Under Criterion A, the Durham Falls Dam was built to continue the use of a waterpower privilege that extended back to the mid seventeenth century. The privilege of erecting mills at the falls of the Oyster River was first granted to Valentine Hill in 1649.<sup>6</sup> The site long remained in the possession of Hill descendants and members of the Woodman family. By 1735, the dam at the fall-line supported a sawmill and a gristmill. In the mid-nineteenth century, Samuel Runlett secured the mill privilege on the northeast end of the dam and built a combined sawmill and gristmill in 1860; this building stood until the early 1900s.<sup>7</sup> Members of the Jenkins family acquired the property on the southwest end of the dam before 1800, erecting a building that served as a grist mill in the 1850s and was used as a machine shop in the 1890s, with a tannery nearby if not under the same roof.<sup>8</sup> The Jenkins family continued to adapt this building throughout the first half of the twentieth century, using it as a cider mill and an automobile machine shop.<sup>9</sup> The Jenkins Mill eventually collapsed from decay and the weight of snow, reportedly about 1955. Its dry-laid stone foundations remain today at the south end of the dam, and the dam's waste gates formerly regulated the flow of water to the turbines of the mill. The Jenkins Mill and the adjacent dam were the subjects of artistic photographs, post cards, and artwork during the first half of the twentieth century.<sup>10</sup>

Under Criterion C, the Durham Falls Dam represents a type of concrete buttress dam that is called an Ambursen dam after its patentee. The Ambursen design was patented in 1903 by Nils Frederick Ambursen of New York and Massachusetts. Protected by the monopoly granted by this patent, Ambursen incorporated the Ambursen Hydraulic Construction Company in Boston to build or license the construction of dams under the patent.<sup>11</sup>

The Ambursen dam codified and rendered more substantial several features that had often been seen in low timber dams that were covered by plank aprons. As described above, the Ambursen dam is composed of a series of regularly-spaced concrete abutments of triangular profile, usually placed 15 to 30 feet apart and anchored in the bed of the stream. The upstream edges of the buttresses usually have an angle of 45 degrees. Thus, water pressure on the slab that covers the upstream faces of the buttresses exerts a strong vertical component, greatly reducing the tendency of the dam to slide in the riverbed or to overturn.<sup>12</sup>

The upstream face of the Ambursen dam is covered by an apron of some material impervious to leakage, usually a slab of reinforced concrete. Ambursen dams were initially left open on their downstream sides, as is the Durham Falls dam. The water that fell from the crests of such dams occasionally caused erosion in certain types of riverbeds. In 1904, Ambursen patented the addition of a curved or ogee spillway that carried water smoothly down the face of the dam in the same manner as the ogee faces of many gravity dams.<sup>13</sup>

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family who became wealthy as a mining engineer and maintained a summer home overlooking the Oyster River. He endowed a scholarship at the college, and his bequest funded much of the cost of constructing the college's Hamilton Smith Library in 1907. His step-daughter, Edith Angela Congreve (Mrs. Shirley) Onderdonk, donated \$16,000 toward the construction of Smith Hall, a women's dormitory that was named in memory of her mother, Mrs. Hamilton Smith. See Everett S. Stackpole, Lucien Thompson, and Winthrop S. Meserve, *History of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire*, 2 vols.; reprint of the 1913 ed. (Somersworth, N. H.: New Hampshire Publishing Company, 1973), I:309; and *History of the University of New Hampshire, 1866-1941* (Durham, N. H.: by the university, 1941), pp. 180, 269.

<sup>6</sup> Everett S. Stackpole, Lucien Thompson, and Winthrop S. Meserve, *History of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire*, 2 vols.; reprint of the 1913 ed. (Somersworth, N. H.: New Hampshire Publishing Company, 1973), I:71; Mary P. Thompson, *Landmarks in Ancient Dover*, reprint of the 1892 ed. (Durham, N. H.: Durham Historic Association, 1965), pp. 68, 110-102, 172-3.

<sup>7</sup> Mary P. Thompson, p. 172.

<sup>8</sup> Mary P. Thompson, p. 172; J. Chace, Jr., *Map of Strafford County, New Hampshire* (Philadelphia, 1856); Sanford and Everts, *Atlas of Strafford County, New Hampshire, from Actual Surveys* (Philadelphia, 1871); *Town and City Atlas of the State of New Hampshire* (Boston: D. H. Hurd & Co., 1892).

<sup>9</sup> Durham Historic Association, *Durham, New Hampshire, A History 1900-1985* (Durham: Published for the Association by Phoenix Publishing, 1985), p. 106.

<sup>10</sup> See, for example, cover photograph, *New Hampshire Troubadour*, June 1949, and a post card, circa 1920, reproduced with this survey form.

<sup>11</sup> Duncan Hay, *Hydroelectric Development in the United States, 1880-1940*, 2 vols. (Washington, D. C.: Task Force on Cultural Resource Management, 1991), I:48-50.

<sup>12</sup> F. E. Turneure and H. L. Russell, *Public Water-Supplies: Requirements, Resources, and the Construction of Works*, 3d ed. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1924), pp. 381-383; Alfred Douglas Flinn, Robert Spurr Weston, and Clinton Lathrop Bogert, *Waterworks Handbook of Design, Construction and Operation*, 3d ed. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1927), pp. 145-146.

<sup>13</sup> Hay, *Hydroelectric Development in the United States, 1880-1940*, 2 vols., I:48-50.

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Because the Ambursen dam was protected by a patent, it is likely that the Durham Falls dam was built under a license granted, for a fee, by the Ambursen Hydraulic Construction Company of Boston. Although the dam was probably built under license, the engineer of record for the dam was Professor Charles Elbert Hewitt, the head of the department of electrical engineering at the nearby New Hampshire College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, now the University of New Hampshire.

Charles Elbert Hewitt was born in Hanover, New Hampshire, in 1869 and earned a B.S. degree from the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts in 1893 after the institution had moved from Hanover to Durham. Hewitt went on to earn an M.M.E. degree from Cornell in 1895. Principally an electrical engineer, Hewitt worked for an electric motor company from 1895 to 1897, then established C. E. Hewitt and Company, electrical engineers and contractors, in New York City. Hewitt and Company manufactured electrical equipment, including some devices of Hewitt's own invention. Hewitt joined the faculty in Durham in 1908 as a professor of electrical engineering and head of the electrical engineering department. In 1915, the college was divided into three divisions—agricultural, arts and sciences, and engineering—and Hewitt was appointed dean of the engineering division. In the same year, Hewitt introduced a practical, two-year curriculum in agricultural and industrial engineering to supplement the regular four-year curriculum. In 1918, Hewitt was placed in charge of the training of large numbers of soldiers who were sent to the college for instruction.<sup>14</sup>

The Durham Falls dam was constructed by Daniel Chesley of Durham, an experienced local contractor and stonemason. Although he initially specialized in granite masonry, Chesley became adept in the use of concrete in the early 1900s. Chesley was listed in the Durham town directories from 1898 as a stone contractor and stonemason. In 1905, he advertised as "Daniel Chesley, Stone Contractor and Builder, Quarries and Office on the Dover and Durham Road, near the Durham line." He was listed in similar fashion until he appeared in the Dover City Directory in 1917 as "D. Chesley & Co., contractors in brick, stone masonry, earth work, concrete construction, and building moving." Chesley is recorded as the contractor who built the bridge immediately downstream from the Durham Falls dam in 1907-8. This was a steel I-beam stringer bridge with concrete-filled jack arches between each pair of beams. Chesley was also paid for re-laying the northern abutment of this bridge in Portland cement, for raising and repairing the south abutment, and for rebuilding the roadway and causeways leading to the bridge.<sup>15</sup> Chesley engaged in a similar job in 1914-15, when he was paid for "relaying abutments and concreting [same]" at the Packer's Falls Bridge (actually the bridge at Wiswall's Falls) on the Lamprey River in Durham.<sup>16</sup> An example of his work as a building mover took place in 1915, when he moved the ancient Damme-Drew log garrison house from Back River Road in Dover to its permanent site at the Woodman Institute on Central Avenue.

In addition to his success as a contractor, Daniel Chesley was a successful farmer and attained recognition as a public servant. He served on the board of selectmen of Durham, as a state representative, and as a state senator in 1913-14. In the Senate, Chesley was chosen as chairman of the committee on towns and parishes and was a member of the committees on military affairs, agriculture, the state hospital, and fish and game.<sup>17</sup>

**45. Period of Significance:**

Criterion A: 1913-1958 (arbitrary National Register fifty-year cutoff date)  
Criterion C: 1913

**46. Statement of Integrity:**

Except for the addition of a fish ladder and repair and reinforcement of the dam structure in 1974, the dam itself is essentially unchanged from its 1913 construction. Some remains of the mill foundations and turbines are at the site, but the mill buildings have been gone for more than 50 years.

**47. Boundary Discussion:**

The dam itself, its immediate surroundings, and the impoundment upstream from the dam.

<sup>14</sup> *Cornell University: A History* (New York: The University Publishing Society, 1905), Vol. IV, p. 289; *Men of 1914* (Chicago: 1915); *History of the University of New Hampshire, 1866-1941*, pp. 170, 175, 211-212, 241, 254.

<sup>15</sup> *Durham Annual Report*, 1908, p. 13, as quoted in Durham Falls Bridge HAER Report No. NH-15, pp. 5-8.

<sup>16</sup> *Durham Annual Report*, 1915, p. 13.

<sup>17</sup> Everett S. Stackpole, Lucien Thompson, and Winthrop S. Meserve, *History of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire*, 2 vols.; reprint of the 1913 ed. (Somersworth, N. H.: New Hampshire Publishing Company, 1973), I:320-321.

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**48. Bibliography and/or References:**

Durham Historic Association, "Durham New Hampshire – a history 1900-1985", 361pp, 1985, Phoenix Publishing, ISBN 0-914659-15-4, endplates, p.2-3, 106, 127

Stackpole, Everett S., Lucien Thompson and Winthrop S. Meserve, "History of the Town of Durham New Hampshire" 938pp in 2 vols, original printing: Rumford Press, 1913, reprints 1973, 1994, Randall Press, v.1 p.71, v.1 p.226

Thompson, Mary P., "Landmarks in Ancient Dover", 278pp, 1965, Durham Historic Association, p.168-9, 172-3

Numerous newspaper clippings and historic photographs, Durham Historic Association.



fig. 5 neg0008 control structure and dam looking SSW  
remains of Jenkins Mill foundation and gat



fig.10 neg0006 view from under rt 108 bridge looking SW



fig. 6 neg0007 looking SW. fish ladder right foreground



fig. 9 neg0003 looking SW from under rt 108 bridge. falls  
visible beneath bridge

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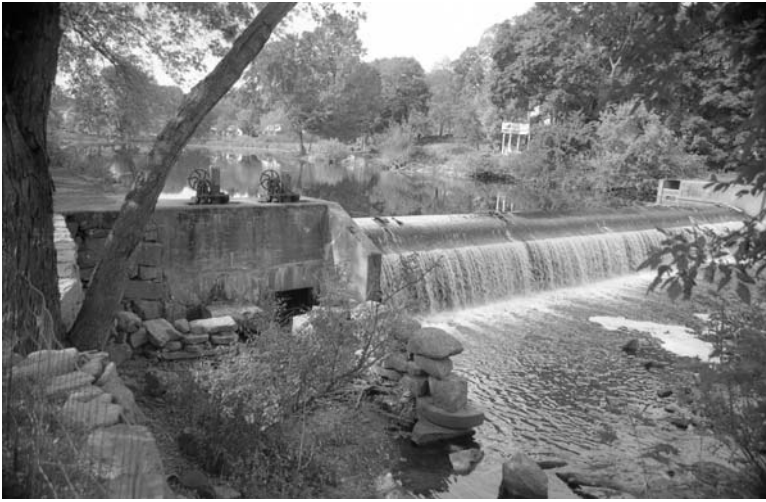


fig. 3 neg0033 dam and spillway from right bank looking NW

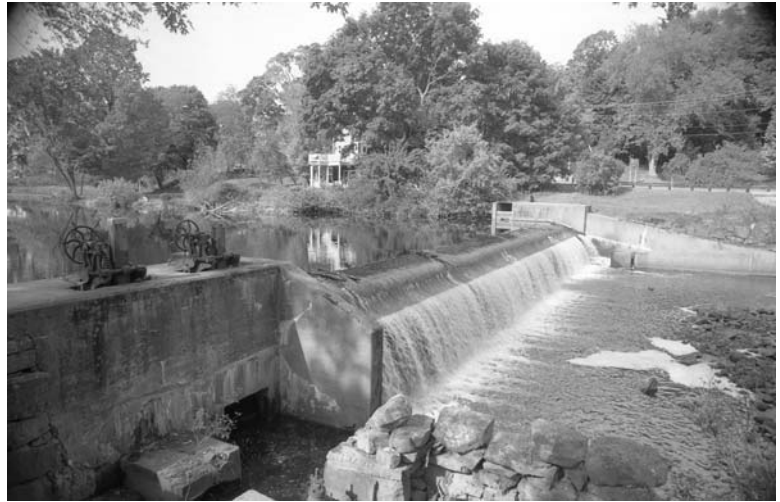


fig.4 neg0037 dam and spillway from right bank looking NNW  
control structure showing gate to turbine (bottom) and waste gate



fig.7 neg0035 control structure looking WNW  
turbine gate on left, waste gate on right.



fig.8 neg0023 back of control structure looking ENE  
bridge over rt 108 visible in background



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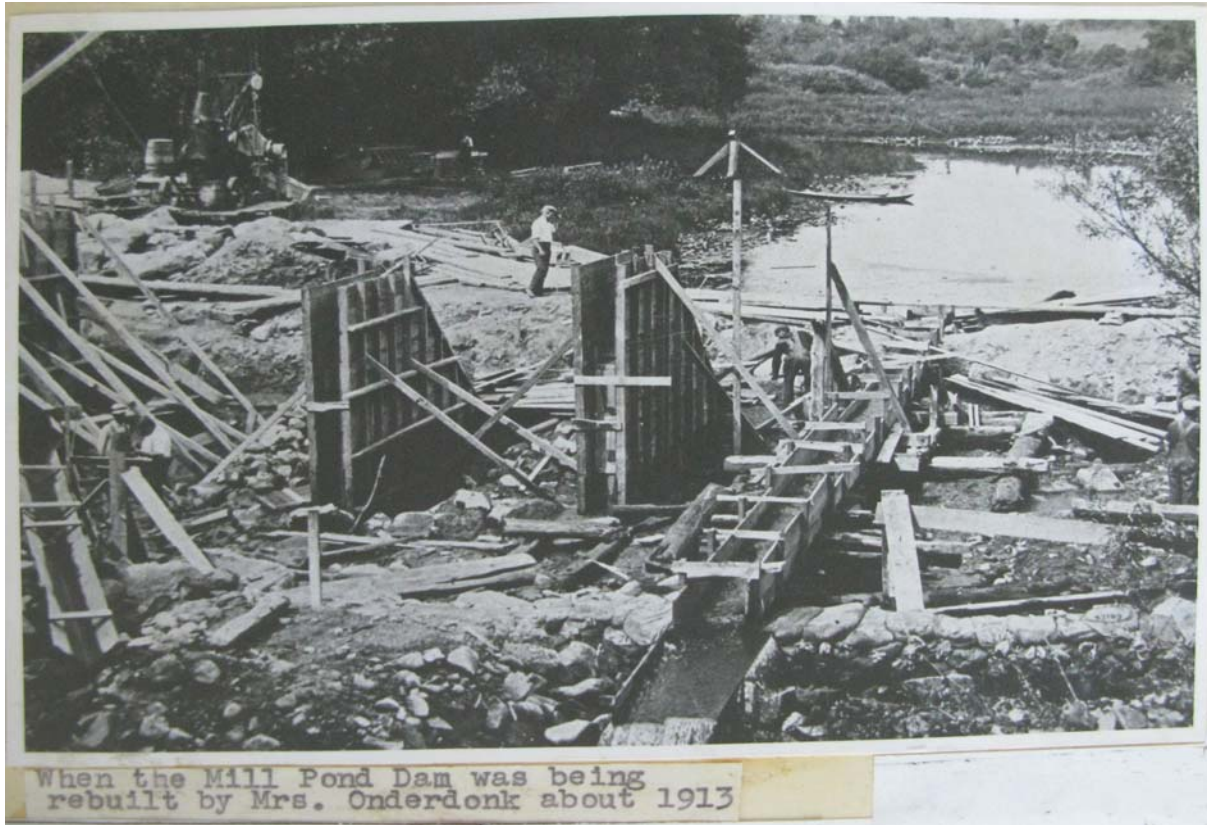
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Looking NW General Sullivan house at Newmarket road. MillPond and Dam on far left. Jenkins Mill on left, Runlett Sawmillin back of Newmarket road bridge.. Frost Store to right on near side of Newmarket Road.

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1913

construction photos



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Postcard of Jenkins mill: c.1920

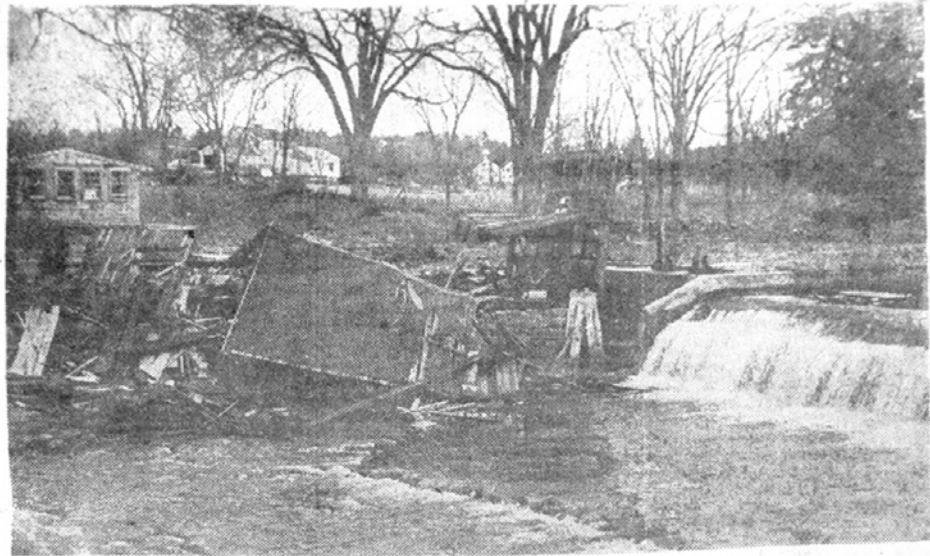
## Landmark

DURHAM, April 29—The old Jenkins Mill, one of the last remaining marks of old Durham's commercial activity, has joined the many historic landmarks which one by one have disappeared, the victims of rotting time. The Mill, which stood on the south side of the Oyster River Falls, was a picturesque reminder of an almost forgotten era when Durham was a promising trading and industrial center.

Last year the roof of the Mill began to sag dangerously, and an attempt to repair it was made. But the sills of the building had rotted, and it was impossible to save the structure from collapse.

Under the weight of the winter snow the roof sagged more and more, and finally collapsed. The whole weakened structure succumbed to the force of spring winds and rain and fell into the river which had supplied it with power for so many years.

## Victim of Time, Elements



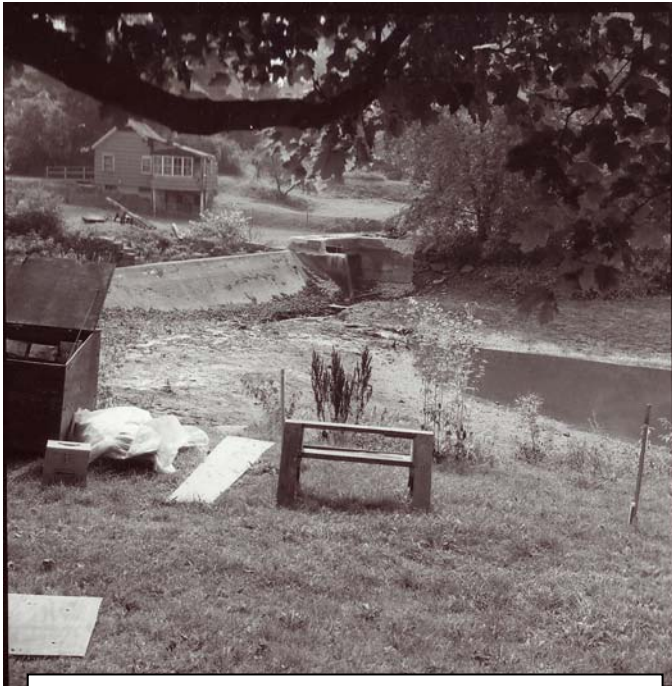
Only a pile of rotting boards and a stone foundation remains of this historic landmark. Staff Photo by Jim M.

.1955 newspaper account of collapse of Jenkins Mill

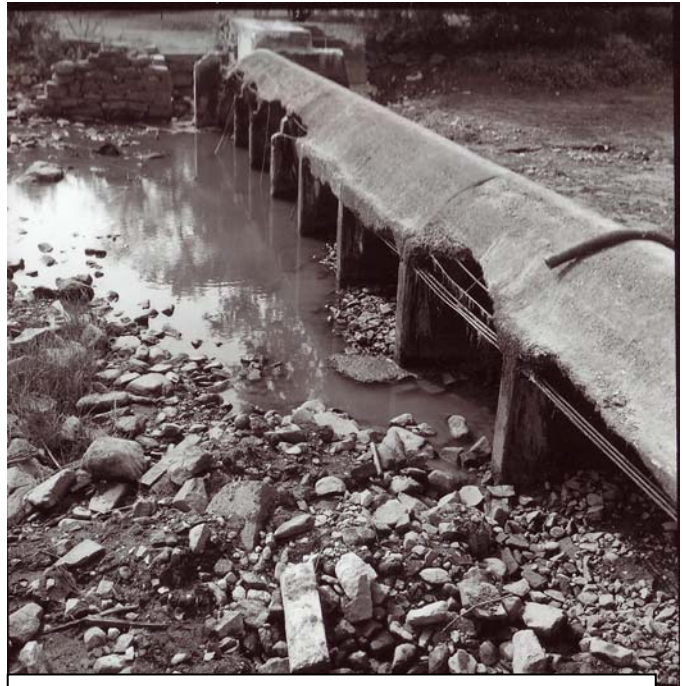
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Photos of 1974 repair and construction of fish ladder



Looking SE from Runlett yard. Pond drained. Fred Jenkins cottage below and to the right of the dam



Looking SW from Runlett end of dam showing eroded spillway and exposed rebar.



Gateway to Jenkin's cottage in forground. Work on dam about to begin looking NW



turbine from Runlett Sawmill on left bank

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John Hatch painting:  
*The waterfront at the falls of the Oyster River, Durham, New Hampshire, circa 1822, by John Hatch, courtesy of the artist and the Community Church, Durham.*

## Mill Pond Project 30 Progressing Well

**DURHAM** — The level of water in Mill Pond has risen slightly over the past few weeks, but it is being controlled so that the water will not interfere with the construction project at the Mill Pond dam.

Begun late this summer, the \$51,400 project being undertaken by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department entails repairing the face of the Mill Pond dam and constructing a fish ladder and holding pen at the dam site.

At the present time, according to Public Works Superintendent George Crombie, the project is moving along well. Construction and repairs will continue this fall and winter as long as weather permits. It would seem likely, however, according to Crombie, that the project will be delayed because of cold weather until next spring.

The town approved that \$18,000 be expended for the purpose of repairing the dam at the March 1973 Town Meeting. At the 1974 Durham Town Meeting, the town approved the expenditure of an additional \$8,250 to be used to match federal funds for the construction of a fish ladder at the dam site.

In 1970 the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department planned and designed a fish ladder for the Durham site. Due to the nonavailability of State-Federal project funds, the project was delayed.

However, before the 1974 Town Meeting it was agreed by Durham Selectmen and the State Fish and Game Department that a Fish and Game construction crew would be made available to make the repairs to the dam, at the town's expense, and to include the construction of the fish ladder according to the matching funds proposal.

The repairs being made to the Mill Pond dam are intended to preserve one of Durham's most cherished landmarks. The fish ladder and holding pen being constructed at the dam site are mainly for the use of the Fish and Game Department in monitoring fish migration.

The ladder will enable migratory fish, such as the salmon, to climb the dam in order to spawn in the fresh water of Mill Pond or further up the Oyster River. The holding pen will allow Fish and Game biologists to count and tag or catch and strip fish using the ladder.

"The project's going well," according to Durham Superintendent of Public Works George Crombie. Repair of the Mill Pond dam and construction of a fish ladder and holding pen (at right) were begun late this summer and, weather permitting, may be completed some time this late fall or this winter. In all likelihood, however, construction will be delayed until next spring.