

**Rocky Mount Dam and Powerhouse (033-0016), Franklin County, Virginia,  
Report and National Register Evaluation**



prepared for

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### *Abstract*

The Rocky Mount Dam and Powerhouse facility (033-0016) is an early twentieth century hydroelectric facility located on the Pigg River in Franklin County, Virginia. The facility was developed in the mid-1910s for the Light and Power Company of Rocky Mount, headed by B. L. Fisher, an important figure in regional power generation and communications during the early and mid-twentieth century. The buttressed concrete dam provided a head of water for a turbine located under a small powerhouse. In 1926 the facility was acquired by Appalachian Electric Power, which operated it into the 1950s. The present steel and concrete powerhouse, which houses a switchboard and other equipment, appears to be a ca. 1926 or later replacement of the original mid-1910s powerhouse. The dam will be removed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 2007 to improve fish passage on the Pigg River, specifically for the endangered Roanoke log perch. The Rocky Mount Dam and Powerhouse facility is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of industry at the local level of significance. This report was prepared for the FishAmerica Foundation and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service by J. Daniel Pezzoni of Landmark Preservation Associates.

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### *Description*

The Rocky Mount Dam and Powerhouse facility is located in central Franklin County, Virginia, approximately two miles east of the county seat of Rocky Mount. The facility is situated on the Pigg River, a tributary of the Roanoke (Staunton) River, just upstream from the Power Dam Road (State Route 713) crossing at a location historically known as Pelter's Ford. The construction of the dam in 1915 flooded a "rock ledge" or rapids at the location. The facility has been unused for many years and the once open impoundment has partially silted up. The dam is located at approximately 940 feet above sea level.

The dam is a poured concrete structure that spans the river from northwest to southeast. According to a 1981 survey by Rockfish Corporation, the dam is a "concrete gravity structure, 240' long, 25' high." The dam has a concave downstream slope with a pronounced base and it is strengthened by two sloping buttresses. At the southeast end extends a concrete retaining wall that probably served in part to support the river bank at this location and prevent erosion around the end of the dam. The northwest end of the dam adjoins the concrete abutments of the powerhouse. At the top of the dam near the powerhouse is a concrete projection that supports remnant machinery that was originally presumably involved in opening a sluice gate. A concrete wall projects from the southwest end of the powerhouse to separate the spillway from the water intake. At the end of this wall is a projection into which was inscribed the now partially effaced inscription "B. L. Fis[her]" and the date 1915. The water intake structure, which is now partially silted up and obscured, features slanted metal trash racks which prevented debris from entering the penstocks and reaching the turbine, and two ladder-like metal features that may have served as gate hoists. Another concrete retaining wall extends the line of the dam northwestward beyond the powerhouse and another, smaller concrete wall extends from it at a perpendicular angle. This wall bears the inscription B.M. 95746.

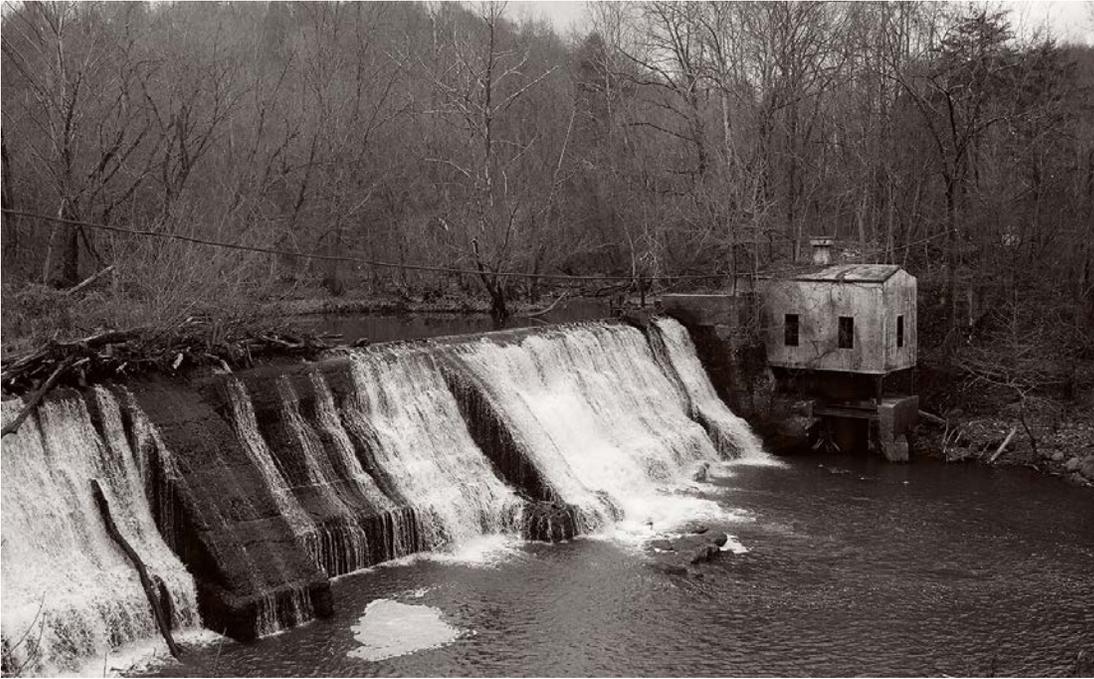


Figure 1. Dam and powerhouse viewed from the State Route 713 bridge over the Pigg River. View looking west.

The powerhouse is a one-story building of concrete and steel construction that measures fourteen by twenty-four feet in dimensions. It has a low-pitched concrete gable roof with a round sheet-metal ventilator rising above the ridge. The walls have a smooth finish and are pierced on the northeast and southeast sides by steel-frame windows and on the northwest side by a steel-frame door opening that is missing its door. The windows, which are missing their glass, have fixed two-pane lower sashes and pivoting upper four-pane sashes. The southwest wall of the powerhouse is formed by the end of the dam. The powerhouse is raised above the turbine pit on steel I-beams that are imbedded in concrete foundations. The open turbine pit under the powerhouse houses a cylindrical riveted metal turbine case supported by I-beams that span between the foundations. The turbine, which is no longer in place, was presumably of the radial flow type. Also visible under the powerhouse are the cylindrical riveted metal penstocks that conveyed water to the turbine and the concrete and steel substructure of the powerhouse floor, which was designed to support a generator and other heavy equipment and utilizes concrete pan joists. Next to the powerhouse, beside the steps that lead down to the powerhouse entrance, is the rectangular concrete foundation of a former supply house that was presumably built at the same time as the dam (ca. 1915). The foundation projects above grade, especially down slope on the southeast and northeast sides.



Figure 2. Powerhouse. View looking west.

The powerhouse interior comprises a single room with exposed steel wall and roof structure and exposed concrete panels between the steel members. The roof structure consists of an I-beam that supports the concrete roof under the ridge and rests on I-beam plates at the two ends of the building. Angle iron braces extend diagonally across the corners of the northeast end at the level of the plates to provide lateral reinforcement and similar braces rise from the east and north corner posts to provide additional reinforcement. Set into the concrete floor is a massive cast iron ring that caps the turbine case and formed a base for a cylindrical generator (no longer extant). The ring measures eight feet across with an inner opening five feet in diameter. The generator was directly coupled to the turbine rather than powered by a belt. Between the ring and the northeast wall is a slightly raised concrete machinery emplacement of rectangular form. Steel rod attachments and metal electrical conduits are associated with the emplacement. The emplacement may have formerly supported a governor to control water flow to the turbine or possibly an exciter for the operation of the closely adjacent generator.



Figure 3. Powerhouse interior, northeast end.

At the southwest end of the powerhouse interior stands the switchboard and the pipe structure that supported equipment associated with the feeder lines that exited the powerhouse. The switchboard panel is actually comprised of two panels bolted to an angle iron frame. The panels are probably steel although it is possible they are slate or soapstone, two other materials commonly used for switchboards in the early twentieth century. On one edge of the switchboard is a shorter steel post that may have provided additional support for the switchboard and/or may have provided a surface for the attachment of additional equipment. The face of the switchboard is covered with the rectangular and circular back plates of former equipment such as voltmeters, wattmeters, and ammeters. The fronts of these meters have been removed. The equipment was manufactured by Westinghouse and the Meter Devices Company of Canton, Ohio. Inscriptions include “Type C Magnetic Contact” (produced by Westinghouse), instructions for raising and lowering the voltage of devices, and small numbered brass plates.



Figure 4. Powerhouse interior, southwest end with switchboard.

On the back of the switchboard are numerous abbreviations and numbers labeled in white paint that presumably identified the positions of the equipment on the front of the switchboard and may have served as a wiring diagram. Inscriptions (and possible interpretations) include AM. (ammeter), W.H.M (watt hour meter), R.V.A., R93 40 OHMS, and BN. A brass plate identifies one panel as “Westinghouse Switchboard Panel Shop Order 25E623 Position 1” and the other panel as Position 2. The switchboard panels were manufactured by Westinghouse’s East Pittsburgh Works in East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Brackets and remnants of equipment project from the back.

Above and to the side of the switchboard is the pipe structure. The pipes are joined with connecting pieces and few support attachments for former wires. Supported by pipes above and behind the switchboard is a box-like steel framework filled with tiers of wound metal rod and porcelain insulators. More insulators are mounted on the wall above the door. The powerhouse has been vandalized by the removal or damage of features such as the door and windows and the painting of graffiti on interior walls and the switchboard and, to a lesser extent, the exterior.

### *Historic Context*

Students of the history of hydroelectric power generation in the United States up to the Second World War define four periods in the industry’s development. The first period, 1880-1895, spans from the inception of direct-current service to provide power for lighting to the placing on line of the large and technologically advanced hydroelectric plant at Niagara Falls. The second period, 1895-1920, witnessed experimentation and rapid technological change in the industry. The third period, 1920-1930, was one of standardization and consolidation. After 1930, the Great Depression stymied private sector development but also ushered in federal government involvement, as typified by the vast hydroelectric initiative of the Tennessee Valley Authority. The authors of a

statewide historic context for hydroelectric power in Virginia, the 1990 Louis Berger and Associates report “Hydroelectric Power Development in Virginia, 1895-1940,” note that the industry followed the same pattern in Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

The Rocky Mount Dam and Powerhouse facility is a product of the second period in the development of the hydroelectric power industry. In Virginia, as in the nation, the period was characterized by variety, with a number of entities—municipalities, manufacturers generating for their own use, local power companies generating for sale—constructing hydroelectric plants. The power companies dominated the industry during the 1895-1920 period. As the authors of the Berger report describe them, these power companies “were investor-owned corporations, often the creation, at least initially, of local entrepreneurs seeking investment opportunities in a new industry.” The developer of the Rocky Mount Dam and Powerhouse facility, B. L. Fisher’s Light and Power Company of Rocky Mount, epitomized the locally owned hydroelectric power companies of the era.<sup>2</sup>

Burgie Lee (B. L.) Fisher (1878-1955) was born on a Franklin County farm and at the age of nineteen pursued his first career as a public school teacher. He soon married one of his students, Cora Lee Prillaman (d. 1955), who assisted him in his later business activities. About 1900 the Fishers built and operated a grocery store at Callaway. That year the Franklin Telephone Company formed in Rocky Mount and by 1904 had extended a line to Callaway with service to the Fishers’ store. B. L. Fisher is said to have become interested in the technology and subsequently he went to work for the telephone company. Some accounts state that in 1903 or 1904 Fisher moved to Rocky Mount to manage the company, which he later purchased and reorganized as the Fisher Telephone Company, although by Fisher’s own account he worked for a telephone company in the New York City area in 1907 and 1908. Whatever the sequence of events, by the early 1920s Fisher had established himself in Rocky Mount where he served as a town councilman. In 1922 he was appointed the first chief of the Rocky Mount Fire Department, which he helped form. During the same period Fisher organized the Stuart Telephone Company in nearby Patrick County. By 1930 he had merged his Stuart and Rocky Mount companies to form the Lee Telephone Company. Fisher moved to Martinsville in the early 1930s after acquiring Martinsville’s municipal phone service and soon joined the business community there, serving as the first president of the Martinsville Community Chest, president of the Martinsville Kiwanis Club, and chairman of the city planning commission. By the time of his death in 1955, Fisher’s Lee Telephone Company “provided telephone service to a seven-county area in Virginia and North Carolina and extending 75 miles west from Danville to the Blue Ridge Mountains and 100 miles north to south from Roanoke to Winston-Salem, N.C.” The company

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<sup>1</sup> Louis Berger and Associates “Hydroelectric Power Development in Virginia, 1895-1940,” 7.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 8-9.

provided 19,000 telephones to customers. In 1965 the Lee Telephone Company merged with the Central Telephone System (Centel).<sup>3</sup>

In the early 1910s B. L. Fisher branched into electric power generation. According to one account he formed the Fisher Electric Company “which wired houses and plants in Rocky Mount and later did similar work at Bassett, including the first electric wiring of the big furniture manufacturing plant there.” The Fisher Electric Company may have been an informal or alternate name for the Light and Power Company of Rocky Mount, which on August 30, 1913, acquired a waterpower site on the Pigg River east of Rocky Mount. The site, located at Pelter’s Ford, was purchased from William and Addie Walker for \$1,300. The deed specified that the site was “sufficient for the erection of a dam and mill or power site or both” and noted that the site was “required to be adjacent to the rock ledge now naturally running across Pig [*sic*] River” above the ford. The company was granted the right to build a dam not to exceed twenty-two feet in height above water level with an option to increase the height to thirty feet. The company was also allowed to take sand and rock from the grantor’s property for the erection of the dam and buildings and for future maintenance. Later deeds granted permission for the erection of powerlines (November 1915) and one, dated August 1914, seems to imply that the dam was already built. B. L. Fisher inscribed his name and the date 1915 on the concrete near the powerhouse.<sup>4</sup>

Fisher’s move into hydroelectric power generation may have had several motivations, foremost among them personal profit. An article written by Fisher in 1926 and republished in pamphlet form as *Stuart and Patrick County—What it is and what it may become* suggests other business objectives. Along with most businessmen of the era, Fisher saw electric power as an inducement to industrial development and other economic development. Electricity powered the new electrical appliances of the era—Fisher promoted electric ranges in his pamphlet—which in turn created a demand for more electricity. Electric power also made improved phone service possible. Fisher noted that Stuart’s “common battery telephone service” relied on storage batteries that were recharged by the town’s “splendid hydro-electric plant.” As Fisher also owned the phone system in Franklin County, the hydroelectric plant on the Pigg River directly benefited another of his businesses.<sup>5</sup>

On August 4, 1926, the Light and Power Company of Rocky Mount deeded the “Pigg River hydro-electric generating plant” to the Appalachian Electric Power Company. Appalachian Electric Power had recently been formed through the merger of the American Gas and Electric Company, incorporated in New York in 1906, the

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<sup>3</sup> *Franklin News-Post*, January 1, 1986; Claiborne, *Franklin County*, 21; Fisher, *Stuart and Patrick County*, 3; “Rocky Mount Fire Department,” Capital District Kiwanis website; Salmon and Salmon, *Franklin County*.

<sup>4</sup> *Franklin News-Post*, January 1, 1986; Franklin County Deed Book 62, p. 107; Deed Book 77, p. 160.

<sup>5</sup> Fisher, *Stuart and Patrick County*, 1-2, 3, 5.

Appalachian Power Company, and other holdings. The creation of AEP was one of several consolidations in the industry that affected Virginia and the rest of the nation in the 1920s. “The size of the systems brought under control of investor-owned utilities increased enormously” during the decade, write the authors of “Hydroelectric Power Development in Virginia, 1895-1940.” “These larger systems were not only able to generate power more economically, but were also able to spread their overhead costs over a wider base. These savings resulted in reduction of costs to consumers and a consequent increase in the use of electricity.” Consolidation made more capital available for expansion and also enhanced the ability of companies to keep abreast of technological developments in the industry.<sup>6</sup>

By acquiring the Rocky Mount Dam and Powerhouse and associated transmission lines Appalachian Electric Power gained control of a local distribution system as well as power generating capacity. B. L. Fisher presumably benefited from the sale monetarily. He also formed an association with a major corporation. According to a Franklin County promotional booklet published soon after the acquisition, “Mr. B. L. Fisher, the courteous and efficient manager of the light and power company of Rocky Mount, which was recently taken over by the Appalachian Electric Power Company, is still in charge of its business in Rocky Mount.” Appalachian continued to operate the Pigg River hydro plant for another three decades. The company surveyed the facility twice, in 1927 and 1929. In 1935 the company’s engineers revisited the site and noted that a sixteen by thirty foot one-story supply house that stood next to the powerhouse had been torn down and a “small shack” erected on its foundation (the foundation survives). The supply house presumably dated to the original construction of the facility in the mid-1910s and may have been used to store equipment and materials related to the operation of the power plant and distribution lines. Presumably it was removed by Appalachian because it was no longer needed by the company and its proximity to the powerhouse may have posed a fire risk. Appalachian Electric Power’s 1952 annual report contains a map that shows the “Rocky Mount” facility as an operational hydroelectric generating plant with high voltage lines extending to the Franklin County communities of Penhook, Taylor’s Store, and Union Hall and westward through Rocky Mount to a substation on the company’s main north-south line.<sup>7</sup>

B. L. Fisher’s sale of the Rocky Mount facility did not end his involvement in hydroelectric power development. According to Douglas Hanks, Maintenance Supervisor for the Fisher Dam in Henry County, Fisher constructed a dam and powerhouse on Marrowbone Creek southwest of Martinsville about 1940 to provide power for his farming operations and presumably also for sale. Hanks believes Fisher built the hydro plant after having a falling out with Appalachian Electric Power, and he recalls that the facility was designed by an electrical engineer from Roanoke who was referred to as

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<sup>6</sup> Franklin County Deed Book 77, p. 160; Louis Berger and Associates, “Hydroelectric Power Development in Virginia,” 10, 12.

<sup>7</sup> Claiborne, J. G., ed. *Franklin County*, 36; Appalachian Electric Power Company, “Map Showing Pigg River Hydro Property;” Appalachian Electric Power Company, “Annual Report, 1952.”

“Captain.” This may have been John W. “Captain Jack” Hancock, who worked for Appalachian for many years before his retirement in 1943, although the possibility would seem incompatible with the tradition that Fisher was not on good terms with Appalachian.<sup>8</sup>

The Rocky Mount Dam served another role, although one that was frowned upon by the community. Anne Carter Lee, who grew up in Rocky Mount in the 1940s and 1950s, recalls that her parents warned her not to go swimming at the dam where she was told a number of people had drowned. In more recent years the powerhouse has been used by local adolescents who have vandalized it. In 1964 the property was sold by the Appalachian Power Company to Jennings and Eva Craghead. In May 2006 FishAmerica, an organization devoted to sportfishing and improvement of fish habitat, awarded \$102,500 to restore fish passage along watercourses in the eastern United States through the removal of dams, including the Rocky Mount Dam. The overall goal of the dam removals is to “improve access to shad, herring, bass, trout and Atlantic salmon.” Removal of the Rocky Mount Dam would also facilitate migration of the endangered Roanoke log perch.<sup>9</sup>

### *Architectural Discussion*

The two principal resources comprising the Rocky Mount Dam and Powerhouse—the dam and the powerhouse—appear to be or may be the product of multiple phases of construction. The buttressed concrete gravity dam is described as being twenty-five feet in height. The 1913 deed granting permission to B. L. Fisher for the construction of the dam stipulated that it be twenty-two feet in height, although the deed also contained a provision to increase the dam’s height to thirty feet. Whether Fisher exercised his option before or after completion of the dam, or whether Appalachian Electric Power increased the dam’s height, cannot be determined from the available historic record. The fact that the uppermost sections of concrete are more finely finished than the concrete below may be an indication that they were added. The Rocky Mount Dam is typical of hydroelectric power dams constructed in Virginia during the historic period, the great majority of which were concrete gravity structures.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Douglas Hanks personal communication; Corbitt, *And there was light*, 216.

<sup>9</sup> Anne Carter Lee and Scott Martin personal communication; Franklin County Deed Book 217, p. 344; American Sportfishing Association website.

<sup>10</sup> Louis Berger and Associates, “Hydroelectric Power Development in Virginia,” 37.



Figure 5. Dam viewed from the State Route 713 bridge over the Pigg River. View looking south.

Historical information has not been uncovered to definitively date the construction of the powerhouse. However, several lines of evidence suggest it probably dates to the 1920s or later and most likely dates to the period of the acquisition of the facility by Appalachian in 1926. The carefully engineered concrete and steel frame construction of the powerhouse appears too sophisticated for a small power company serving a local customer base. From an economic standpoint the wisest option for a start-up power company in an untested market would have been to erect a powerhouse of cheap conventional construction. Such appears to have been the course taken by the electrical utility created for Martinsville, located in adjacent Henry County. The Martinsville hydroelectric facility went into operation in 1906 and initially featured a simple frame powerhouse with wood siding. The original powerhouse was replaced in 1933 by the present brick and concrete powerhouse. It appears likely a similar upgrade was made at the Rocky Mount facility, most likely coincident with the transfer of ownership from a local power company to a large, well capitalized, panregional utility.<sup>11</sup>

Other features of the powerhouse suggest the building is not original. The character of the dam's concrete at the southwest end of the powerhouse interior, with well finished concrete at the top of the wall and much cruder concrete below, suggests two periods of construction—perhaps 1915 for the lower concrete and 1926 or 1927 for the upper concrete—and would indicate that the powerhouse is not original, since the construction of the powerhouse appears to be integral with the dam. The powerhouse switchboard provides several clues. Some of the meters were made by the Meter Devices Company,

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<sup>11</sup> *Martinsville and Henry County Historic Views*, 66-67; Louis Berger and Associates. "Hydroelectric Power Development in Virginia," 70. The authors of the Berger report comment on the reconstruction of early hydroelectric plants in the 1920s, "a phenomenon which has made the dating of some plants difficult."

which was not founded until 1918 and which presumably did not become a significant supplier until some years after its establishment. The shop order numbers for the two Westinghouse switchboard panels begin with 25E. The 25 may indicate the panels were made in 1925 and the E may identify their place of manufacture, known to be Westinghouse's East Pittsburgh Works. It seems reasonable to conclude that the switchboard was installed at about the same time that the dam and powerhouse were acquired by Appalachian, and this in combination with other evidence suggests the powerhouse was replaced in its entirety soon after the acquisition. The fact that Appalachian had the facility surveyed in April 1927 suggests either preparation for construction activity or documentation of finished work. The December 1929 version of the 1927 drawing seems to show the present powerhouse (labeled "Turbine Room" on the drawing).<sup>12</sup>



Figure 6. Powerhouse and retaining wall. View looking northeast.

The Rocky Mount Powerhouse is typical of historic-period hydroelectric powerhouse construction in Virginia but it also differs from the norm in several respects. The building's durable, fireproof concrete construction is typical; most Virginia hydroelectric powerhouses were constructed of concrete, brick, or a combination of the two. Masonry construction may also have served to better withstand the stresses generated by water power. Apparently less typical is the building's imbedded steel frame. Steel framing was more often used in conjunction with brick than concrete. Typical features possessed by the Rocky Mount Powerhouse include the vertical turbine-generator configuration, with the (former) generator positioned directly above the (former) turbine; an intake structure with trash racks; and metal-framed windows with hinged sections for ventilation. A less

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<sup>12</sup> Meter Devices Company website; Appalachian Electric Power Company, "Map Showing Pigg River Hydro Property."

common feature of historic Virginia powerhouses is the gable roof. Even more unusual—for any historic building type—is the use of inclined concrete slabs to form the roof.<sup>13</sup>



Figure 7. Powerhouse interior showing generator base.

Examples of powerhouses similar in form and construction to the Rocky Mount Powerhouse have not been discovered in the literature. The building may be the product of a relatively brief phase in the evolution of powerhouse design or it may be a design conceived and used by Appalachian Electric Power alone. The powerhouse differs from other documented small buildings erected by Appalachian during the period. The company's automatic substations, for example, were sheet-steel sided buildings based on a twenty by thirty-foot module. Alternatively, the Rocky Mount Powerhouse may be constructed from standardized plans and building components fabricated by an as yet unidentified manufacturer. However, a perusal of trade journals such as *Power* and *General Electric Review* for the period in question has failed to identify similar buildings. The exact provenance of the Rocky Mount Powerhouse remains a mystery.<sup>14</sup>

### *Research Design*

The research design for the project had as its objective the discovery of sufficient information on the Rocky Mount Dam and Powerhouse to evaluate the potential National

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<sup>13</sup> Louis Berger and Associates, "Hydroelectric Power Development in Virginia," 40-41.

<sup>14</sup> John Shepelwich personal communication; Furr and Webb, "Automatic Substations of the Appalachian Power Company," 411. According to John Shepelwich, Appalachian Electric Power's successor company, American Electric Power, has not retained records relevant to the design and function of the Rocky Mount Powerhouse. Most hydroelectric facilities that received national press attention during the era were much larger than the Rocky Mount Powerhouse.

Register eligibility of the resource, the principal objective of the project sponsor. Methods employed included on-site documentation of the resource, archival and Internet research, and interviews with knowledgeable individuals. The archival research involved the examination of primary and secondary source materials at the Franklin County Courthouse, the Town of Rocky Mount Municipal Offices, the Franklin County Public Library, the Virginia Room of the Roanoke Public Library, Leyburn Library at Washington and Lee University, and Preston Library at Virginia Military Institute. The on-site documentation and archival research was expected to produce sufficient information to allow for evaluation.

### *National Register of Historic Places Evaluation*

The Rocky Mount Dam and Powerhouse facility is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its important place in the history of power generation in Franklin County, Virginia. The hydroelectric facility, established in the mid-1910s, was the first electric utility to serve Rocky Mount, Franklin County's county seat and largest community. It functioned as a locally owned and operated utility until 1926 when it was acquired by Appalachian Electric Power, one of the state's largest power suppliers, which expanded its operations into the southwest Piedmont during the period. Thereafter, and until at least the mid-1950s, the facility served as a component of the Appalachian system. The dam dates at least in part to 1915 and represents the initial development of the facility. The powerhouse is presumed to date to after acquisition by Appalachian, probably ca. 1926 but possibly later. As such the upgraded facility represents the consolidation of local power generation facilities into larger panregional corporate entities, a state and nationwide trend during the 1920s. The Rocky Mount Dam and Powerhouse facility therefore illustrates two phases in an important transition in the history of hydroelectric power generation in Virginia. The facility retains sufficient integrity for listing. The powerhouse has lost important components such as the generator, turbine, and door, and other features such as the switchboard and windows have been damaged by vandals. However, the powerhouse retains other character-defining features related to its historic function and both it and the dam retain their overall historic form and appearance. The Rocky Mount Dam and Powerhouse facility is potentially eligible for the register under Criterion A in the area of industry at the local level of significance.

### *Recommendations*

The author recommends that the Rocky Mount Dam and Powerhouse be considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The author has been advised by Scott Martin, Franklin County Commerce and Leisure Services head and county contact for the dam removal project, that there is interest in preserving the powerhouse. The powerhouse would be a strong candidate for adaptive reuse, perhaps in association with recreational use of the Pigg River. Listing in the state and national registers could enhance funding opportunities for rehabilitation.

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Figure 8. Location of Rocky Mount Dam and Powerhouse