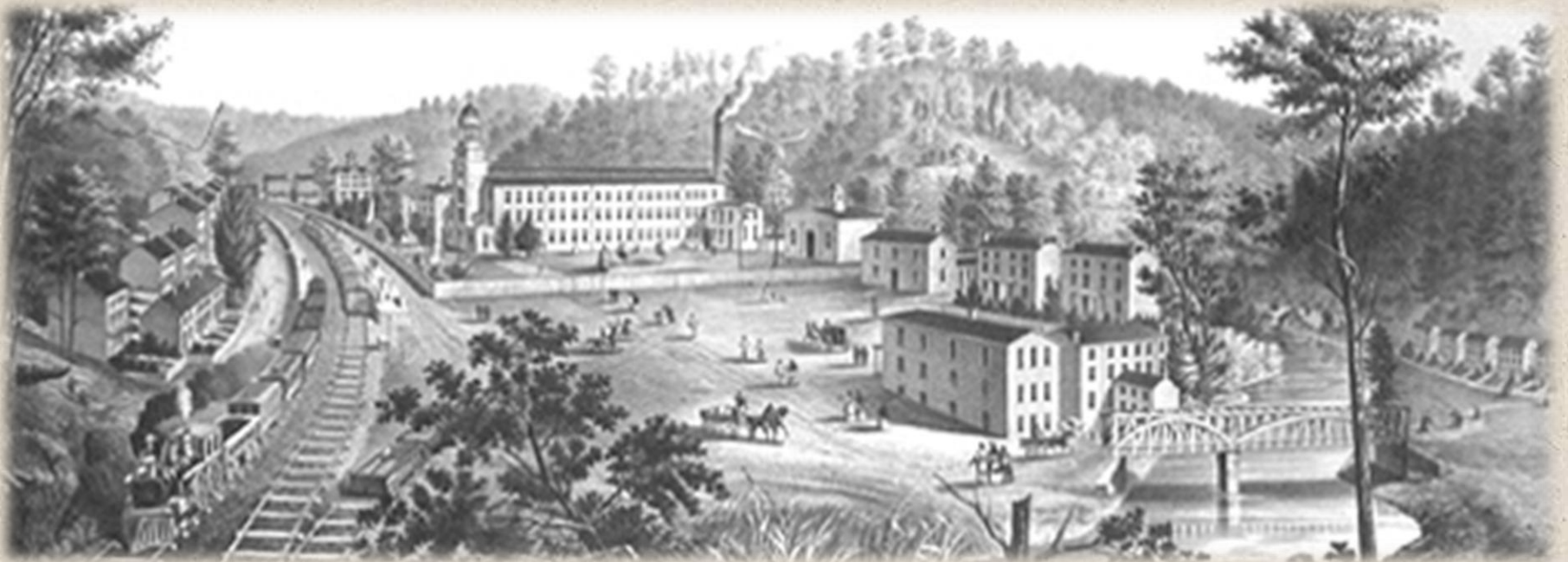


Mending a Fractured Landscape: Balancing Culture & Nature in the Vanishing Mill Town of Daniels, Maryland



NANCY PICKARD, HISP 711

Presented May 15, 2012



Presentation Overview



- Problem Statement
- Methodology
- Introduce the Site
- A Rich Cultural Heritage
 - ❖ Elysville – Early Industrial Landscape
 - ❖ Alberton – Model Factory Town
 - ❖ Daniels – Town in Transition
- Patapsco Valley a Natural Resource
- Demolition, Devastation, Decline
- Preserving What Remains
 - ❖ A Cultural Landscape?
- Recommendations



Problem Statement

To explore the fragmented landscape and heritage of the lost mill town, examining how the conflict between environmental conservation and historic preservation has impacted the site, and determining if preservation of Daniels Mill, as a cultural landscape or heritage area, would reconcile the contrasting needs of natural conservation and cultural heritage.



Methodology

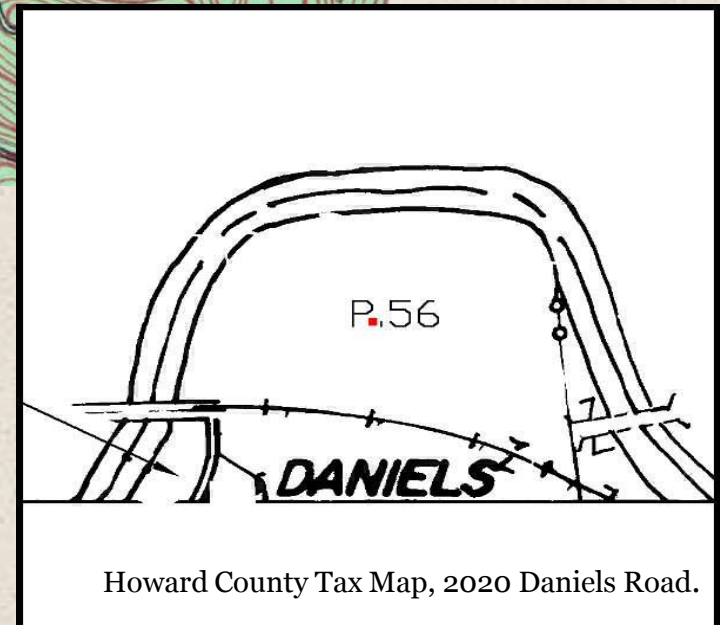
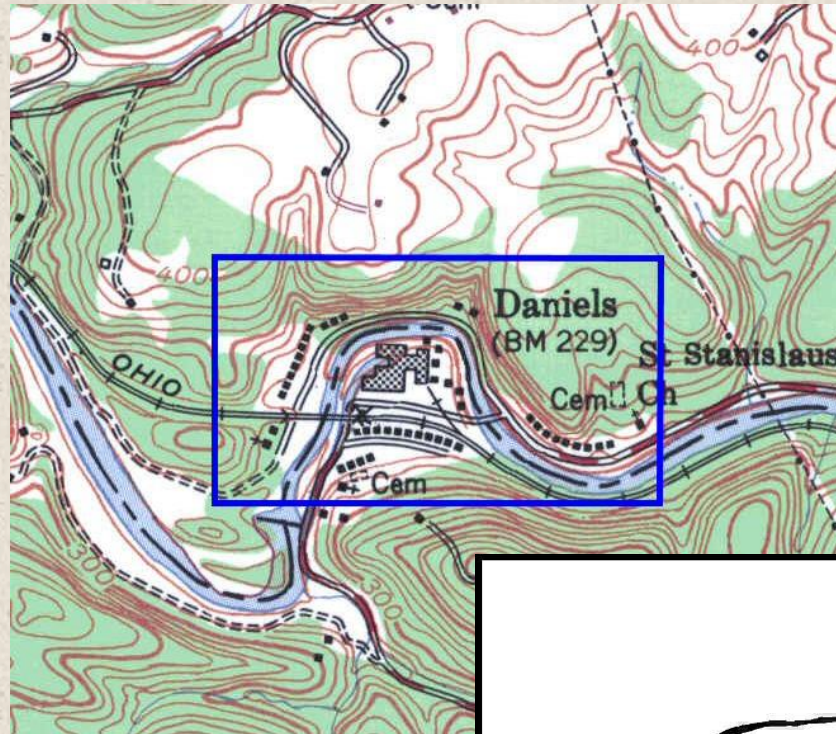
Research Current
Ownership &
Preservation Status

Research Mill History
& Heritage

Research Natural
Resource Development

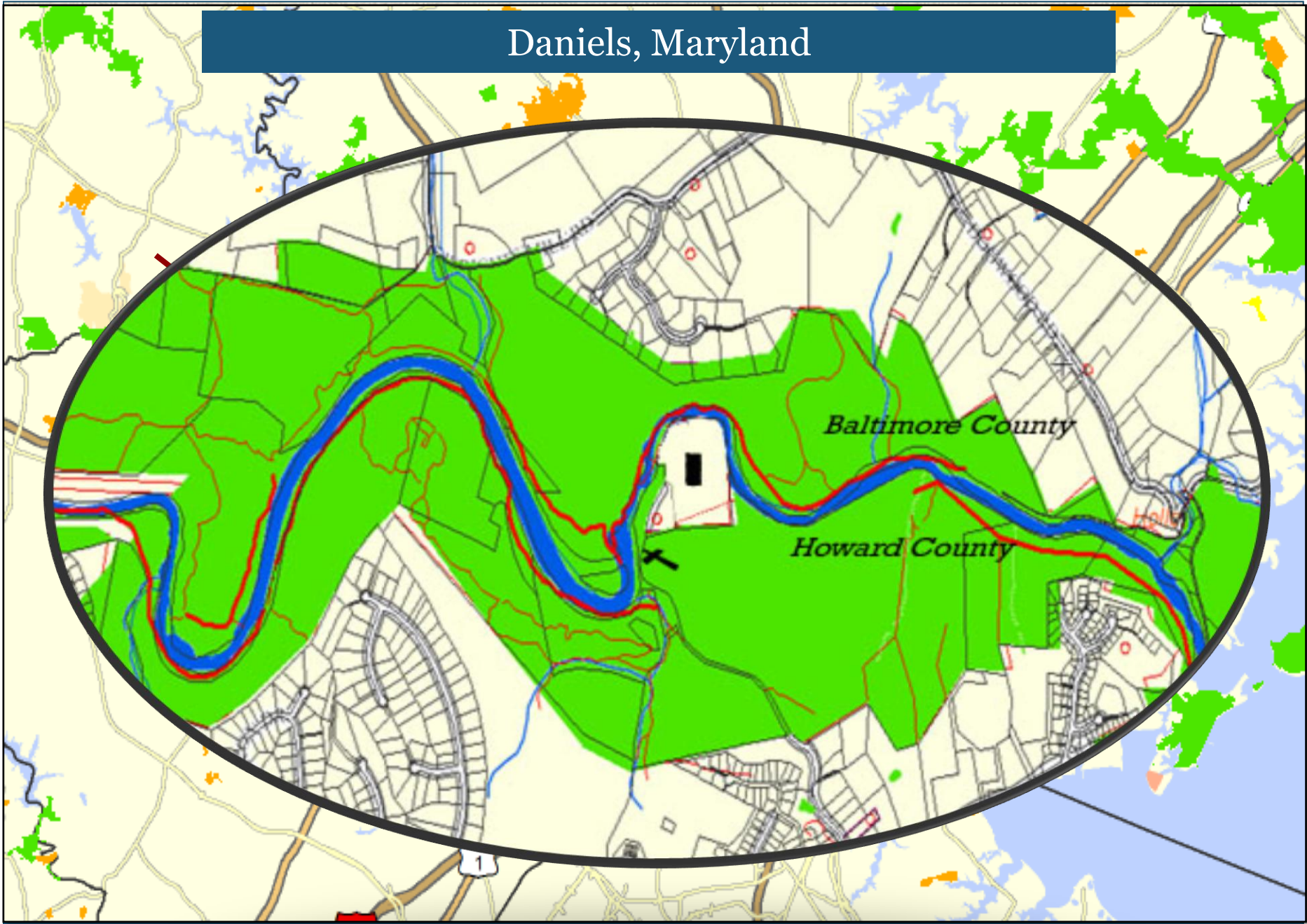
Develop the Historic
Context of Site &
Region

Consider Preservation
Alternatives



Howard County Tax Map, 2020 Daniels Road.

Daniels, Maryland



A Fractured Landscape



Natural Environment



Industrial Heritage





Industrial History of the Patapsco Valley

Agricultural Area

Embargo Act of 1807

War of 1812

Rise of the Factory

Textiles

The Iron Roadway

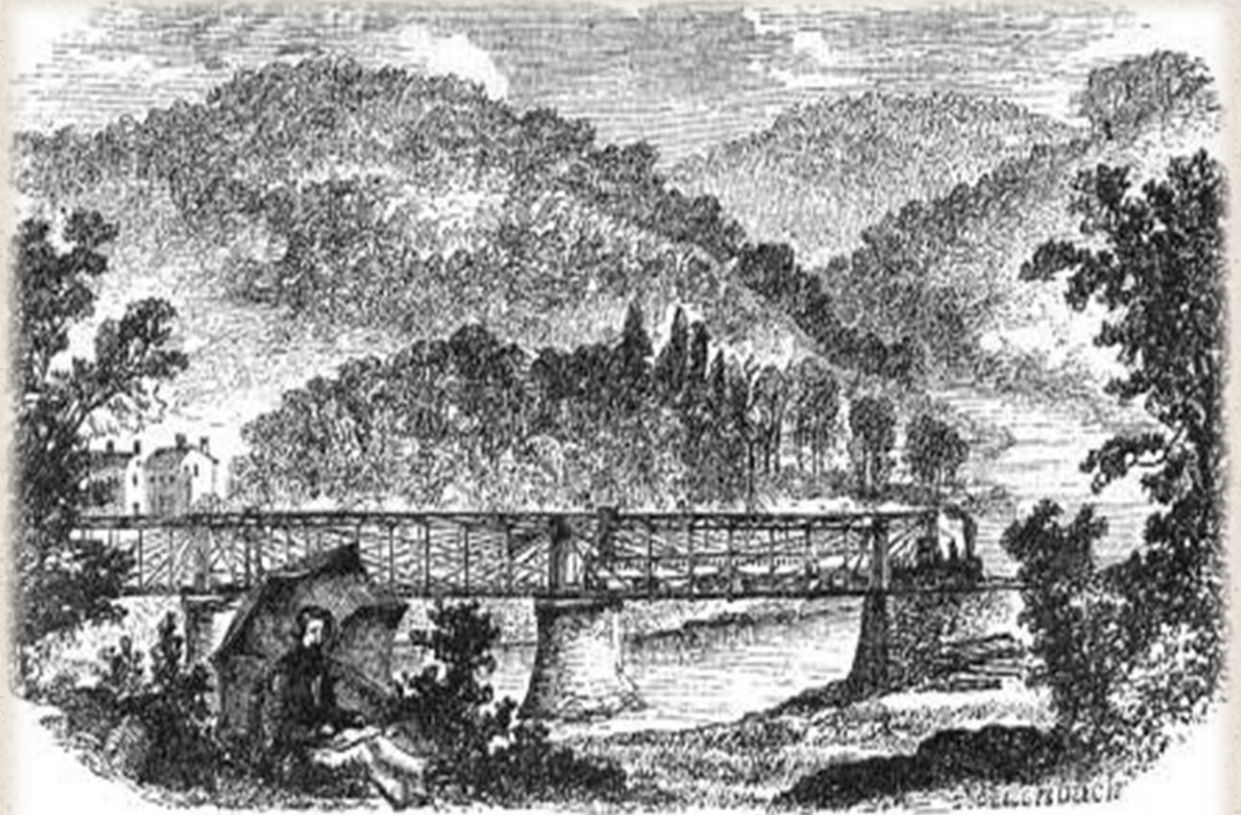




By 1833 Thomas & Asher Ely established a cotton factory along the Patapsco .

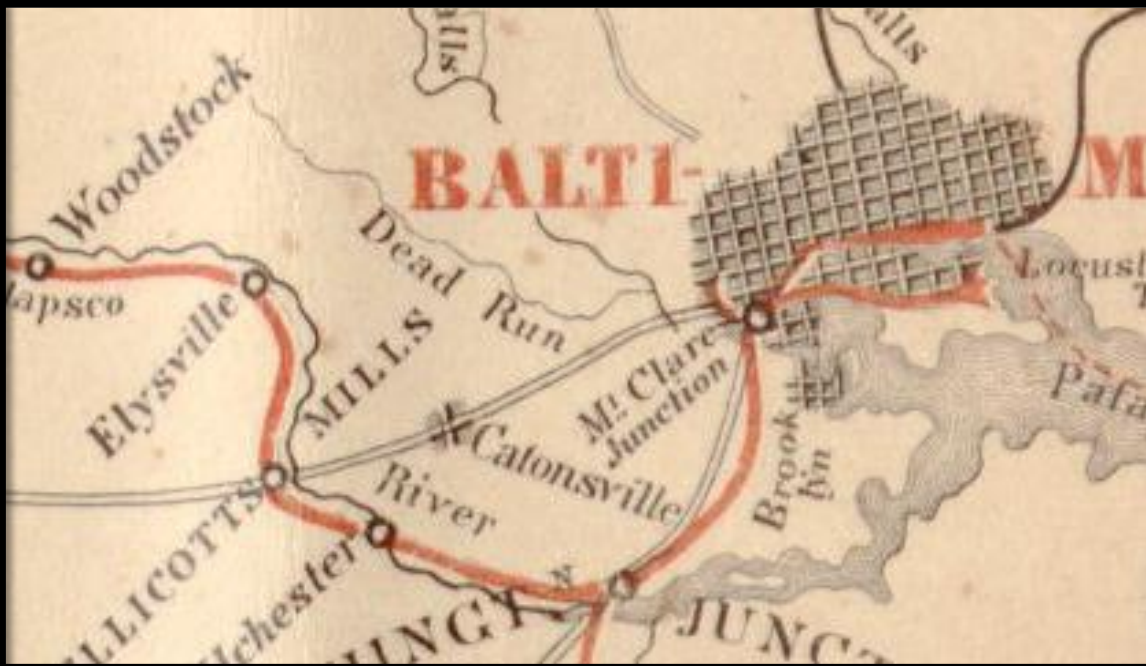
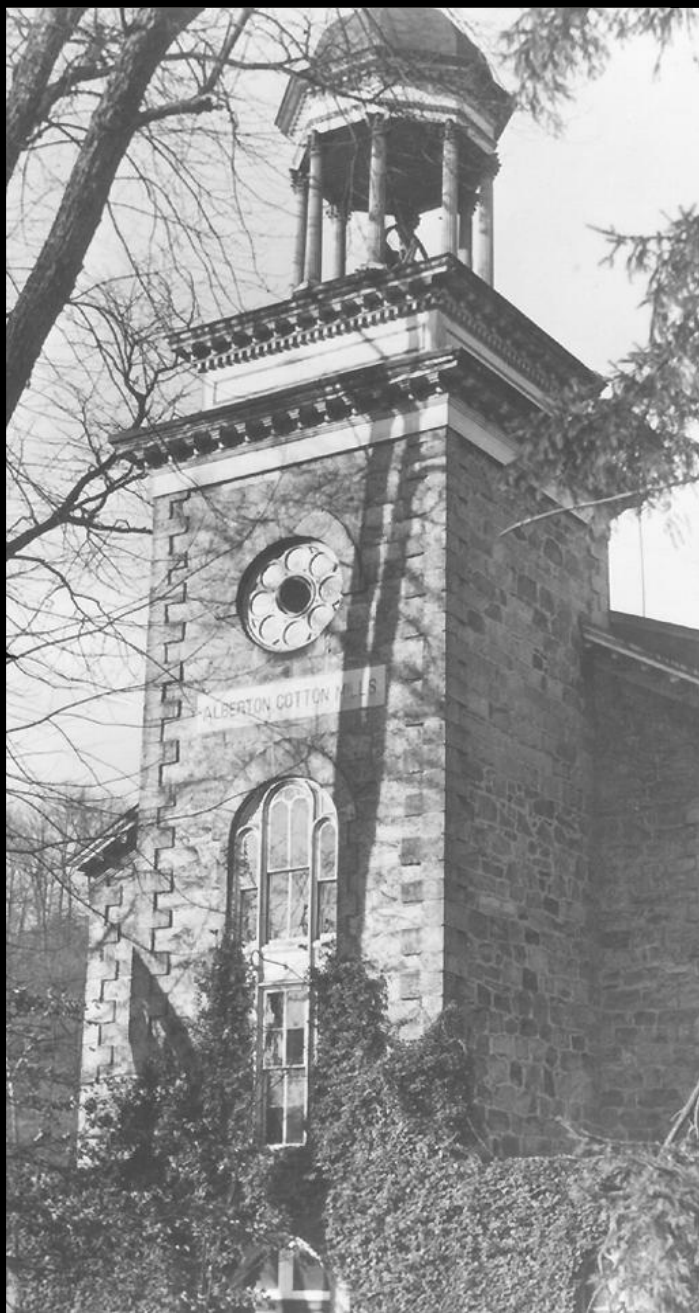
During the next 20 years the small village added tenement homes, a rail depot, and post office.

Elysville: Early Industrial Landscape

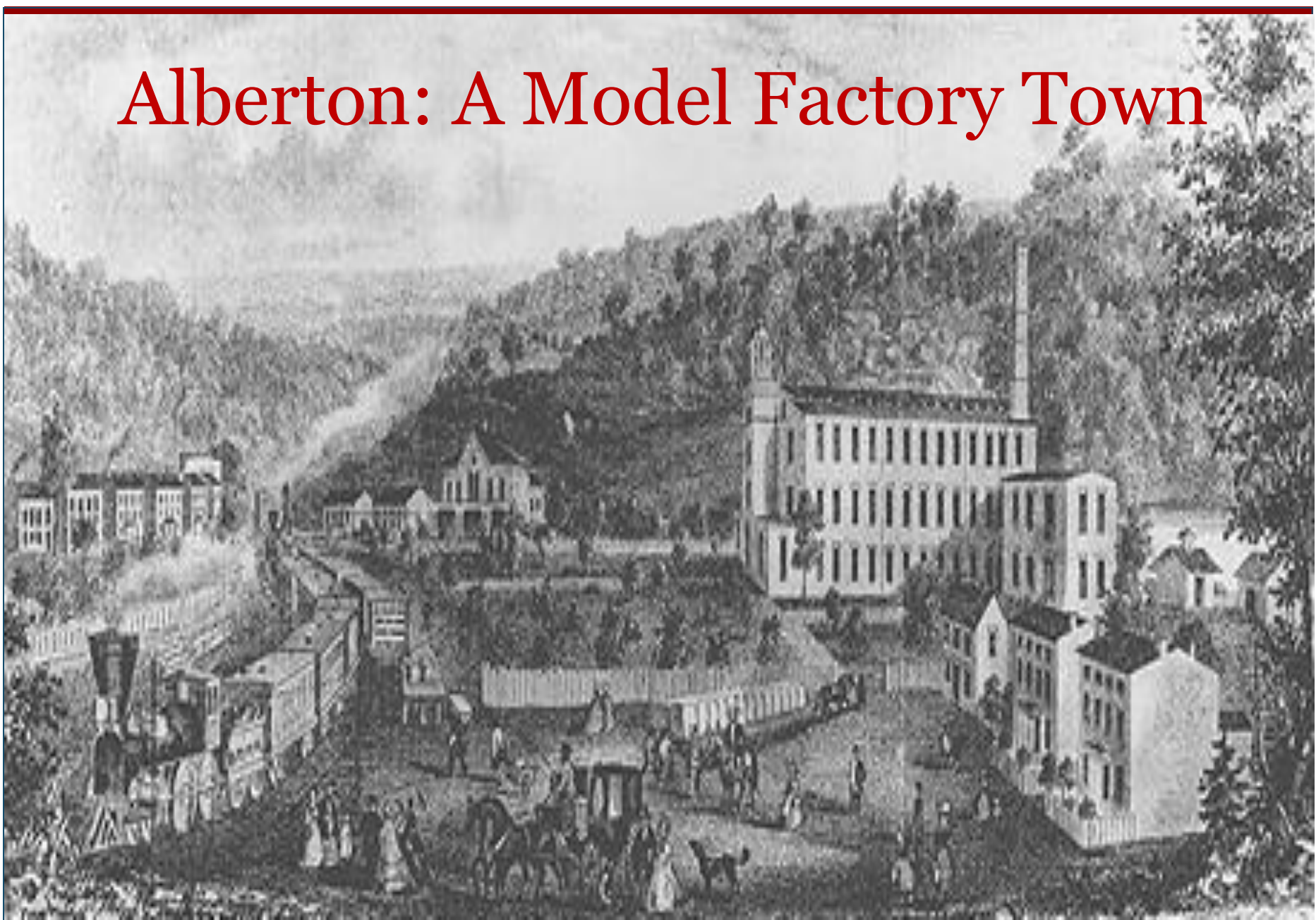


Elysville Bridge

The brothers had financial difficulties and developed a reputation for property disputes.



Alberton: A Model Factory Town





Alberton Mills & The Gary Family

Changes in
ownership continued
into the 1860's

Okisko
Manufacturing
Company

Sagonan
Manufacturing
Company

James S. Gary & Son Manufacturing Company

James Sullivan Gary

Worked in cotton mills from the age of 5
Managed and owned several others mills
Purchased the mill and surrounding lands

James Albert Gary

Developed “model company town”
Prominent Baltimore merchant and politician

E. Stanley Gary

Identified with Baltimore elites
Managed firm through the depression.



The Mill..

Was known as Alberton Cotton Mills

Expanded to an office in Baltimore and an office in St. Louis.

Manufactured Cotton Duck , Osnaburgs, and twills.

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THE MONUMENTAL CITY,

ALBERTON COTTON MILLS, MARYLAND.

James S. Gary & Son,

MANUFACTURERS OF THE WELL KNOWN

Alberton Standard
SHEETINGS and DRILLS.

Alberton and Kentucky 7-8 and 4-4
OSNABURGS.

Alberton and Sagouan 28, 36 and 40 inch
TWILLS.

Western Star 29 and 40 inch
DUCK,
For Tents and Wagon Covers.

Baltimore 28½ inch
DUCK.

Alberton 40 inch Striped
BAGGING.

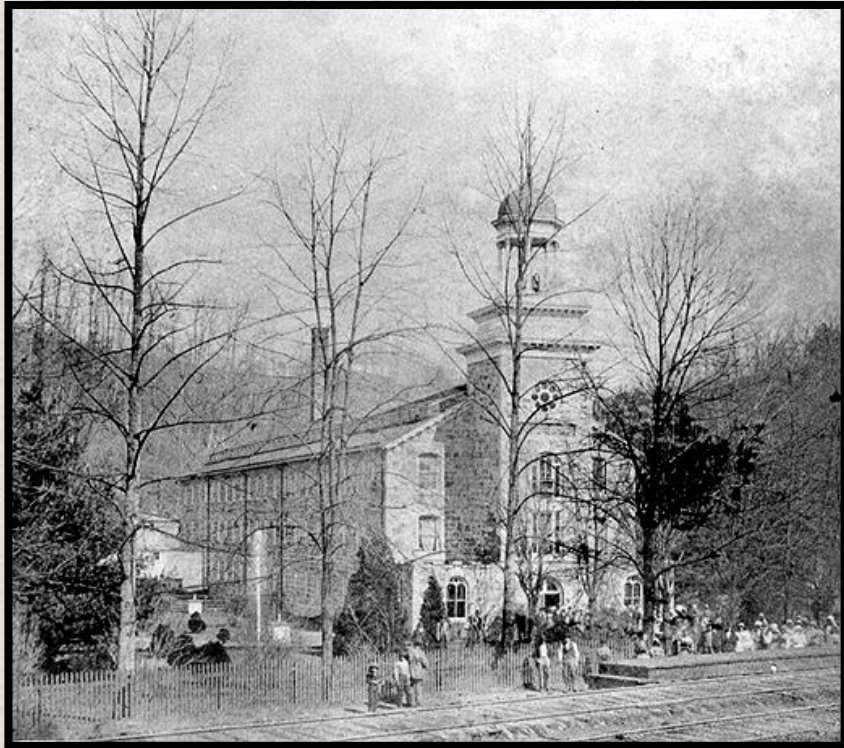
Alberton Blue and Brown
DENIMS.

Alberton Blue, Green and Fancy Colors.
AWNING STRIPES.

Cotton Warps, Carpet Chains, &c.

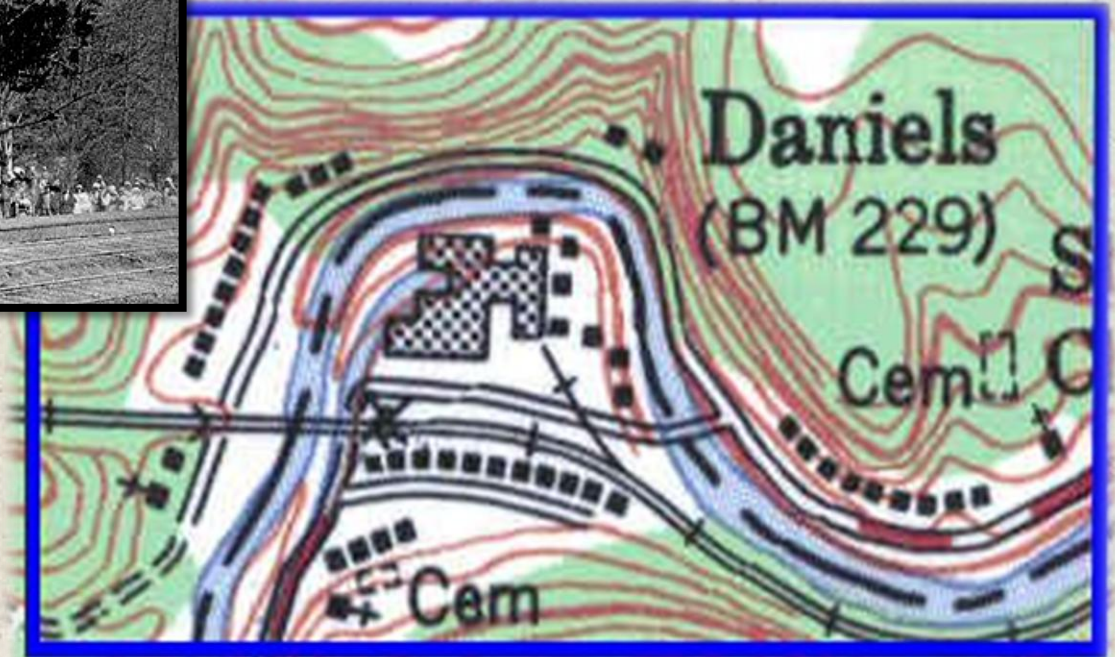
**OFFICE, 24 GERMAN STREET,
BALTIMORE.**

A Model Company Town



Architecture

Community



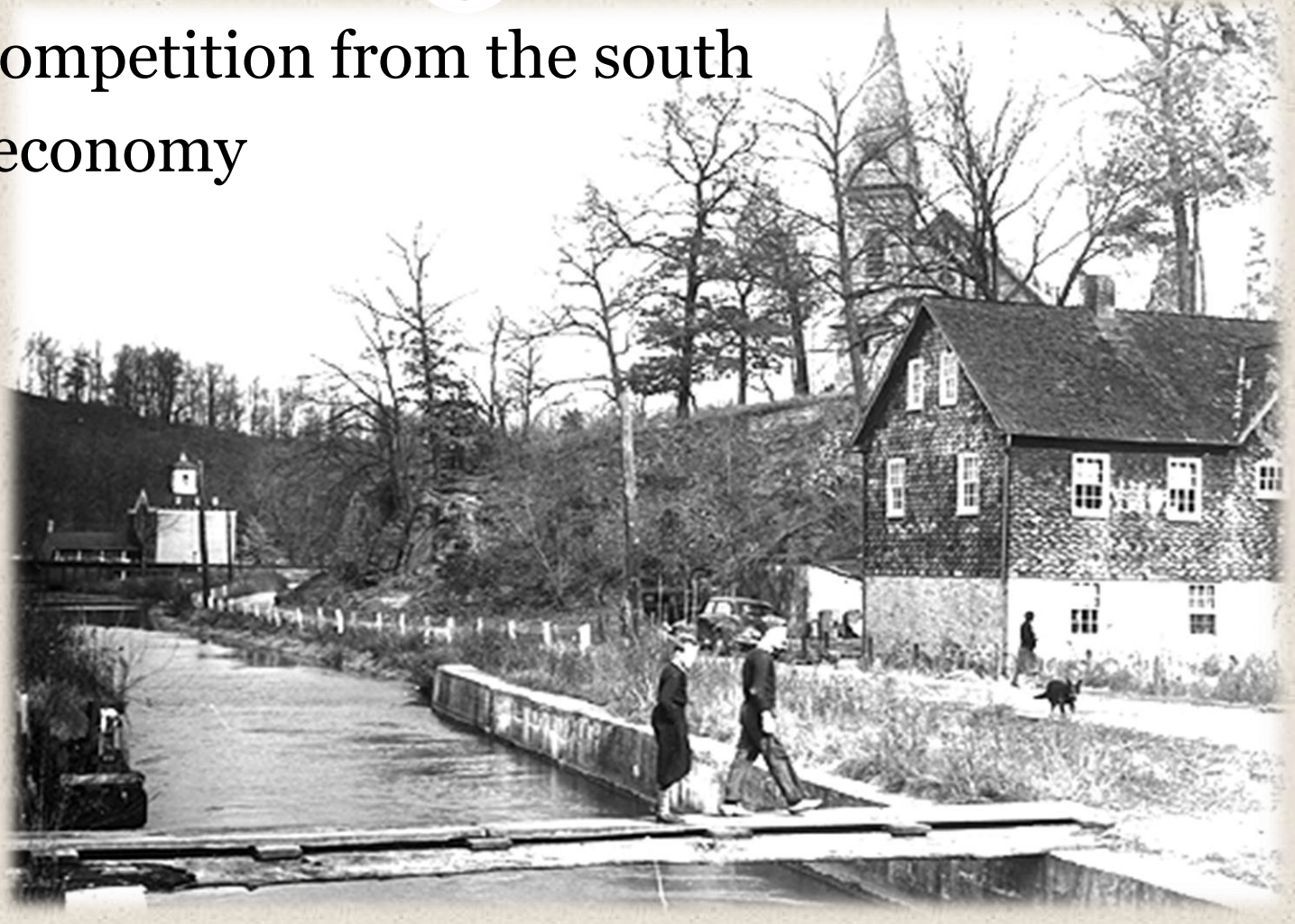
Life in Alberton..



Changing Times....



Increased competition from the south
Depressed economy



Town for Sale, November 1940





**C.R. Daniels
acquires the
town:**

550 acres

Mill buildings

3 churches

Village store

Town hall

**118 tenement
homes**



**Newspapers Report...
Residents are eager to return to work and
are pleased with the sale.**



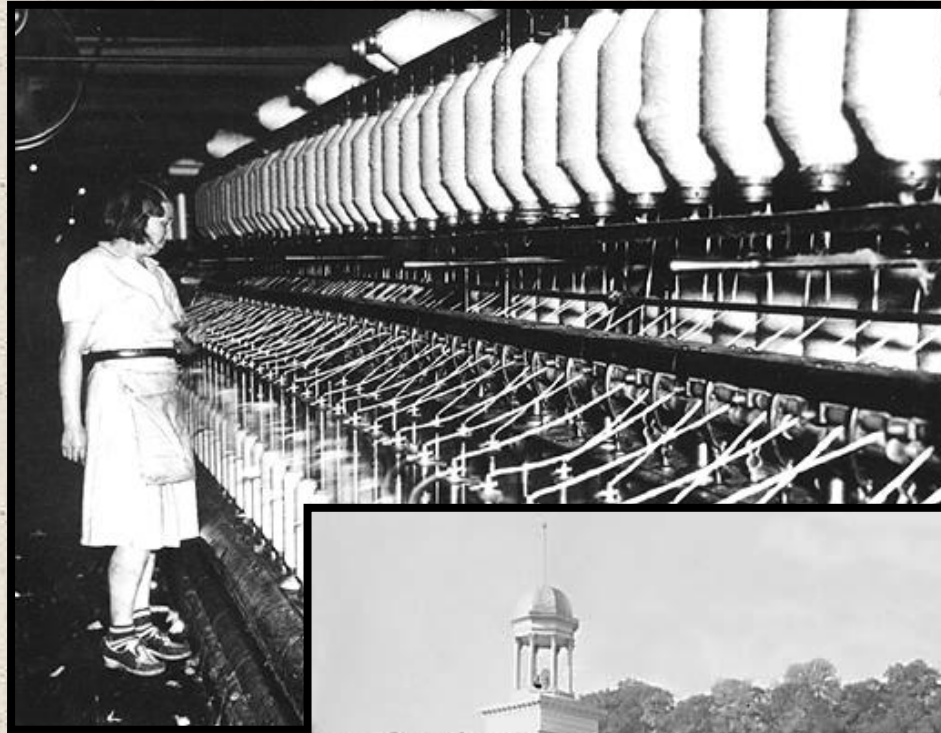
Daniels

The C.R. Daniels Company:

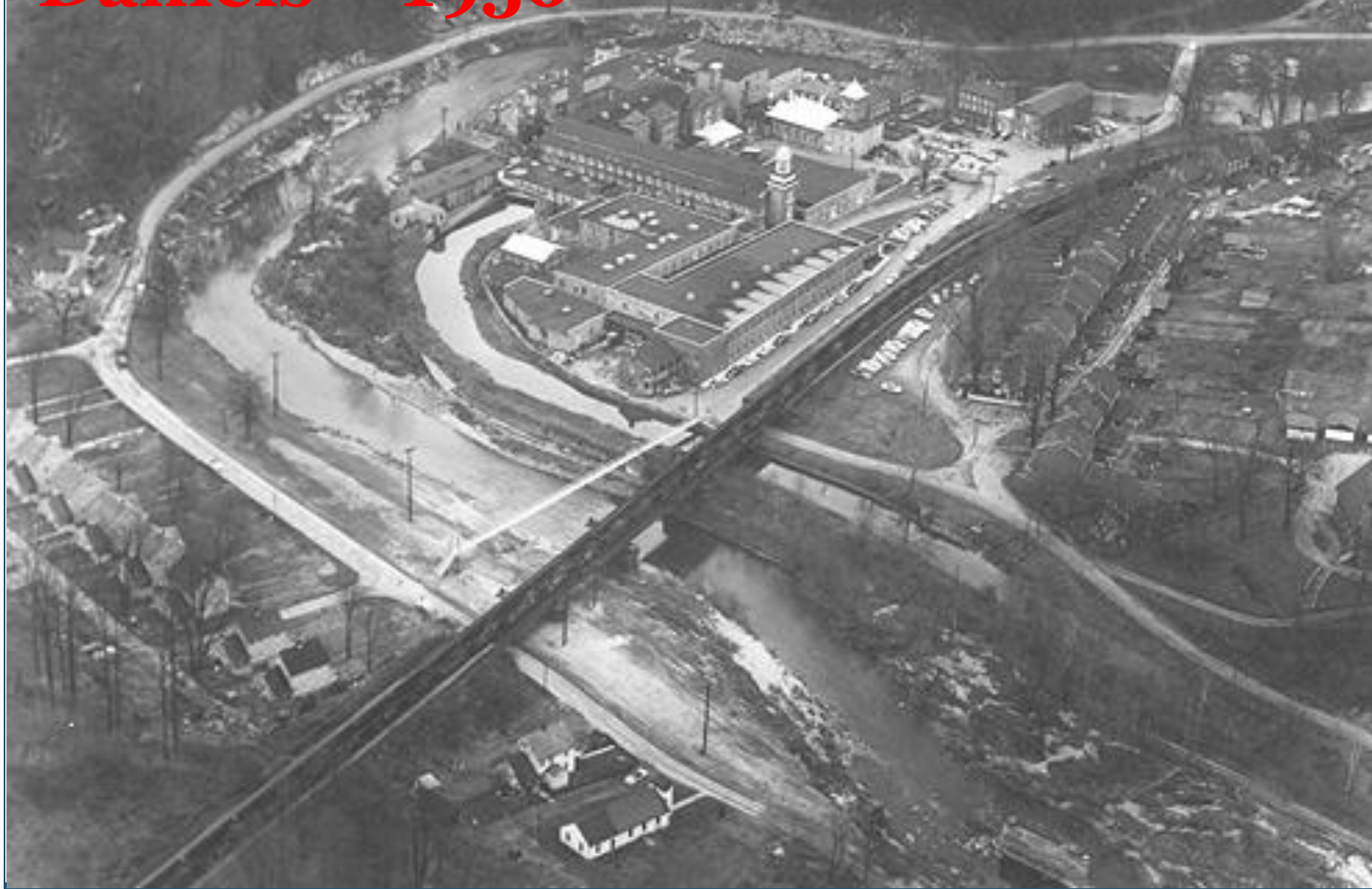
Maintains the community

Increases employment at
the site.

Adds assembly areas for the
manufacture of canvas and
denim goods.



Daniels – 1956



Patapsco Valley State Park



Natural Elements for Protection

Animal Habitats

Streams & Tributaries

The River

The Scenic Natural Gorge

Timber Reserves

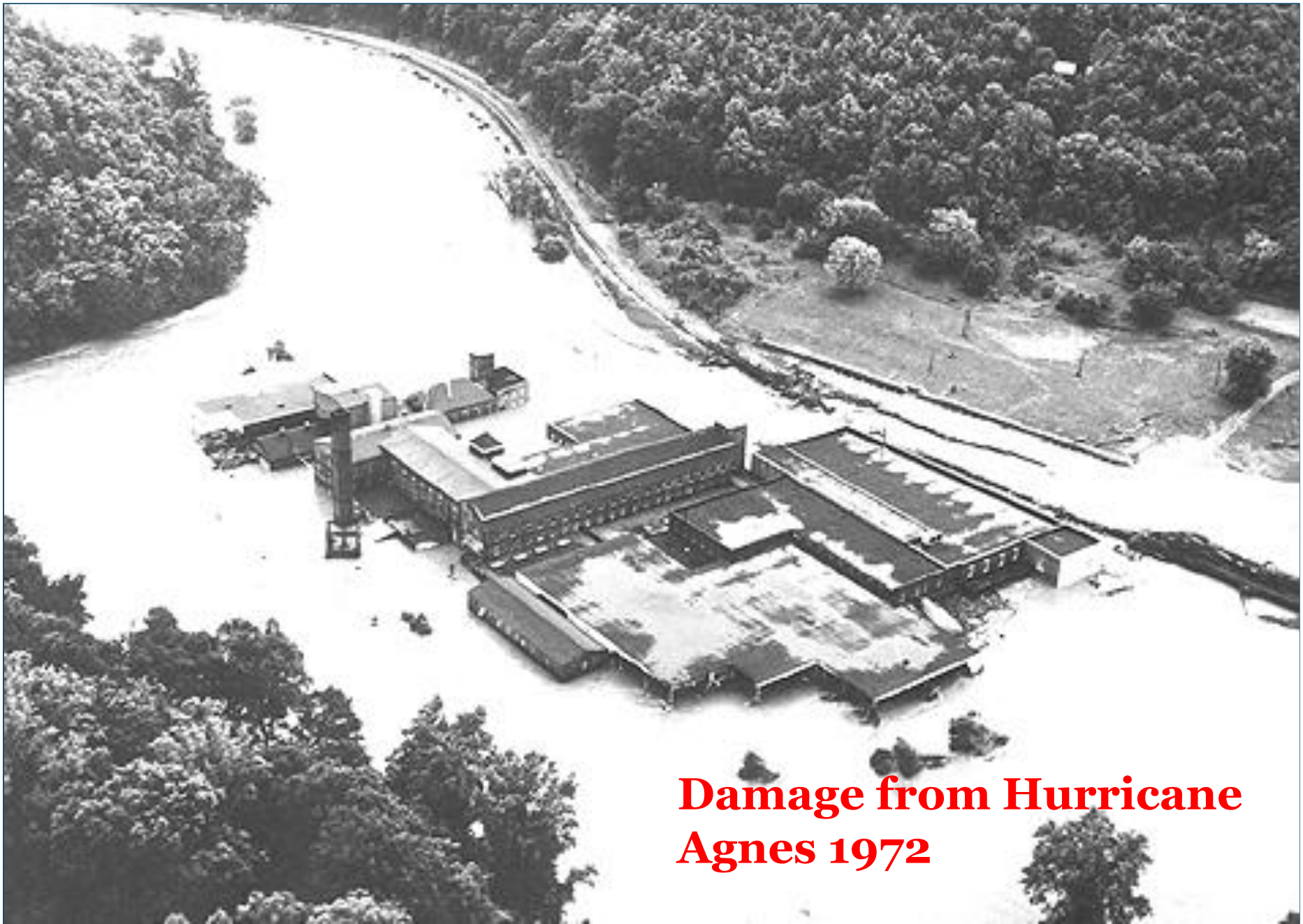
Water Conservation

A Town No More



- C.R. Daniels announces intention to demolish all homes (circa 1966).
- Preservation organizations and local advocacy groups work to save the historic structures.



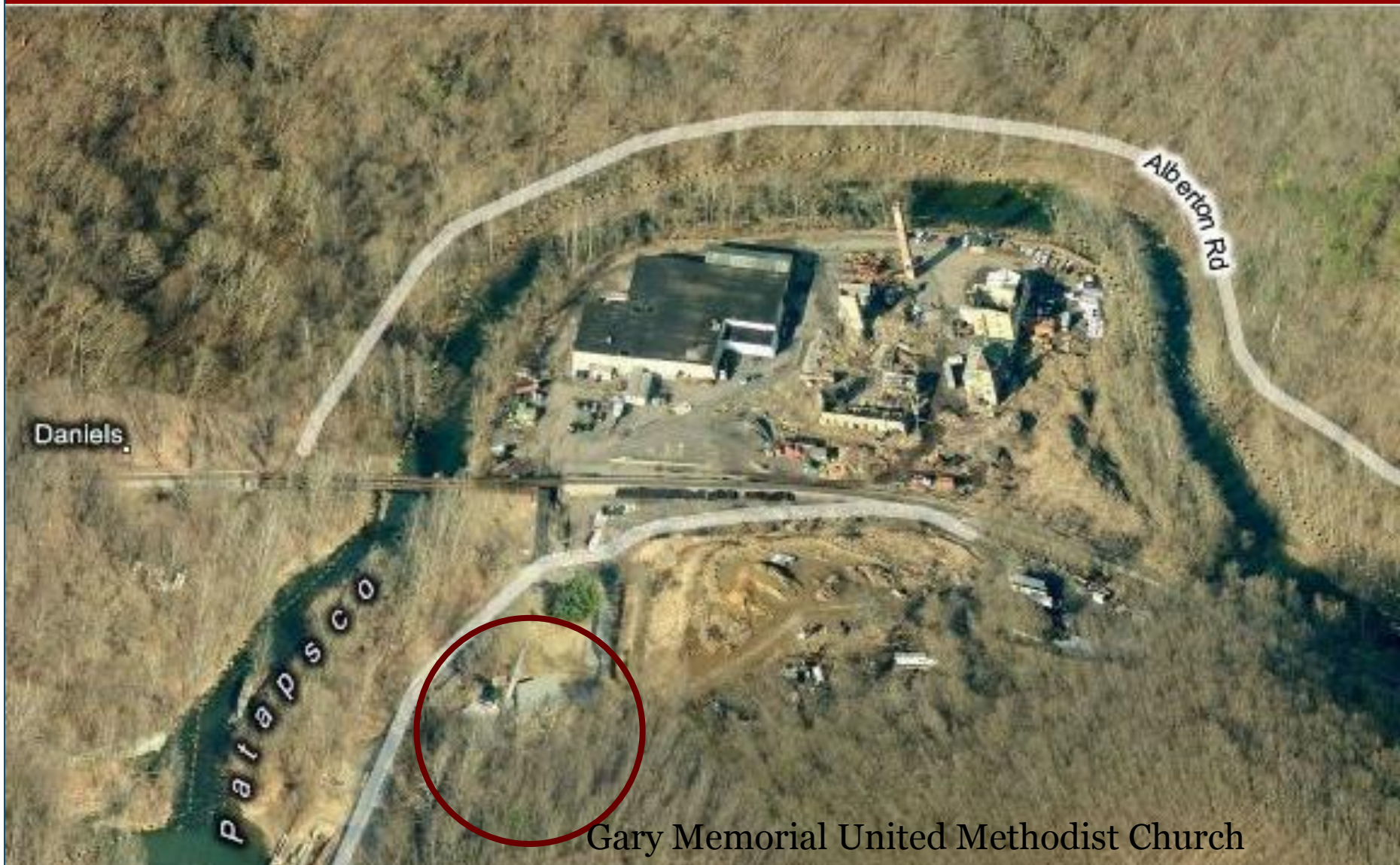


**Damage from Hurricane
Agnes 1972**

Historic Mill Destroyed by Fire, 1977



What Remains?

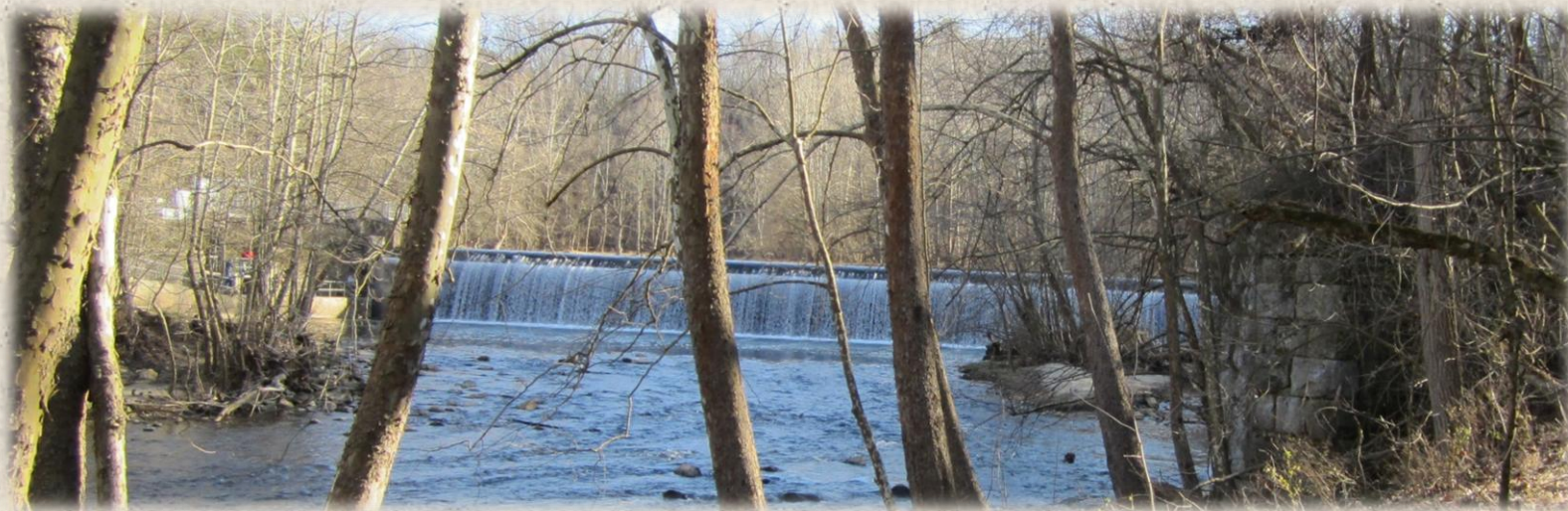


Gary Memorial United Methodist Church



Natural Resource





Cultural Heritage

Recommendations

Preservation as a Cultural Landscape



Next Steps



Comprehensive Site Analysis

Consideration of Ownership &
Partner Organizations


Enhanced Preservation for Cultural
Resources

Re-establishing Spatial Connections

Interpretive Plan/Educational
Programs

Inclusion in a Larger Heritage Area
or Historic District





What does Daniels contribute to Historic Preservation?



This study provides a concrete example of the need for greater coordination with our colleagues engaged in natural resource conservation.

“a landscape valued for both its natural and cultural intensity can be either a point of contention or an opportunity for collaboration and cooperation. It is the collaboration of ways of thinking about landscapes that may assist us truly to value them in a rich and rewarding way.”

- Robert Melnick

“Considering Nature and Culture in Historic Landscape Preservation,” *Preserving Cultural Landscapes in America*, 25.

Thank You!



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