

From the Archives...Privately Owned Dams

A series of eight privately owned dams are located between the Walter F. George Lock and Dam and the last public works dam constructed on the ACF River System, West Point Lock and Dam. The majority of these dams and power facilities

are owned by the Georgia Power Company (*Fig. 1*). Although they may have minor recreational and other benefits their primary function is to produce electrical power. The first two, the Eagle-Phenix Dam and the City Mills Dam are the only two not owned by Georgia Power and are no longer in operation. The Eagle-Phenix Dam was a pioneer textile plant in Columbus and was originally called Eagle Mill. It was constructed to manufacture cotton and woolen goods. The mill was burned down by Union forces during the Civil War. It was rebuilt hence the name Phenix to indicated a rebirth.

The City Mills Dam went into operation in 1828 when Governor Gilmer gave a land

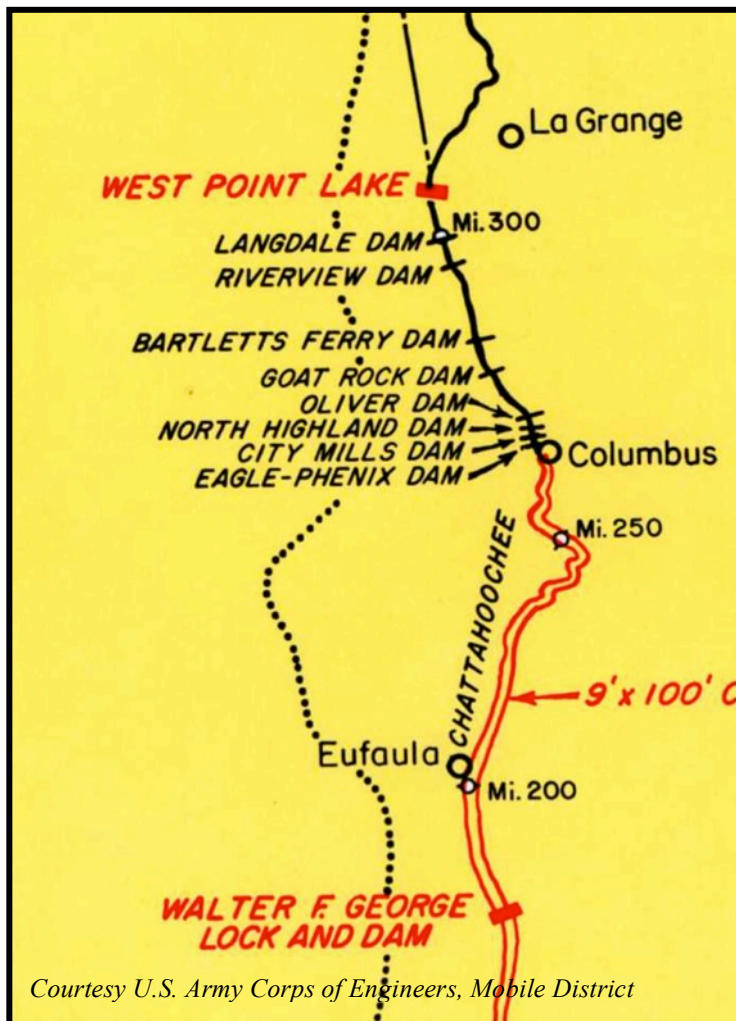


Fig. 1

grant to Seaborn Jones who built a grist mill to manufacture corn meal. The original dam was made of wood and remained that way until 1906 when a stone dam was constructed in its place.

The North Highlands Dam (*Fig. 2*) is the oldest of the Georgia Power Company dams. It was constructed in 1898-99 by the Columbus Electric and Power Company which was eventually purchased by the Georgia Power Company. In 1959

the old powerhouse was replaced with a 7.6 million dollar structure with four power units having a total capacity of 29,600 kilowatts. The stone masonry dam constructed in 1903 is 33 feet high and 728 feet across. The reservoir created by the dam has a surface area of 131 acres, a shoreline of three miles and a crest elevation of 269 feet.

(Fig. 2) North Highlands Dam, the oldest of the Georgia Power Company dams. Courtesy Georgia Power Company, Corporate Communications



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

(Fig. 3) The Oliver Dam, was named after James M. Oliver a Georgia Power executive. Courtesy Georgia Power Company, Corporate Communications

The Oliver Dam (*Fig. 3*) was constructed in 1959 and named after James M. Oliver, a Georgia Power Company executive at the time the plant was constructed. The reservoir created by the dam, Lake Oliver, has a surface area of 2,150 acres, a shoreline of 40 miles, and a crest elevation of 337 feet. The concrete dam is 70 feet high and 2,021 feet in length. The powerhouse has four units with a total capacity of 60,000 kilowatts.



Fig. 4

The Goat Rock Dam (*Fig. 4*) was constructed by the Columbus Electric and Power Company and later purchased by Georgia Power. The dam acquired its name after the construction crew had a goat as a mascot. The facility went into commercial operation in 1912 (*Fig. 5*) with two power units. Today there are six power units with a total capacity of 26,000 kilowatts. Goat Rock Lake has 1,050 acres of surface water, 25 miles of shoreline, and a crest elevation of 404 feet. The concrete dam is 68 feet high and 1,320 feet long.

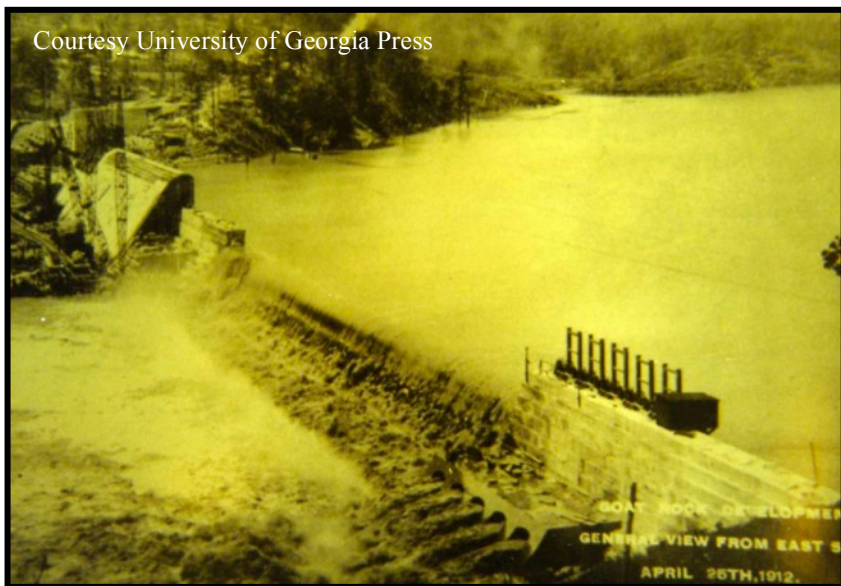


Fig. 5

is the largest of the Chattahoochee Hydro Group dams (*Fig. 6*). It was constructed in the early 1920s by Columbus Electric and Power Company and acquired by

The Bartletts Ferry Dam is located about 20 miles above Columbus and

Georgia Power Company in 1930. In 1985 a 104.6 million dollar addition to the dam brought the number of power units to six with a total capacity of 173,000 kilowatts. Lake Harding has 5,850 acres of surface water, 156 miles of shoreline and a crest elevation of 521 feet. The concrete dam is 120 feet high and 1,900 feet in length.

Fig. 6



(Fig. 6) The Bartletts Ferry Dam and Lake Harding. It is the largest of the Chattahoochee Hydro Group dams. *Courtesy Georgia Power Company, Corporate Communications*

(Fig. 7) The Riverview Dam was originally constructed to provide power to a West Point Manufacturing Company textile mill. *Courtesy Georgia Power Company, Corporate Communications*



Fig. 7

The Riverdale Dam (*Fig. 7*) was originally constructed to supply power to a number of West Point Manufacturing Company textile mills. The dam was sold to Georgia Power Company in 1930. The powerhouse has two power units with a total capacity of 480 kilowatts. The reservoir created by the dam has 75 acres of surface water, five miles of shoreline and a crest elevation of 532 feet. The dam is a masonry type 15 feet high and 1,194 feet long.

The Langdale Dam (*Fig. 8*) was constructed in 1904 by the West Point Manufacturing Company. It was purchased by the Georgia Power Company along with the Riverdale Dam in 1930. The two power units have a total capacity of 1,040 kilowatts. The reservoir created by the dam has 152 acres of surface water, four miles of shoreline, and a crest elevation of 548 feet.



Fig. 8

(*Fig. 8*) The Langdale Dam is the last privately owned dam, moving north, before you get to West Point Lock and Dam. *Courtesy Georgia Power Company, Corporate Communications*