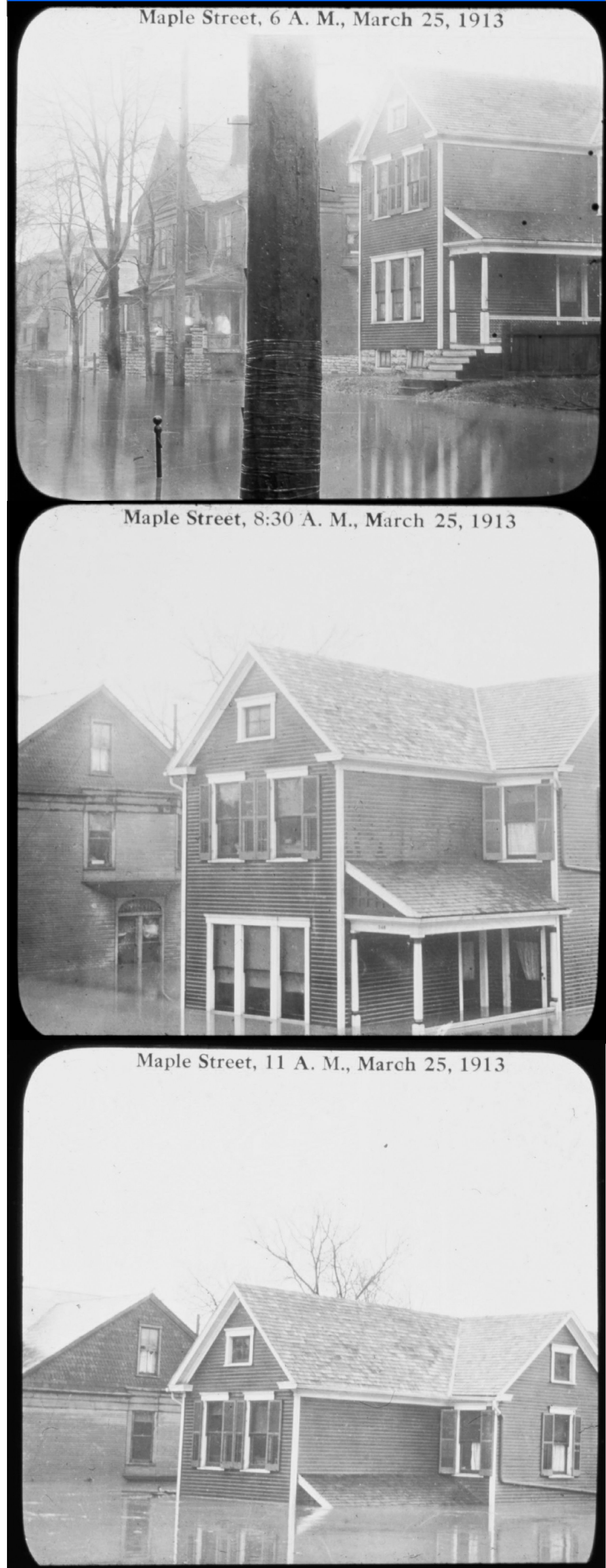


THE GREAT FLOOD OF 1913: DAYTON, OHIO

In March of 1913, the Miami Valley witnessed a natural disaster unparalleled in the region's history. Beginning on March 23, 9 to 11 inches of rain fell on ground already saturated from the melting of ice and snow of a hard winter. A 90-percent runoff rate caused the Great Miami River and its tributary streams to overflow. Every city along the river was inundated with floodwaters. About half a trillion gallons of water flowed down the Great Miami River during the flood. That's equal to about four days' worth of water flowing over Niagara Falls.

Despite heroic efforts by rescuers and community leaders, more than 360 people lost their lives; property damage exceeded \$100 million (nearly \$2 billion in today's economy). Downtown Dayton was hit hard, experiencing 10 feet of rushing water while some neighborhoods filled with over 20 feet of water.

Location 1 - Time series photographs of the rising floodwater

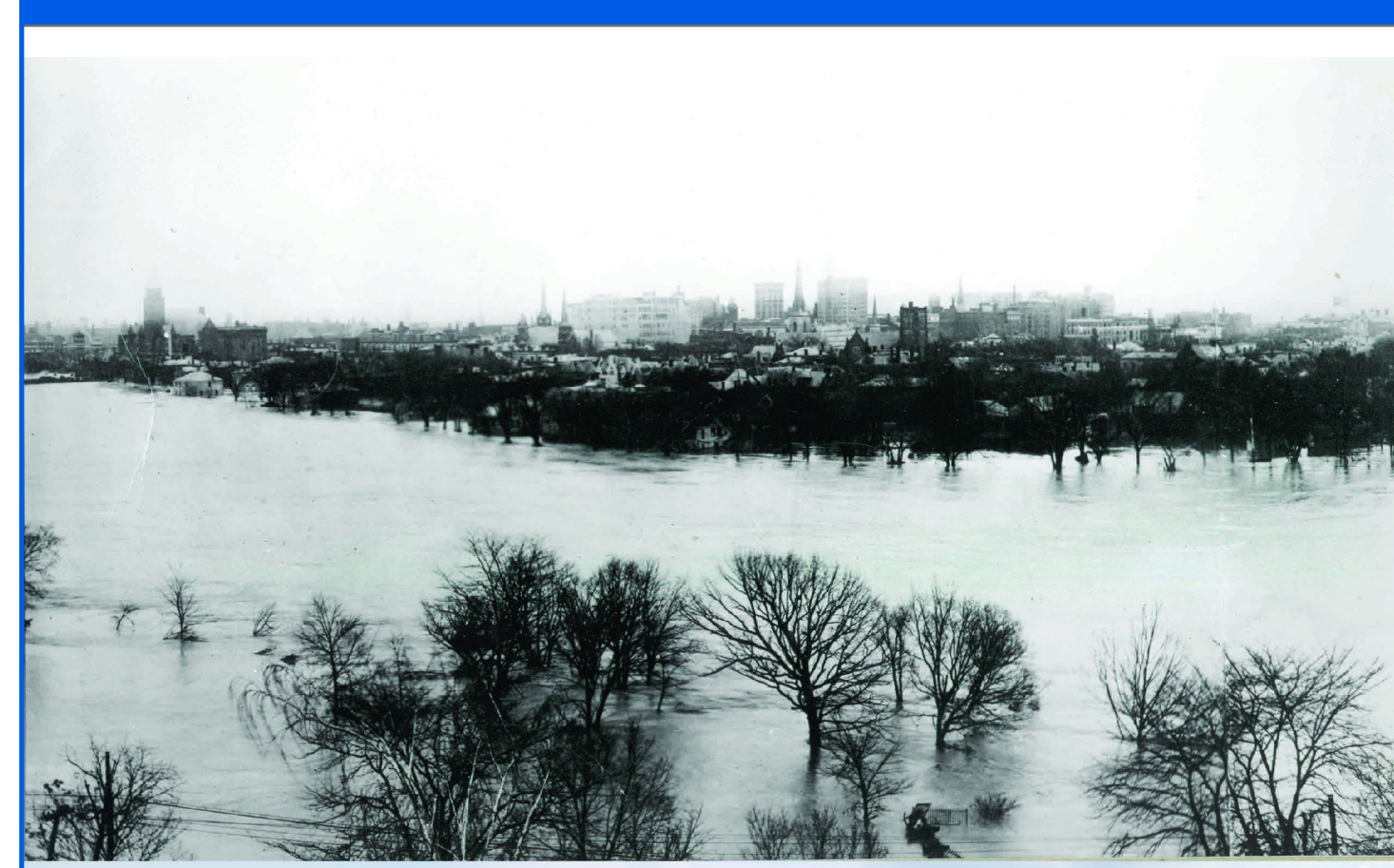


Today, The Miami Conservancy District (MCD) flood protection system exists to prevent flooding in Dayton and other cities including Piqua, Troy, Tipp City, Moraine, West Carrollton, Miamisburg, Franklin, Middletown, and Hamilton in the Miami Valley. The system is designed to protect the region from flooding up to the 1913 flood level plus 40 percent. MCD's integrated system of dry dams, levees, and preserved floodplain has held back floodwaters more than 1,770 times since its completion 1922.

The region has been prospering with reduced flood risk provided by MCD's system.



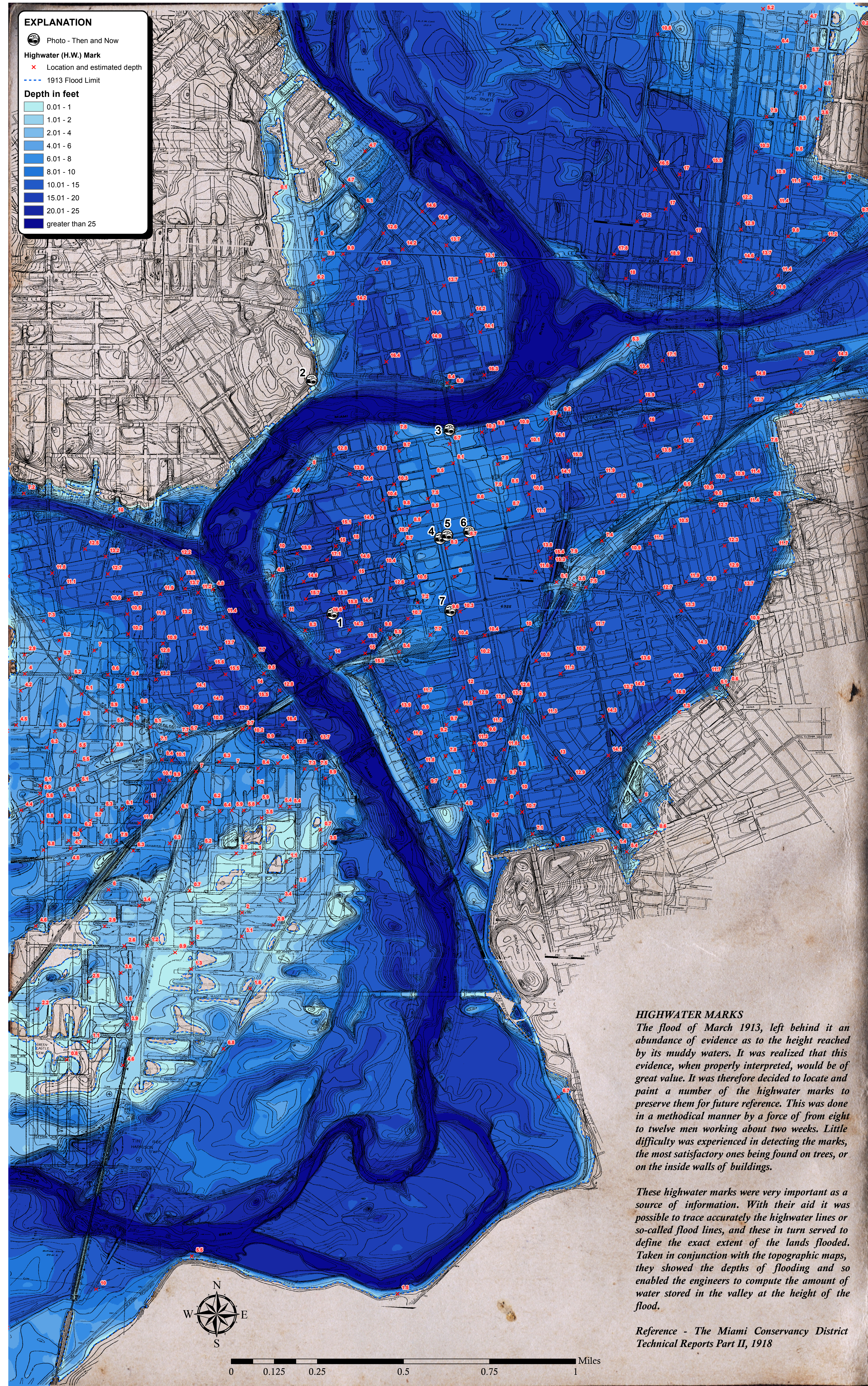
Location 2 - Dayton Art Institute looking toward downtown



Location 3 - Main Street and Monument Avenue



Location 4 - Third Street and Ludlow Street



Location 5 - Third Street near Ludlow Street



Location 6 - East on Third Street from Main Street



Location 7 - Ludlow Street near Fifth Street



HIGHWATER MARKS
The flood of March 1913, left behind it an abundance of evidence as to the height reached by its muddy waters. It was realized that this evidence, when properly interpreted, would be of great value. It was therefore decided to locate and paint a number of the highwater marks to preserve them for future reference. This was done in a methodical manner by a force of from eight to twelve men working about two weeks. Little difficulty was experienced in detecting the marks, the most satisfactory ones being found on trees, or on the inside walls of buildings.

These highwater marks were very important as a source of information. With their aid it was possible to trace accurately the highwater lines or so-called flood lines, and these in turn served to define the exact extent of the lands flooded. Taken in conjunction with the topographic maps, they showed the depths of flooding and so enabled the engineers to compute the amount of water stored in the valley at the height of the flood.

Reference - The Miami Conservancy District Technical Reports Part II, 1918

Depth of 1913 floodwater mapped by use of highwater mark survey and topographic data collected in the Dayton area.