



Great Falls Park, in Fairfax County, is nationally significant as the location of the Patowmack Navigation Company's Great Falls skirting canal and lock system, an 18th century engineering achievement spearheaded by George Washington. The Great Falls skirting canal was part of a larger system of sluices and skirting canals along the upper Potomac River intended to make that part of the river navigable for commercial boat traffic. The district also contains the remnants of the town of Matildaville, which occupied the canal banks from ca. 1791 to ca. 1830. Although completely in ruins, the site of Matildaville retains important information through documents, the standing ruins, and potential archaeological investigation. The Great Falls Park Visitor Center is an exceptional example of Mission 66 modern architecture designed by Washington D.C. architect Kent Cooper in 1965 and constructed in 1967, it followed the Mission 66 ideal of a modern visitor facility that blends the mission of the park with its styling to represent two canal boats.



Great Falls Park Historic District

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places December 22, 2014

