

1848 Related to the prior map. Below from the City Archive is a note from Jonathon Robeson about the problems with the flow of water to the Logwood Mill⁸⁵.

H. J. Williams,
Respected friends

This day I received thy note, and have to say, that some years ago my Brother Andrew Robeson purchased of Dr. Moore his Interest in the Estate, for which he received a Deed for the same from the Doctor, how long since I cannot say, I believe the Deed is recorded.

Our tenants that have the Logwood-mill at the mouth of the Wissahickon Creek, say they will have to come on us for damages, as the Mill cannot now manufactor half the wood that they could before the Dam at Fairmount was raised.

Respectfully thy friend Jon^a Robeson
Dec 4 1848

The Schuylkill Navigation Co. built the dam at the Falls of the Schuylkill in 1821 (now East Falls). This change raised the water level in the Tail race's sheeting which often interfered with the wheel's turning "...the Navigation Company, still acting by the agency of the corporation, have raised it higher." Court Decision 1855 <https://cite.case.law/grant/3/186/> The raising of the dam raised the level of water at the tail race to the Mill on the Wissahickon, Mill #1 (Robeson's Rolling Mill) and the second change to the Fairmount Dam essentially ended its use as a Mill of any sort – the backflow from the River too often impeding the flow of water through, or rotation of the mill's waterwheel.

⁸⁵ A mill used to process logwood, the inner red wood of a South American tree used widely in dyeing. Imported in the form of logs and cut and ground into dye by a mechanical process.