For a time, Seneca was the head of the canal’s navigation, and was the starting point of a planned “Maryland Canal” to Baltimore. Once the center for a thriving quarry, it is now popular for recreation. A boat ramp accesses good fishing in the Potomac for largemouth and smallmouth bass, crappie, channel catfish, perch, and bluegill. The Seneca Aqueduct carries the towpath over Seneca Creek with a combination lift lock and aqueduct.

Pooles General Store, off River Road, has groceries and bait.

RUSHVILLE

Named for Richard Rush, once Secretary of the Treasury, whose success in arranging Dutch loans helped the Canal Co. in one of its frequent financial crises. Prospects for further expansion of the town faded as the canal moved westward. In the 1870s, quarrymen gathered here to buy moonshine from “Aunt” Priscilla Jenkins.

Pennyfield Lock: Favorite base for President Cleveland’s bass fishing expeditions.

Turning Basin: Remains of canal boat nearby.

Feeder Dam No. 2: 2500-foot rubble stone dam supplies water for the canal from here to Little Falls. Water skiing is popular in the slackwater behind the dam.

Rowser’s Ford: Crossing point of General J.E.B. Stuart on June 27, 1863, to enter Maryland on his ride around the Union Army during the Gettysburg Campaign.

Turnaround Basin: Cut stone was loaded here for canal trip to Washington. Site of 1867 accident when passenger boat “Anna Wilson” collided with a freight boat loaded with watermelons.

Stone Cutting Mill: Important industry associated with canal. Red sandstone for the Smithsonian “castle” was quarried here.