precipitation normally would drain by gravity into the river above the specified point. Figures of drainage area given herein include all closed basins, or noncontributing areas, within the area unless otherwise noted.

DOWNSTREAM ORDER OF LISTING GAGING STATIONS

Beginning with the series of reports for the water year ending September 30, 1951, the order of listing gaging-station records was changed. In this report, in a downstream direction along the main stem all stations on a tributary entering above a main-stem station are listed before that station. If a tributary enters between two main-stem stations, it is listed between them. A similar order is followed in listing stations on first rank, second rank, and other ranks of tributaries. To indicate the rank of any tributary on which a gaging station is situated and the stream to which it is immediately tributary, each indention in the listing of gaging stations in the table of contents of this report represents one rank. This downstream order and system of indention show which gaging stations are on tributaries between any two stations on a main stem and the rank of the tributary on which each gaging station is situated.

The order of listing used before the publication of the 1951 report listed first all stations on the main stem from headwaters toward mouth, then all stations on the uppermost tributary to the main stem from the tributary's source to mouth, and then all stations from source to mouth of the uppermost tributary to the tributary.

EXPLANATION OF DATA

The base data collected at gaging stations consist of records of stage and measurements of discharge. In addition, observations of factors affecting the stage-discharge relation, weather records, and other information is used to supplement base data in determining the daily flow. The records of stage are obtained either from direct readings on a nonrecording gage or from a water-stage recorder that gives a continuous record of fluctuations. Measurements of discharge are made with a current meter by the general methods adopted by the Geological Survey on the basis of experience in stream gaging since 1888. These methods are described in Water-Supply Paper 888 and are also outlined in standard textbooks on the measurement of stream discharge. Typical structures in use at gaging stations are shown in figure 1.

Rating tables giving the discharge for any stage are prepared from stage-discharge relation curves defined by discharge measurements. If extensions to the rating curves are necessary to define the extremes of discharge, they are made on the basis of indirect measurements of peak discharge (such as slope-area or contracted-opening measurements, computation of flow over dams or weirs, and by other methods), velocity-area studies, and logarithmic plotting. The application of the daily mean gage height to those rating tables gives the daily mean discharge, from which the monthly and the yearly mean discharge are computed. If the stage-discharge relation is subject to change because of frequent or continual change in the physical features that form the control, the daily mean discharge is determined by the shifting-control method, in which correction factors based on individual discharge measurements and notes by engineers and observers are used in applying the gage heights to the rating tables. If the stage-discharge relation for a station is

A. Roanoke River at Niagara, Va.

B. Meadow Creek at Newcastle, Va.

FIGURE 1.-GAGING STATION STRUCTURES

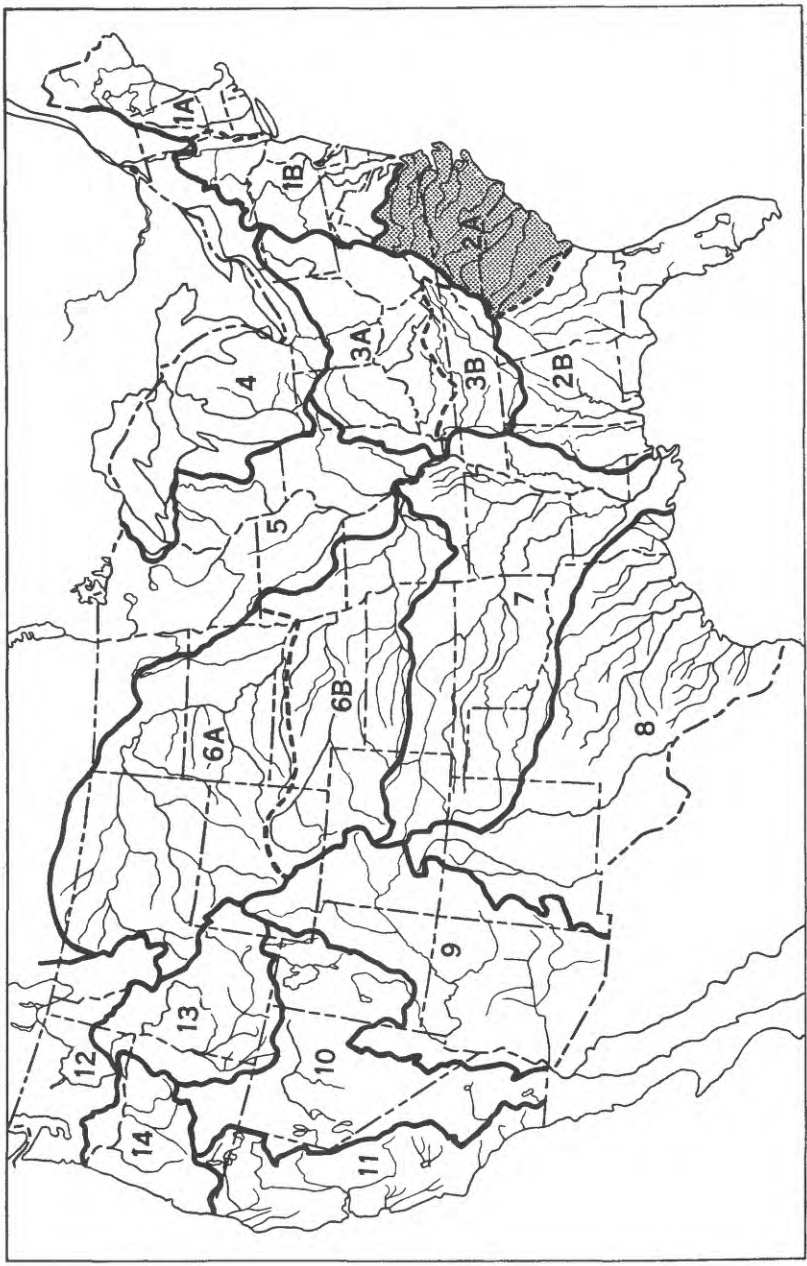

Figure 2.--Map of the United States showing areas covered by the 18 annual volumes on surface water supply. The area covered by this report is shaded.

Streamflow data for the years 1884-1901, in reports of the Geological Survey--Continued

(A = Annual Reports; B = Bulletin; W = Water-Supply Paper)

Report	Character of data	Year
W 11.....	Gage heights.....	1896.
18th A, pt. 4	Descriptions, measurements, ratings, and monthly discharge..	1895-96.
W 15.....	Descriptions, measurements, and gage heights of streams east of the Mississippi River, and Missouri River and tributaries above Kansas River.	1897.
W 16.....	Descriptions, measurements, and gage heights of stream west of the Mississippi River, except Missouri River and tributaries above Kansas River.	1897.
19th A, pt. 4	Descriptions, measurements, ratings, and monthly discharge.	1897.
W 27.....	Measurements, ratings, and gage heights of streams east of the Mississippi River, and Missouri River and tributaries.	1898.
W 28.....	Measurements, ratings, and gage heights of streams west of the Mississippi River, except Missouri River and tributaries.	1898.
20th A, pt. 4	Monthly discharge.....	1898.
W 35 to 39...	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, and ratings.....	1899.
21st A, pt. 4	Monthly discharge.....	1899.
W 47 to 52...	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, and ratings.....	1900.
22d A, pt. 4.	Monthly discharge.....	1900.
W 65, 66.....	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, and ratings.....	1901.
W 75.....	Monthly discharge.....	1901.

Reports on surface-water supply containing records from 1899 to date for drainage basins in this report are listed below. The data for any particular gaging station will, in general, be found in the reports covering the years during which the station was maintained. Before 1951, records for the South Atlantic slope basins, James River to Savannah River, were included with those for the South Atlantic slope and eastern Gulf of Mexico basins.

Numbers of water-supply papers containing results of stream measurements in the South Atlantic slope basins, James River to Savannah River, 1899-1952

Year	W.S.P.	Year	W.S.P.	Year	W.S.P.	Year	W.S.P.	Year	W.S.P.
1899	a35, 36	1911	302	1923	562	1933	742	1943	972
1900	46	1912	322	1924	582	1934	757	1944	1002
1901	65, 75	1913	352	1925	602	1935	782	1945	1032
1902	a82, 83	1914	382	1926	622	1936	802	1946	1052
1903	a97, 98	1915	402	1927	642	1937	822	1947	1082
1904	b126, 127	1916	432	1928	662	1938	852	1948	1112
1905	b167, 168	1917	452	1929	682	1939	872	1949	1142
1906	b203, 204	1918	472	1930	697	1940	892	1950	1172
1907-8	242	1919-20	502	1931	712	1941	922	1951	1203
1909	262	1921	522	1932	727	1942	952	1952	1233
1910	282	1922	542						

a James River only.
b Susquehanna River to Yadkin River.

The records at most of the stations discussed in these reports extend over many years. Miscellaneous measurements at many points other than regular gaging stations have been made each year and are published under "Miscellaneous discharge measurements" at the end of each report. The streams and points of measurement are listed in the same order as the streams and gaging stations in the body of the report. An index of the records obtained before 1904 has been published in Water-Supply Paper 119.

Each of the reports on the surface-water supply for the year 1939 (Water-Supply Paper 872 for the South Atlantic slope basins, James River to Savannah River), contains, for the area included in that report, a summary of yearly discharge at gaging stations at which 10 or more complete years of record had been collected. These summaries were reprinted separately.

Reports also have been published that are compilations of records for various areas, usually a single State or drainage basin. These reports contain records previously published (some of which may have been revised), as well as some records not contained in the annual series of water-supply papers. The only such report for any part of the area covered by this report is Water-Supply Paper 197, "Water resources of Georgia, 1895-1905."

Records of discharge have been published also in State reports. Some of these are not contained in the publications of the Geological Survey or are revisions of records pre-