CANAL: Blackstone Canal

(FOR ACS USE)

STATUS: Abandoned

DATES OF CONSTRUCTION & CLOSURE: Mass.1826-R.I.-1824: 1848

LOCATION (ENDPOINTS OF CANAL): ovidence, R.I. - Worcester, Mass.

LENGTH: CANAL 43 SLACKWATER 5 TOTAL 48

LIFT LOCKS	NBR.	DIMENSIONS	AQUEDUCTS	TUNNELS
	49	LOCK CHAMBER 70 Plus OVERALL 100 Plus	NBR. 1 SECTION SIZE ?	None

DESCRIPTION: [Type of navigation, features of route (include USGS coordinates where useful); e.g., feeders (navigable & otherwise), locks other than above, type of locks, use of unusual material or method of construction, present owner, present use & condition, etc.]

Commercial transportation & passenger service. Towpath on all points of dug canal. Slackwater between dams, towing then on either side. Moshassuck and Blackstone Rivers canalized in sections. All locks except tidewater lock(which was wood)were of granite. There were several feeders, not navigable. A 5 span aqueduct was at Uxbridge, wood trough. Property owners today, check with DNR in some areas. Possible P.& W. Railroad also. Sections of canal in very good condition north of Providence, some dry, some well watered. Certain sections considered for parks. See reports of DNR(Mass.)as of 1971-74. The Millbury area had some locks 90-126 ft. Whether this was a change in structure later or during construction is not known. No one has been able to account for the total of 62 locks to date. Locally, we would like to know where the other 13 locks were built. More research may clear that situation.

NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANAL'S PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:

Mass. DNR. "Canal Inc." Lincoln, R.I. Conservation Comm. Lincoln, R.I. Historical Societies of Uxbridge, Whitinsville & Northbridge, Mass. The Bay-State Historical League. Blackstone Valley Historical Society.

REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Alden W. Gould-12 Shady Crest Drive, Nashua, N.H. 03060

DATE: June 30, 1974

HISTORICAL SUMMARY: [Original aims of company, date of incorporation, prominent engineers, cause of closure, significant alterations to structure or e. height of traffic date, transfers of ownership, etc.]

To open a means of inland waterway transportation from the seaport town of Providence, R.I.- Worcester, Mass.(48 miles) An elevation of 451 ft. above tidewater; Dates of incorporation for Massachuse March 1823; For Rhode Island ~~June~~ June 1823; Height of traffic about 1844; Prominent engineers-Benj. Wright. In Mass. Joseph D. Allan; In Rhode Island Holmes Hutchinson; Presumably others as well. Transfers of ownership reverted back to former land owners in some cases, after canal was abandoned in 1848. Much of the"Canal Company Property" was also sold to the P.& W. Railroad about 1846. Sections of the towpaths were used as the railroad bed(still close to the canal). Closure caused by coming of the railroads. Boston to Worcester & the Providence & Worcester R.R. in 1847.

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: [Published works relating to Canal] The Blackstone Canal by Catherine Sessions 1910 The Providence Journal(newspaper). The Blackstone Canal by Col. Plummer. At the Historical Library, Hope St. Providence, R.I. the following- The Black-Stone Canal Map Book by Edwin Phelps, Res. Engineer 1828; Micro-film records and other books regarding the canal and the industrial complex.

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, LOCATION OF PHOTOS, DRAWINGS & IMPORTANT PERIODICAL REFERENCES

Drawings and photos by reporter above. "Canal Inc. Lincoln, R.I. Also see the Historical Library again for micro-film records. The Public Library at Uxbridg and Millbury, Mass. I'm sure that all photos will be private collections.

NATIONAL REGISTER & HAER ~~[Historic American Engineering Record]~~ STATUS: From Front St. Lincoln, R.I. north to Ashton Dam. Feb. 20, 1971; From Front St. south in Lincoln to Steeple & Promenade St. at Providence, R.I. July 8, 1971; The Northbridge-Uxbridge area of the Blackstone Canal(per news article of August 8, 1973.

RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, C/O P.H.STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NEW YORK 10549

ENDPOINTS PROVIDENCE 99700.33470
WORCESTER NORTH 69130.468360

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