

CANAL <b>Blackstone Canal</b>	STRUCTURE <b>Millville Guard Lock</b>	HAER <b>?</b>
STATE <b>Mass.</b> COUNTY <b>WORCESTER</b>	DESIGNER(S) <b>Presume-Benjamin Wright</b>	CONDITION <b>Excellent</b>
CITY/TOWN <b>Millville</b>	CONTRACTOR/ENGINEER <b>Chief Eng. J.D. Allan (Mass.)</b>	
STREET <b>Route #102 to Bow or Prospect Sts.</b>	SOURCE OF MATERIALS <b>Quarry at Northbridge, Ma.</b>	
ASSOCIATED WATERWAY <b>Blackstone River</b>	DATES OF CONSTRUCTION	
NAME OF 7.5 MIN USGS QUAD <b>BLACKSTONE</b>	Mass. START <b>1826-1827</b>	COMPLETION <b>1827-1828</b>
UTM COORDINATES <b><del>XXXX</del> 867554</b>	REBUILDING <b>Doubtful</b>	ABANDONED <b>1848</b>

HISTORY & USE IN SERVICE; USE SINCE ABANDONMENT:  
 Combined charter of Mass. & R.I. Each State built their portion. Engineers from each were separate, yet worked together. This guard lock, one of the original 49 locks served its purpose in raising or lowering barges from slackwater either up or down. At freshet times to retain barges at the lock. Being a part of the Canal System, it handled freight barges and packet boats between Providence, R.I. and Worcester, Mass. Barges using this lock were usually about 70 ft. in length, although this lock could accommodate one up to 80 ft. This lock and one other join the river at a turn for better control of the barge. When abandoned it no doubt served as water power for small mills whose foundations are still there adjacent to the lock.

DESCRIPTION (Visible remains at the site): This is one beautiful lock! So nearly perfect that I will check it off at 99%. So far as I know at this time, this is the only lock that can be rated as EXCELLENT. It is of cut granite blocks very well constructed and showing no signs of deteriorating from any angle. The chamber is straight as the day built. Gate recesses at each end are perfect. The quoin post braces have been removed on capstones. Only 2 granite blocks have been moved about 1 foot, but still there on the north end of chamber & those were capstones. Area around lock is grownup a little, easily taken care of if necessary. OK to walk around lock providing you jump over the creek. Length of lock overall over 106 ft. Lift about 6 ft. Width 10 ft. Barges were usually 9 ft. 6 inches wide. Quoin post to quoin post about 80 ft.

OTHER WORKS OR EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH SITE:  
 This lock and at least some of the property around it is privately owned. Taxes are paid on it each year. Paths around the lock would indicate that someone is keeping an eye on that Historic Site. (If you were an ACS member you would) I have visited this area many times. I still say-It's WONDERFUL!

PRESENT PROPERTY OWNERS: Name not known at this time. I will check <u>tax office</u> later.	LOCATION OF DEED DESCRIPTION: Presume deed is at Reg. of Deed (nearest Court House)
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BIBLIOGRAPHY (Published, unpublished mss, maps, photographs): I doubt if any information is available on the lock itself. Most information will cover the canal in general. Blackstone Canal Map Book at the Historical Library, Hope St. Providence, R.I. By Edwin Phelps-Res. Engineer 1828. Photos will be all private, such as as my collection, also drawings. There have been photos in years past for the newspapers but perhaps not of this lock as far as I know. Millville Library might have something. Will try to check this on my next trip.

AGENCIES, INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN PRESERVATION/RESTORATION: Mass. Dept. of Natural Res. "Canal Inc" Lincoln R.I. Uxbridge & Northbridge, (Mass) Historical Societies- Plus many other interested persons	NATIONAL REGISTER, HAER, OTHER RECOGNITION: National Register not as yet, but should be. Not to my knowledge on HAER.
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INVESTIGATION MADE BY: Alden W. Gould (Formerly of Wareham, Mass.)	DATE: <b>6/15/73</b>
ADDRESS: 12 Shady Crest Drive, Nashua, N.H. 03060	

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

IF AT ALL FEASIBLE, A PHOTOGRAPH SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE REVERSE SIDE. A SKETCH MAP OF THE SITE IN RELATION TO SURROUNDING AREA WOULD ALSO HELP.

American Canal Society