

REVISED JANUARY 1976

Not on pub's list

American Canal Society Canal Index

CANAL <b>BLODGETS (ORIGINAL) CANAL (Private Construction)</b>		STATUS Abandoned		ACS	
STATE/PROVINCE: <b>New Hampshire</b>				HAER	
COUNTIES: <b>HILLSBOROUGH</b>		ENLARGEMENTS 1 2 3 4	DATES IN USE <b>1807-1850s</b>	LENGTH CANAL SLACKWATER TOTAL <b>approx. 4000 ft.</b>	LIFT LOCKS No./ SIZE <b>4/82x10</b>
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): <b>Manchester: Amoskeag Dam on Merrimack River to river again below.</b>					
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: <b>MANCHESTER NORTH: 98710.63920</b> <b>MANCHESTER SOUTH: 98690.62900</b>					

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:**  
 Built for river boats to bypass the Amoskeag Falls, returning to the river about 3600-4000 ft below the dam. Canal locks rebuilt 1805-1807 with granite replacing the wooden locks. Isaac Riddle may have something to do with construction. Loammi Baldwin restored the lock structures. Height of traffic date about 1815-1840s.  
 The railroad came to the valley in 1842; after that date canal business declined gradually until its abandonment during the 1850s.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**  
 A private enterprise. Built by Samuel Blodget who was 70 years of age when construction started on May 1, 1793. This canal had 4 wooden locks originally, replaced by granite during the years 1805-07.  
 Built for the purpose of by-passing the dangerous Amoskeag Falls at Manchester (Derryfield in those days). This canal was part of the Merrimack River Navigation System from Concord, NH to Lowell, Mass.  
 Condition poor, except for the guard lock at the dam. The upper gate recess is sealed off; lower recess still intact. Built of granite.  
 (Note: All locks on river navigation closed in 1855.)

**NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:**  
 None that I know of, other than American Canal Society.

**BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:**  
 Yankee Magazine, Inc., Dublin, NH  
 State Library at Concord, NH  
 Manchester Historic Association, Manchester, NH

**UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):**  
 N.H. Historical Society, 30 Park Street, Concord, NH  
 Manchester Historic Assoc., 129 Amherst St., Manchester, NH

**EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):**  
 Doubtful, if ever due to condition and mill rights existing, etc.

**REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS:** Alden W. Gould, 12 Shady Crest Dr., Nashua, NH 03060 **DATE:** July 15  
**RETURN TO:** CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549