

(7 1/2 Quad maps used)

American Canal Society Canal Index

CANAL Amoskeag Mfg.Co.& Blodgets Canal		STATUS Combined for transportation from c.1837-8 to 1855.Then power(only.)		HAER
STATE/PROVINCE: New Hampshire				
COUNTIES: Hillsborough				
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Merrimack River at the upper level, to Amoskeag Dam & Merrimack River		ENLARGEMENTS		LIFT LOCKS No./ SIZE
TOPOX Manchester North 987100.639200		1837-38	Construction	82X10(4)
KX Manchester South 98760.61600		1838-40	About 6000 ft.?	82X10(4)
		1840-45	Extension to 7250	82X10(4)
		1845-55	Barge traffic ended	82X10(4)
		1855 to abandonment only	(lock)	82X10
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Work on a new stone(section) started at Amoskeag Falls in 1837 with guard locks and a flume 75 ft. wide. Solid masonry was used throughout. The above canal known as the LOWER CANAL was constructed along the route of Blodgets Orig.Canal until near the foot of Bridge St.Where it branched <del>and</del> towards the river into Blodgets Old Canal and the river under the Old Amoskeag Bridge.(Later rebuilt)then through locks to the Merrimack River, on the EAST SIDE.This STUB CANAL may have been several hundred ft.long, or less by various reports.One map dated 1850 appears to have been about 400 ft.long by rule measurement, a vast difference. After 1855 the canal supplied water for the Mill Complex ONLY. With the advent of electricity waterpower declined. The canal has been abandoned now for many years and is being filled in under redevelopment progress. Formerly served barge traffic from Concord-Lowell & the Middlesex Canal to Boston, Mass.(Combined) length of canal to river 7250 f.				
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:with extension beyond at south end of complex.				
In 1975 the canal was still more or less intact, through the entire Mill Complex in Manchester. Its heavy granite masonry walls still stand in very good condition. The mortar used between blocks is very difficult to remove. The only remaining lock today, is located at the Amoskeag Dam. It is built of cut granite blocks and appears to be in fine condition. Its north end is sealed off by concrete, but the lower gate recess is clear and without wooden gates. The present(gate house) of brick construction at the end of the 75 ft. flume is sealed off with concrete at the canal's lower level. It was understood that a lock was located here up until about 1855 or later when all transportation for barge traffic was discontinued on the river. From then on the canal became a(power canal)for mills on its west side ONLY.				
NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:				
There is no longer anything to preserve here, except one remaining lock which I believe is in(no danger)due to its location close to the dam.				
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:				
Yankee Magazine, Inc. Dublin, N.H. State Library at Concord, N.H. New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park Street, Concord, N.H. Manchester Historic Association, 129 Amherst St. Manchester, N.H.				
UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR,HAER,HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):				
More or less same as the above.				
EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):				
Very doubtful if ever, due to existing mill rights etc.				
REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Alden W. Gould, 12 Shady Crest Drive, Nashua, N.H.				JULY 1975
RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H.STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549				