

CANAL Chemung Canal and Feeder		STATUS Abandoned-close of navigation		1878	ACS	
STATE/PROVINCE: New York State and Feeder					HAER	
COUNTIES: Schuyler, Chemung, Steuben						
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Watkins to Elmira						
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS:						
		ENLARGEMENTS				
		DATES IN USE	CANAL	LENGTH SLACKWATER	TOTAL	LIFT LOCKS No./ SIZE
		1 1833	23		23	49 90x15
		2 Feeder				
		3 1833	16		16	3 90x15
		4				

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Construction of the Chemung Canal was authorized Apr. 15, 1829, commenced in the Spring, 1830 and completed and formally opened May, 1833. After formal opening a severe flood so damaged canal as to delay actual opening for navigation to Oct., 1833. Cost of construction of the canal and feeder \$314,395.51. Size of prism 42 and 26x4 ft., depth increased to 4½ ft. in 1863. Locks were wood, rebuilt twice; first with crib design; second cribs reinforced with piles, two locks rebuilt on composite plan. Tonnage of boats was 85-90.

Construction of the Feeder was authorized Apr. 15, 1829, commenced in the spring, 1830 and formally opened May, 1833. The feeder also suffered severe flood damage after formal opening so actual opening for navigation was Oct., 1833. All costs were included in the Chemung Canal items. The 1873 State Canal Report states it had 4 lift locks. There was one guard lock and the prism

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: was 41 and 26x4 ft. Locks were of wood.

The Chemung Canal commences at Watkins, in Schuyler County, at the head of Seneca Lake, into which it empties, and extends south to the city of Elmira, a distance of twenty-three miles. The summit level, which is reached at Horseheads, is 443½ feet above the level of Seneca Lake, and is attained through 44 locks, in a distance of about 17 miles, and is itself about 2 miles long, reaching to a point just beyond the village of Horseheads. Thence the canal descends about 48 feet, through 5 locks, a distance of about 4 miles, to within two miles of Elmira. The canal originally extended to the Chemung River, at Elmira, but the last 2 miles of it had been abandoned by 1877 and were no longer used. The canal now, in 1877, terminates in an open field, and is practically abandoned from this point to the summit level.

NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Whitford, Noble E.-History of the Canal System of the State of New York, Vol. II, 1905, cpywrt. 1906
Documents of the Assembly of the State of New York, Vol. III, Nos. 15-38, 1877

A navigable feeder, 16 miles in length, supplies this canal with water taken from the Chemung River, at Corning, by means of a dam across the river about 15 feet high and about 400 feet long, and discharged through it into the summit level at Horseheads.

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, NABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):
The waters of this canal are discharged into Seneca Lake, thence into the Cayuga and Seneca Canal and after passing under the Erie Canal, flow into the Oswego River. Hence this canal is in no sense a feeder to the Erie.

EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):

14571

REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Gerald Abendschein, 2132 Harris Road, Waterport, N.Y. **DATE:** Feb. 28/86

RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o T.K. Woods, 6939 Eastham Circle, Canton, Ohio 44708