

American Canal Society Canal Index

CANAL Georges River Canal	STATUS abandoned	ACS HAER																											
STATE/PROVINCE: Maine																													
COUNTIES: Knox																													
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Warren to Union, St. George River																													
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: Thomaston, W. Rockport, Union (1:24,000)																													
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2" style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">ENLARGEMENTS</th> <th rowspan="2">DATES IN USE</th> <th colspan="2">LENGTH</th> <th rowspan="2">LIFT LOCKS No. / SIZE</th> </tr> <tr> <th>CANAL</th> <th>SLACKWATER TOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		ENLARGEMENTS	DATES IN USE	LENGTH		LIFT LOCKS No. / SIZE	CANAL	SLACKWATER TOTAL	1					2					3					4				
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<p>In 1793, Charles Barrett of Ipswich, N.H. and one of the first settlers of Barrettsville, later Hope, Maine, secured a charter from the Massachusetts General Court to erect a canal system on the St. George River for transporting farm and forests products down river, and supplies for the settlers up river. He did succeed in opening a section from Round Pond (Union) to Warren (downstream), but became discouraged with such great expense involved that he sold his rights to Gen. Henry Knox (first Secretary of War under President George Washington) in 1795. Gen. Knox continued to build and improve the canal, but revenues were low, and the locks fell into disrepair and decay in 1802, and by his death in 1806, the system ceased to operate. The Georges River Co. re-opened the 28-mi. waterway in 1847, but changes in trading & population soon spelled its doom. The last boat went down the canal in 1850. (It should be noted that on December 25, 1847, a canal boat "General Knox" actually travelled all the way from Appleton to the ocean at Thomaston!).</p>																													
<p>PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: in 1850. (It should be noted that on December 25, 1847, a canal boat "General Knox" actually travelled all the way from Appleton to the ocean at Thomaston!).</p>																													
<p>On the 4-acre site in Warren owned by the Canal Association, there are remains of the three locks around the "upper falls" on the St. George River. One is in excellent conditions, one in moderate shape, and the third in ruin. Remains of towpaths, conduits, canals, and other portions of the working area are visible and identified by signs in the summertime. Located end of Powder Mill Rd, Warren and is in SW corner of W. Rockport topo & NW corner of Thomaston topo. (We will furnish additional and more specific data as we record it).</p>																													
NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION: Georges River Canal Association, Warren, Me. 04864 (Albert Overlock, President																													
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: "Annals of Warren", Cyrus Eaton "History of the Town of Union", John L. Sibley (1851, pp 112-113) "History of Thomaston, Rockland, and South Thomaston, Vol I", Cyrus Eaton (1865, pp 211-213, 411)																													
UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.): photos on file with Canal Association in Warren.																													
EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.): listed on National Register of Historic Sites																													
REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: C.P. Williamson, Jr, RFD #1, Box 28, Warren, Me 04864 DATE 3/17/74																													
RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549																													

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