

First Section

American Canal Society Canal Structure Inventory

Structure Griffins Falls & 1 lock		Canal Merrimack River Navigation	IHAER/CEHR Condition Fair
State/Province <u>N.H.</u> County <u>Hillsboro</u>		Designer(s) Presume-Isaac Riddle	
City/Town <u>Manchester</u>		Contractor/Builder Presume Union Locks & Canal Co.	
Street <u>South(end) of Riverdale Ave.</u>		Source of Material Local	
Associated Waterway <u>Merrimack River</u>		DATES OF CONSTRUCTION	
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP <u>Manchester South Quad</u>		Start <u>Before 1814</u>	Rebuilding ?
UTM Coordinates <u>298.3/4758.8</u>		Completion <u>By 1814</u>	Abandoned <u>By 1850's</u>
History & Use in Service; Use Since Abandonment: No use since abandoned.			
<p>This lock served as one of several on the river navigation between Concord, New Hampshire and (present day) Lowell, Mass. And the Middlesex Canal to Boston. The Falls at this site appear to be longer than at several other locations along the river. Approach to locksite is still down very steep embankments but not nearly as bad as most others. A road for approach to the lock must have been made years ago at two different angles, thus the drop to river level must have been about 50 ft. (perpendicular measurement) This lock is constructed in about the same manner as other river locks, altho' at this site I believe the drop was only slight perhaps 2 ft. or so.</p>			
Description (Visible Remains at Site): Location on the east side of river (above) #193 bridge (about 1 mile)			
<p>As usual at all river lock sites (except at Cromwells Lock) you do have to know what you are <u>looking for</u>. Bearing in mind also, the tremendous damage done to these sites over the 161 years during the spring season <u>ice floes</u>. These huge cakes of ice traveling at a fast speed cause terrific damage to slab granite lock chambers. Usually what remains is the lower foundation of the chamber, depending on their <u>location</u> in the river and the drop in elevation of the falls themselves at varies sites. At this site can be seen a section of one wall on the <u>land side</u>, (real close) so that can be stepped upon very carefully through the high brush. The outer wall appears to be <u>more or less rubble stonework</u>. Took a greater beating by its location.</p>			
Other works or events associated with site: (All locks on the Merrimack closed in 1855)			
None that I know of, or have learned from the river history as given.			
Its operation ceased as with all other locks shortly after the coming of the railroad to Manchester in 1842. The canal however, lasted awhile longer.			
Present Property Owners: <u>May be privately owned</u> Presume-State of New Hampshire		Location of Deed Description: <u>See left remark</u> Presume-State of New Hampshire	
Bibliography (Published, unpublished ass, maps, photographs):			
Manchester Historical Society <u>Ass.</u>		State Library-Concord, N.H. <u>Possible?</u>	
Concord Historical Society			
Agencies, Individuals Interested in Preservation/Restoration: Due to <u>conditions</u> and interest. None other than ACS.		National Register/CEHR, Other Recognition: Very doubtful!	
Investigation made by: Alden W. Gould (ACS)			Date: July 1975
Address: 12 Shady Crest Drive, Nashua, N.H. 03060			
RETURN TO: Peter Stott			

A sketch map or illustration of the site should be included on the reverse.