

American Canal Society Canal Index

CANAL Howe's Folly	STATUS Abandoned Unfinished																									
STATE/PROVINCE: Connecticut	ACS HAER																									
COUNTIES: New London	<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 style="text-align: center;">DATES IN USE</th> <th style="text-align: center;">LENGTH CANAL SLACKWATER</th> <th style="text-align: center;">TOTAL</th> <th style="text-align: center;">LIFT LOCKS No. / SIZE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1807</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">0?</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ENLARGEMENTS	DATES IN USE	LENGTH CANAL SLACKWATER	TOTAL	LIFT LOCKS No. / SIZE	1	1807			0?	2					3					4				
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	1	1807			0?																					
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LOCATION (Endpoints of canal): Probably at Taftville																										
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: Norwich 7 1/2'																										
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: Although this canal may not have been navigable, it is of canal engineering interest. The following quotation is from the 1871 Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers, pp.751-2, "Improvement of Thames River, Connecticut" by H.A. Judson, quoting the 1866 annual report: 'It seems that a canal was cut across a bend of the Shetucket River, about four miles above Norwich, intended as a water-power, but that, by some accident, the water was allowed to pass unobstructed through the canal until it became an uncontrollable current, and the effect of this was to carry off a large quantity of sand between the canal and the river, which was deposited in the Thames, immediately below Norwich, to the great injury of the river. The amount of sand carried away was very great, and I was informed the amount of it was estimated by Colonel Bache at a million of cubic yards.' This mass, I am told, came down during a heavy freshet on the 7th of February, 1807. The cut referred to is known as "Howe's Ditch" and "Howe's Folly," Howe being the name of the unfortunate man who thus immortalized himself... The Old pilots and others																										
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: familiar with the river, though they do not agree as regards many other points relating to the river, all agree in this story of "Howe's Ditch"...																										
NAME & ADDRESS OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:																										
TOPOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:																										
UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):																										
EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.): Need to determine location of Howe's Folly.																										
REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: W.E. Trout, III, 1932 Cinco Robles Drive, Duarte CA 91010																										
DATE: 24 Jan 83																										
RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o T.K.Woods, 6939 Eastham Circle, Canton, Ohio 44708																										