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| CANAL St. Marie Among The Hurons | | STATUS Abandoned June 14, 1649 | | ACS HAER |
| STATE/PROVINCE: Ontario, Canada | | DATES IN USE | | LIFT LOCKS No./ SIZE |
| COUNTIES: Simcoe | | CANAL SLACKWATER TOTAL | | |
| LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Located in the Fort | | ENLARGEMENTS | 1 1639 to 1649 | These locks were made for canoes |
| TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: Canadian Naviga. Chart # 2239 Lat. 44 degrees-39' N. Long. 79 degrees 50' West | | | 2 | |
| HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: In the early 1600s the French controlled what is now the Province of Ontario, Canada. The Hurons, a tribe of about 30,000, needed saving into Christianity, so thought the Priesthood of that day. A Fort was built on the Wye River near the present City of Midland. This Fort was built with a canal running into it and locks that would let canoes into the Fort (according to the archeology that is presented in its restoration). The reproduction is done very well. There is also an auditorium to present the case of the Fort to the Visitors. The reconstruction includes the canal and two guillotine type locks. This Fort was built in 1639. Due to the ferocious raids by the very strong Iroquois indians, by 1649 only 12,000 Hurons were left. Finally the Jesuits and the Hurons felt they could not stand these attacks any longer and planned to move. Rather than have this Fort fall into the hands of the Iroquois the Jesuits set it to the torch on June 14, 1649, including the wood canal structure. | | | 3 | |
| PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: Topog. map Orr Lake 31 D/ 12 West This Canal and area is strange and not very conclusive. The remains of the Fort were not sifted until 1941-43 and 1948-51, Reconstruction was not started until 1964. The Fort is built on the Wye River in such a way that today it is fine tourist attraction. There is a very nice road and a very good parking lot. The Wye River is at the Southeastern end of Lake Huron-Georgian Bay near Midland. For those who wish to come by their own boat use chart 2239. There are very good docks provided and a very nice picknic area. I have visited this Fort in 1967 and in 1974. I would like to see more historical proof that there was locks in this canal. No reports are in Rome or in Paris about this Canal which is very unusual. The Jesuits were most meticolus in their reports. | | | 4 | |
| NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION: The Government of The Province of Ontario, Canada | | | | |
| BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: A pamphlet St. Marie Among the Hurons may be had on this location. St. Marie, Midland, Ontario, Canada. Ministry of Natural Resources, Whitney Block, Queens Park Toronto, Ontario M7A 1X5 Dr. Wm A. Russell a very great help, also Professor J.N. Emerson of Toronto University Ontario, Canada a very great help. | | | | |
| UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HAAS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.): | | | | |
| EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.): The Government of Ontario, Canada has done a very nice reconstruction | | | | |
| REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: B.W. Morant 61 W. Bonita Sierra Madre, Ca 91024 April 10th 1975 | | | | |
| RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549 | | | | |

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