

American Canal Society Canal Structure Inventory

Structure Union Canal Tunnel		Canal Union Canal	HAER/CEHR X
State/Province <u>Pennsylvania</u> County <u>LEBANON</u>		Condition Good	
City/Town <u>Lebanon</u>		Designer(s) Canvass White (?)	
Street <u>nr. State Rte. 72</u>		Contractor/Builder Simeon Guilford of Lebanon	
Associated Waterway <u>none (summit level)</u>		Source of Material	
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP <u>LEBANON</u>		DATES OF CONSTRUCTION	
UTM Coordinates <u>18.375900, 4467340</u>		Start <u>1825</u>	Rebuilding <u>1853</u>
		Completion <u>1826</u>	Abandoned <u>1884</u>
History & Use in Service; Use Since Abandonment:			
<p>Second tunnel to be built in the U.S., and with the demise of the Schuylkill Navigation Tunnel in 1857, now the oldest tunnel. 729 feet in length, it was cut through solid rock using hand pick and shovel and crude blasting methods. It pierced the watershed ridge on the summit level of the Union Canal between Reading and Middletown. Boats were poled through the tunnel, while the mules climbed over the hill. Water supply for the canal was an engineering feat in itself. At Heilmandale, on Swatara Creek, was a dam and unique pumping station designed to furnish ample water at the summit level. "Below the dam were buildings housing two large water wheels attached to four large pumping engines which were operated by steam power. The machinery forced water from the dam to the top of the 90-foot hill through heavy cast-iron pipe. From here the water flowed through an</p>			
Description (Visible Remains at the site): aqueduct of brick and white pine staves to the canal summit. The underground sections were made of brick, and the sections above ground were constructed of white pine staves three inches thick. "The tunnel was shortened to 600 feet in 1853 when it was widened to take care of larger boats of about 50 tons."			
Other works or events associated with site:			
Present Property Owners:		Location of Deed Description:	
Lebanon County Historical Society			
Bibliography (Published, unpublished mss, maps, photographs):			
<p>Wm. H. Shank, <u>The Amazing Pennsylvania Canals</u>, pp. 6,10. Quoted material from a mimeographed sheet issued by the Lebanon (PA) Chamber of Commerce. Information on pumping station (additional) obtained from a former resident of Lebanon with whom the second reporter did jury duty in Colorado.</p>			
Agencies, Individuals Interested in Preservation/Restoration:		National Register/CEHR, Other Recognition:	
Lebanon County Historical Society		National Register, 10/1/74	
Investigation made by: Peter H. Stott, Haines Rd., Mt Kisco/NY 10549			Date:
Address: Herbert O'Hanlon, 1003 Fairplay St., Aurora, CO 80011			6/xii/75
RETURN TO:			

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