

CANAL WARREN COUNTY CANAL (Later known as Lebanon Branch, M & E Canal)		Ohio		(FOR ACS USE)	
STATUS Abandoned		DATES OF CONSTRUCTION & CLOSURE Const. 1833-1840. Aband. 1848			
LOCATION (ENDPOINTS OF CANAL) From the foot of Broadway St., Lebanon, to the Miami Canal, just above Lock 32, one mile south of Middletown.		LENGTH CANAL 20 SLACKWATER 0 TOTAL 20			
LIFT LOCKS	NBR. 6	DIMENSIONS LOCK CHAMBER 90' x 15' OVERALL		AQUEDUCTS NBR. 3 SECTION SIZE	TUNNELS 0
<p>DESCRIPTION: [Type of navigation, features of note (include USGS coordinates where useful); e.g., feeders (navigable &amp; otherwise), locks other than above, type of locks, use of unusual material or methods of construction, present owner, present use &amp; condition, etc.]</p> <p>The canal went down the Turtle Creek valley from Lebanon, thence west and down Muddy Creek to join the Miami Canal. The basin at Lebanon was the summit level. Locks were cut stone, the short aqueducts had wooden trunks. The prism was 26' at bottom, 40' at top and 4' deep. Two feeders, one from a pond on the East Fork of Turtle Creek, just above the basin and the other a reservoir on the hill a mile from the basin, on North Fork, supplied the 4 locks on the eastern end. A 3 mile feeder from the Miami Canal brought 1800' a minute into the canal just above the two lower locks. In spite of this adequate supply, the engineers dumped the flow of Shaker Run into the channel near the midway point. This caused endless trouble, each storm filled the canal with gravel and silt. There were no deep cuts and only small streams to be crossed.</p> <p>No structures remain, the stone was sold when the canal was abandoned. Only an occasional scar in the fields is evidence of the canal line.</p>					
<p>NAMES &amp; ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANAL'S PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:</p> <p>None Known.</p>					
REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: L. W. Richardson, Rt. 2, Box 346, Gainesville, Ga. 30501				DATE Aug. 22, 1973	
<p>HISTORICAL SUMMARY: [Original aims of company, date of incorporation, prominent engineers, cause of closure, significant alterations to structure or route, height of traffic date, transfers of ownership, etc.]</p> <p>When the route of the Miami Canal had been determined, the people of Lebanon, largest village between Dayton and Cincinnati, found that they had been by-passed. Agitation to correct the problem by a connecting canal, began in 1825 but it was 1830 before Judge George Kesling obtained a charter for the Warren County Canal Co. Money was scarce, it was 1833 before construction began. Two years and \$22,000 later, the Company was bankrupt and work ceased. In 1836, the State bought the canal for \$11,108 and digging resumed. It was completed in 1840 at a cost, to Company and State, of \$228,630. Poor design and construction caused many shut-downs and a major breach at Shaker Run in 1848, closed it permanently. In 1852, a State Engineer reported that it could be repaired for \$31,000 but nothing was done, in 1856 the entire property was sold for \$40,000 to John W. Corwin and R. H. Hendrickson. The fact was, Lebanon could not generate the traffic needed to keep the waterway in operation.</p>					
<p>BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: [Published works relating to Canal]</p> <p>THE WARREN COUNTY CANAL, L. W. Richardson. TOWPATHS, Vol. VI, Nos. 2 &amp; 3, 1968. THE WESTERN STAR, Lebanon, Various issues, 1836-1856. Library, Warren Co. Historical Society. REPORTS OF THE (Ohio) CANAL COMMISSIONERS. 1836-1856.</p>					
UNPUBLISHED RECORDS. LOCATION OF PHOTOS, DRAWINGS & IMPORTANT PERIODICAL REFERENCES					
NATIONAL REGISTER & HAER (HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD) STATUS:					
RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NEW YORK 10549					

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