Structure

2-Lock Combine (Lower Locks)

Roanoke Canal

Canal Condition Fair

Roanoke Rapids

State/Province North Carolina

County Halifax

City/Town Roanoke Rapids

Street Off NC #48 at Canal Plaque (East)

Associated Waterway Roanoke Canal

Designer(s) Claudius Crozet

Contractor/Builder Roanoke Navigation Co.

Source of Material Local

DATES OF CONSTRUCTION

Start 1821-1822

Completion ca. 1824

Abandoned Late 1800's

History & Use in Service; Use Since Abandonment:

This 2-lock combine completes the lock system in Roanoke Rapids. The lift in area from the lower locks at canal level to the upper canal level at the upper locks is 36 ft. The only remaining structures still intact within this section. The Roanoke Canal itself, was completed in 1823. But it was eleven years later before the necessary locks, one aqueduct and canal basins were completed and opened to navigation in the fall of 1834. This set of locks and others maintained the water level in the canal for many years after the barge transportation was over. Small mills and hydro-plants used water from the canal to drive their waterwheels up to nearly the turn of the century or later. Canal drained in 1912, thus ending its (industrial era)

Description (Visible Remains at the site):

This 2-lock combine known as the lower locks are located about 600-800 ft. east of the upper 2-lock combine and a short distance from NC #48 at the canal plaque. The area at this site is far different indeed, not the least bit attractive. It is badly grownup with trees and underbrush, and, the railroad tracks pass close to the structure. The terrain is in rough shape which makes walking more difficult. It is next to impossible to take a photo of the combine, or view it for that matter. Therefore, due to its location I feel that this combine is probably in fair condition. It was built of granite blocks, each lock end to end lengthwise. Each 100 ft. long, 16 ft. wide, with a lift of 9 ft. each lock. Lower lock of this set may be damaged or perhaps buried under R.R. tracks.

None that I know of, other than control of water in the canal that was used by small mills (east) to drive their waterwheels. Water was drained from the canal in 1912. Thus ending its industrial era.

Present Property Owners:

(Pronoun) Seaboard R.R.

Location of Deed Description:

Same

Bibliography (Published, unpublished ms, maps, photographs):

State of North Carolina, Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives & History, Mr. Larry Tise (Director) Raleigh, N.C. 27611

Seaboard R.R. Co. Roanoke Rapids, N.C. (Possible) 27870

Halifax County Bicentennial Commission, Halifax, N.C. 27839

Virginia Electric & Power Company, Roanoke Rapids, N.C. 27870

Agencies, Individuals Interested in Preservation/Restoration:

The American Canal Society

See above groups

National Register/LEHR, Other Recognition:

Some sections of this canal system are now being processed for the National Register of Historic Places by agencies of State of N. Carolina.

Investigation made by: Alden W. Gould

Address: 12 Shady Crest Drive, Nashua, N.H. 03060

Date: Jan, 1976

RETURN TO: Mr. Peter Stott

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