

CANAL Bean Shoals Canal		STATUS Abandoned			ACS		
STATE/PROVINCE: North Carolina					HAER		
COUNTIES: Surry		ENLARGEMENTS	L E N G T H		LIFT LOCKS No./ SIZE		
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): In Yadkin River Section of Pilot Mountain State Park			DATES IN USE	CANAL		SLACKWATER TOTAL	
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: Pinnacle NC			1 1820	2 mi. completed		1 complete?	
			2				
		3					
		4					

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

THE BEAN SHOALS CANAL was designed to bypass the major obstruction to batteau navigation on the upper Yadkin River between Wilkesboro and Salisbury. Under construction from 1820 to 1825 by the Yadkin Navigation Co., it was to be 3 mi. long with 3 wooden locks; but the construction of an extensive retaining wall between the canal and the river was so expensive that only 2 mi. of canal was completed. It is not known if the locks were ever constructed or the canal put into operation. In the 1890's a railway laid on the canal route drastically altered the site but enough of it remains to make it a major attraction in the

Yadkin River Section of Pilot Mountain State Park, and it will be nominated to the National Register. (Pilot Mountain is in the other section of the park, the two connected by a 5-mile trail. Camping facilities in this section are still being developed. Contact Park Superintendent, Pilot Mountain State Park, Rt.1, Box 13, Pinnacle N.C. 27043, (919)325-2355.)

To reach the canal take US 52 NW from Winston-Salem for 15 mi. to county road 1611; go L (SW) 0.7 mi. toward Tobaccoville, then R (W) on 1604 for 6.3 mi. to 2072; then L 2.2 mi. to the park. Take the park road to the end, overlooking the river and canal. UTM co-ordinates, 17.5455.40125, Pinnacle 7½' quad.; see also Siloam 7½' quad.

The retaining wall has been cleared of undergrowth and is quite impressive. There are several culverts used by the railway which could have been original canal culverts, but the area needs further study. A stone guard lock may still

be underground. The railway line through the park is still slightly active, making this park a good example of a mature attitude toward railways in public open space. Persons interested in the canal or river should join the Yadkin River Association, Government Center, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101.

From THE AMERICAN CANAL GUIDE Part 2, p.2 (1975)

NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:

Pilot Mountain State Park, Rt.1, Box 13, Pinnacle NC 27043

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:

See Annual Reports to the Board of Public Improvements

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):

The Yadkin River Navigation needs research and field work; probably almost all structures except Bean Shoals are now under reservoirs.

EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):

REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: **W.E. Trout, III, 1932 Cinco Robles Drive, Duarte CA 91010**

DATE **27Sept81**

R E T U R N T O : **CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H.STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549**