

AMERICAN CANAL SOCIETY CANAL STRUCTURE INVENTORY

Structure Blodgets Canal & Locks		Canal This was a private construction project	HAER/CEHR Condition Poor. Except Lock
State/Province <u>N.H.</u> County <u>Hillsborough</u>		Designer(s) <u>Hon. Samuel Blodget</u>	
City/Town <u>Manchester</u>		Contractor/Builder (See below)	
Street <u>East side of river (See below)</u>		Source of Material <u>Local</u>	
Associated Waterway <u>Merrimack River</u>		DATES OF CONSTRUCTION	
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP <u>MANCHESTER NORTH: 98730.64700</u> <u>MANCHESTER SOUTH: 98760.61600</u>		Start <u>1793</u>	Rebuilding <u>1805-1807</u>
UTM Coordinates		Completion <u>1807</u>	Abandoned <u>1850's/1855</u>
History & Use in Service; Use Since Abandonment (None)			
<p>This canal was a <u>private</u> construction project. Was considered to be <u>one</u> of the <u>greatest</u> internal improvements in the United States in that era. The Honorable Samuel Blodget at the age of 70, started construction of his canal on May 1, 1793. Beset with financial problems and structural details that were unforeseen, prevented completion in five years as planned. It was 14 years later when his project was completed and dedicated on July 1, 1807. This waterway was designed to overcome the dangerous Amoskeag Falls on the Merrimack River. The canal (about) 3600-4000 ft. long, with 4 locks of wood, replaced with granite (1805-1807). Provided safe passage for river boats to the river below. In 1814 river traffic was open from Concord to Lowell.</p>			
Description (Visible Remains at the site):			
<p>A new and larger canal was built on the east side of the river to supply water power for the new mills. The cutoff for this canal at the dam was in the same area as Blodgets <u>Original</u> Canal, which was <u>still</u> in operation. A new cutoff was made from the new canal, into Blodgets Canal to the river. In this manner, both canals were operational until the 1850's. Then the new canal for water power was on its own for many years into the late 1900's. This new canal was known by many as <u>still</u> Blodgets Canal, but actually part of the Amoskeag enterprise. The upper guard lock of the <u>original</u> canal can be seen at the dam. <u>Lower exit</u> of canal at the river can be located at rear of old mills about 3600-4000 ft. below the falls (or) dam. Not too easy to do!</p>			
Other works or events associated with site (Built by Judge Blodget to by-pass rapids) Here.			
Downriver and in the area of Granite St. Bridge (today) was Merrill's Falls and Canal. A diversion dam to divert more water to the east side of the river, via a granite wall in the river forming a <u>canal</u> between the wall and embankment on the land side. Can be seen when foliage is off trees (in Dec.)			
Present Property Owners:		Location of Deed Description	
<u>Rresume-Amoskeag Mills (Successors)</u>		<u>This canal about 1600 ft.)</u> <u>Same</u>	
Bibliography (Published, unpublished mss, maps, photographs):			
<p><u>N.H.</u> <u>Concord Historical Society</u> <u>Manchester Historical Society <i>Assn.</i></u> <u>State of New Hampshire Library at Concord, N.H.</u> <u>Presume other sources as well but unknown.</u></p>			
Agencies, Individuals Interested in Preservation/Restoration:		National Register/CEHR, Other Recognition:	
<u>None that I know of, other than ACS</u>		<u>Doubtful</u>	
Investigation made by: <u>Alden W. Gould (ACS)</u>			Date:
Address: <u>12 Shady Crest Drive, Nashua, N.H. 03060</u>			<u>July</u> <u>1975</u>
RETURN TO: <u>Peter Stott</u>			

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