CHENANGO CANAL

STATE/PROVINCE: New York
COUNTIES: Oneida, Madison, Chenango, Broome (Tioga)

LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal):
Utica to Binghamton; ext. to PA line

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: 1:250,000: UTICA, BINGHAMTON (ELMIRA)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:
In the year 1814 the connection of Central New York with the Susquehanna valley began to be talked of, either via Seneca Lake and the Chemung River, or from Utica via the Chenango Valley to the Susquehanna. The people of the Chenango Valley became insistent as the Erie neared completion, and in 1825 the Chenango scheme was among the 17 proposed laterals whose surveys was order in the "great canal bill." Building of the canal was authorized in 1833 from the Erie to Binghamton. Opened for navigation in the spring of 1837 at a cost of $2.3 million. Tolls collected in 40-year life only $750,000. Unfortunately all the locks were built of wood, requiring frequent repairs after 1845. Construction of the extension to the Penn. system not begun until 1863 and abandoned unfinished in 1871 after expense of $1.6 million. Wooden locks replaced with stone at intervals until 1871 but by then VRs had practically killed its business.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

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

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:
Harlow, Alvin C. Old Towpaths, pp. 150-1

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):

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

REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS:

RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT RISCO, NY 10549