Cultute Canal

ATL/PROVINC: Quebec, Canada

PHASE 1:

Renfrew

LOCATION (Headpoint of Canal): Center of Locks
88,350 m N, 30,800 m East

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP:
Sheet 31 F/14 East

SPECIAL FEATURES:

Some claim that this Cultute Canal System might lead from the
the Ottawa River site of these locks to Georgian Bay of Lake Huron. Some commercial
people were just thinking of the Ottawa River being made navigable. The Ottawa
Free Press of September 28, 1876 condemned them as "utterly useless". When the
Locks were finished some one had forgot to make the East side of the to-be Canal
navigable to Ottawa. Even before the locks were completed the Canadian Central
Railroad was finished. This was another factor that took the pressing need from
the locks. The railroad could run all year around and the locks would be frozen
in during the Winter.

The locks cost $235,600 according to one report. At a later
date the River East of the locks was made navigable for another $20,000. The first
steamship passed through the locks in 1886. Canal and locks started 1873, compleated 1876

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

There were two locks in tandem totaling 200 feet long and 45 feet
wide, with 50 feet of water over the sill. These locks were the largest wood
locks ever built, even larger than the first Welland Canal Locks, which were
also built of wood.

Some timbers are still remaining, but time has generally eroded
away at the wood parts so only skeleton parts remain, at this writing.

If this area could be dammed and dried up for awhile, a good
archaeological study could be made here about wood locks.

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

American Canal Society

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:

Newspaper, Citizen of Ottawa Saturday, July 3, 1971 article by
Brenda-Lee Whiting, Coneral Report of the Minister of Public Works 1887-1952
Appendix 43, (pp. 115-1157), Canals of Canada, booklet #8, 1971, (pp. 315-316)
Miss L. St. Louis and Mr. Lawrence Earl of the Archives of Canada were a great help.
P.W. Andrews, Chief of National Air Photo Library was a great help.

PUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):
The Archives of Canada has a great number of photos of this lock area

EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):
Possibly a metal historical marker if there is not one.

PORTER'S NAME: B.W. Morant 61
PORTER'S ADDRESS: Sierra Madro, Ca 91024
RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, C/0 P.H. STOUT, HAINES ROAD, MARSH ISLAND, NY 1549

DATE: March 27, 1975