

American Canal Society Canal Index

<p>CANAL: FOX CREEK CANAL</p> <p>STATE/PROVINCE: Massachusetts</p> <p>COUNTIES: Essex</p> <p>LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Plum Island Sound and Essex Bay</p> <p>TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: IPSWICH 19.353660.4726170</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">STATUS</td> <td style="text-align: center;">ACS</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td style="text-align: center;">HAER</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">DATES IN USE:</td> <td style="text-align: center;">L E N G T H</td> <td style="text-align: center;">LIFT LOCKS</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1820 -</td> <td style="text-align: center;">CANAL SLACKWATER TOTAL</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No. / SIZE</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1+ 1+</td> <td style="text-align: center;">none</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">ENLARGEMENTS</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	STATUS		ACS			HAER	DATES IN USE:	L E N G T H	LIFT LOCKS	1820 -	CANAL SLACKWATER TOTAL	No. / SIZE		1+ 1+	none	ENLARGEMENTS			1			2			3			4		
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<p>HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: One of several early connecting links between the shipbuilding yards of Essex and the Merrimack River, providing an inland route for timber from the upper Merrimack River. According to Harold Bowen, this is the "oldest man-made tidewater canal in the U.S." [What about the Cut, near Marshfield, MA?] According to other local authorities, Essex built more two-masted sailing vessels "than any other community in the world." Earliest efforts to effect a passage proposed in 1652, again in 1682, and in 1694, but it was not until 1820 that a company became incorporated for constructing a waterway from Ipswich to Essex across Castle Neck. Felt says it became navigable early in 1821 and cost about \$1100.</p>																															
<p>PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: Much silted in, but still passable to small craft (rowboats, canoes &c). Granite marker dedicated Sept. 1, 1976.</p>																															
<p>NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION: Harold D. Bowen, 3 Summer Street, Ipswich, MA 01938</p>																															
<p>BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Felt, <u>History of Ipswich, Essex, and Hamilton, Mass. Waters, Ipswich in the Massachusetts Bay Colony</u> IPSWICH TODAY, issues of 11 June 1976, 27 August 1976, 3 September 1976.</p>																															
<p>UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):</p>																															
<p>EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):</p>																															
<p>REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: STOTT from IPSWICH TODAY</p>																															
<p>DATE: 12/26/76</p>																															
<p>R E T U R N T O : CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H.STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549</p>																															