

American Canal Society Canal Structure Inventory

This is #1 copy; Copy #2 may be necessary after more research later;

Structure Garvins Falls-Site of 4 former locks		Canal Merrimack River Navigation	HAER/CEHR Condition Unknown
State/ XXXXXX N.H. County Merrimack		Designer(s) Presume-Bow Canal Co.(or) Middlesex Canal Company	
City/Town Bow, N.H. (Watch for sign)		Contractor/Builder Presume above	
Street Off route 3-A (towards river)		Source of Material Local	
Associated Waterway Merrimack River		PRESUMES OF CONSTRUCTION Start 1810-1812 Rebuilding Possible Completion By 1814 Abandoned By 1855 or earlier	
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP Concord (NH) Quad			
UTM Coordinates 295.9/4782.2 (Temporary at dam east)			
History & Use in Service; Use Since Abandonment: Served its purpose in river navigation between Concord, N.H. and present day Lowell, Mass. With a connection at Lowell via the Middlesex Canal to Boston. This area is the site of 4 locks on the <u>east side</u> of the river. But not readily accessible at this time of year due to heavy foliage. The canal and locks for the most part were cut through solid granite and well calculated for durability. Reports state that locks constructed cover about 3/4 of a mile in length. It is <u>not known</u> at this time whether that includes the canal where it cuts off <u>at the river</u> . It appears to me that its <u>total length</u> could be <u>over 3/4</u> of a mile. Further checking necessary later. One of the most important sites on the river navigation system up to 1850's			
Description (Visible Remains at the site): An exploration tour was made on 8/28/75. But due to heavy foliage nothing could be located. In this type of granite terrain I would doubt very much if any granite blocks <u>could be removed</u> from any locks. They might be filled in more or less with leave fall and dead trees over the 161-163 years where they are located in such a remote area. On our tour, we used the <u>abandoned railroad and trolley bed</u> as a road. Recommend using a jeep, not your own family car due to scratches. Suggest an ax and saw also, you may <u>need it!</u> This R.R. bed leads to the <u>abandoned R.R. Bridge abutment</u> on the east side of the river. We understood the canal cut-off from the river started about 300-400 ft. below(south) of structure. Believe me! This is not for everyone!!			
Other works or events associated with site: On the <u>west side</u> of the river an electric plant is located, built in 1902. Still in operation but with additions. A large dam is located here, with a perpendicular drop of 25 ft. The Boston & Maine R.R. tracks follow through <u>very close</u> to the river and this substation. An old wooden dam about 1/8 <u>of a mile</u> above the present dam was blown up, can be seen partly(low water)			
Present Property Owners: Presume Electric Power Company(today)		Location of Deed Description: Same	
Bibliography (Published, unpublished mss, maps, photographs): New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, N.H. Manchester Historic Association, Manchester, N.H. State Library, Concord, N.H. Public Library, Tyngsboro, Mass. American Canal Society. Presume others unknown at this time.			
Agencies, Individuals Interested in Preservation/Restoration: None that I know of, other than ACS		National Register/CEHR, Other Recognition: Very doubtful, if ever.	
Investigation made by: Allen W. Gould (ACS)			Date: August 1975
Address: 12 Shady Crest Drive, Nashua, N.H. 03060			
RETURN TO: Peter Stott			

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