

American Canal Society Canal Structure Inventory

This is report #1 *** Report #2 will follow if necessary later on.

Structure (Former) Hydro-Plant	Canal Roanoke Canal related	HAER/CEHR	
State/Province <u>N. Carolina</u> County <u>Halifax</u>	Designer(s) Unknown	Condition Fair	
City/Town <u>Weldon</u>	Contractor/Builder Roanoke Navigation & Water Power Company		
Street <u>Off-US #301(close to US #158)</u>	Source of Material Local		
Associated Waterway <u>Roanoke Canal</u>	DATES OF CONSTRUCTION		
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP	Start <u>Early 1880's?</u>	Rebuilding <u>Doubtful</u>	
UTM Coordinates <u>Maps not available</u>	Completion <u>Same</u>	When sold to the <u>Abandoned VE & PCo. ?</u>	

History & Use in Service; Use Since Abandonment: Served no other purpose since abandoned.
 This Hydro-Plant served the Weldon area for many years with electric power. Its only source of power was water drawn from the Roanoke Canal which ran directly along its west wall. In fact its take-off from the canal assured constant power, even under drought conditions, which closed down other mills not located on the canal banks. Its summit level had abundant supply at all times. The purpose of this massive structure was no longer needed when more modern facilities were built shortly after the turn of the century. Thus ending its industrial era, in which the Roanoke Canal played a very important part during the 1800's and up to its abandonment, either before the canal was drained in 1912, or, at that time.

Description (Visible Remains at the site):
 This massive structure still stands today, built of brick with granite foundations. Its water tube from the canal is still attached to foundation. Appears that a perpendicular drop to waterwheels was about 25-35 ft. below canal level(perhaps more). Discharge was into deep ravine at rear of the building. Whether waterwheels are still enclosed is not known at this time. Along the west side of this structure in 1834 were located (we believe) some of the (former) 6 wooden locks. And, possibly a canal basin. During expected highway bridge construction here and quite close to this Historic Structure there is a possibility during deep excavations that some of these (former) locks may be uncovered. Even though buried since about 1835-36 they could be in a remarkable state of preservation. However, we will know in 1976-77.

Other works or events associated with site:
 The North Carolina Department of Highways & Transportation have been duly notified and are interested, their contractors and departments Superintendants will be on the alert in case of discovery. The Mayor of Weldon will be notified as suggested, also "The Roanoke News" if photos should be taken for its "Historical Importance" to the Town of Weldon in the Bi-Centennial year.

Present Property Owners: Virginia Electric & Power Company	Location of Deed Description: Presume the same
--	--

Bibliography (Published, unpublished mss, maps, photographs):
 Virginia Electric & Power Company **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, Wilmington, N.C. (possible)
 Weldon Public Library
 Weldon Water Company
 "The Roanoke News" (Weldon)
 "The Roanoke Herald" (Roanoke Rapids)
 American Canal Society

Agencies, Individuals Interested in Preservation/Restoration: Due to its location and new bridge construction (proposed) <u>might change</u> its <u>status</u> in 1976. Later check on this	National Register/CEHR, Other Recognition: At the present time this remains with the NCD of Cultural Resources, Div. of Archives & History at Raleigh, N.C. (Larry Tise) Director
--	--

Investigation made by: Alden W. Gould (ACS)	Date: Feb. 1976
Address: 5558 Palm Beach Blvd. #114, Fort Myers, Florida 33905	

RETURN TO: **Peter Stott**

A sketch map or illustration of the site should be included on the reverse.
See report #2 for additional information