

American Canal Society Canal Index

CANAL Leiper's Canal		STATUS Abandoned		ACS
STATE/PROVINCE: Pennsylvania				HAER
COUNTIES: Delaware County				
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Eddystone--Avondale				
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS:				
		ENLARGEMENTS		
		DATES IN USE	LENGTH CANAL SLACKWATER TOTAL	LIFT LOCKS No./ SIZE
		1 1829-52	Total--one mile	five
		2		
		3		
		4		

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Leiper's Canal built 1829, replaced the first railroad built in Pennsylvania (1809) and the second constructed in the United States. Leiper's Canal operated for 23 years along the valley of Crum Creek in Delaware County, Pennsylvania.

Crum Creek is located 10 miles south of Philadelphia. Mouth of Crum Creek is on the Delaware River at Eddystone.

The canal was a private undertaking by George C. Leiper, Esq. to transport stone from his quarries on Crum Creek downstream to Leiperville. The canal also furnished industrial water for mills located downstream.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Size of the canal is lacking. Lock capacity limited to "Flat-bottomed boats of eight-ton capacity...used for hauling the stone."
Four dams and five locks were used for navigation that included slack-water navigation and an artificial canal bed.

Two locks still remained in 1943; they were named William Strickland Lock and Elizabeth Leiper Lock.

Lower part of canal now filled in; upper part used as race to convey water to the mill at Leiperville. (1943)

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

None

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:

The History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania (Ashmead, Philadelphia 1884)

Trains magazine, February 1943, Vol. 3, No. 4. Kalmbach Publishing Co. Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):

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

REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Herbert O'Hanlon, Aurora, Colorado 80011 DATE: 2/18/74

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

1005 FAIRPLAY ST.

ack
3/5/74