

American Canal Society Canal Structure Inventory

Structure <b>MARSHALL TUNNEL</b>		Canal <b>James River &amp; Kanawha</b>	HAER/CEHR Condition
State/Province <u>Virginia</u> County <u>BOTETOURT</u>		Designer(s)	
City/Town <u>Saltpetre Cave</u>		Contractor/Builder	
Street _____		Source of Material	
Associated Waterway <u>James River</u>		DATES OF CONSTRUCTION	
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP <u>SALISBURY</u>		Start <u>1853</u>	Rebuilding _____
UTM Coordinates NW: <u>17.609410.4161670</u> SE: <u>17.609850.4161300</u>		Completion <u>UNFINISHED</u>	Abandoned <u>1856</u>
<p>History &amp; Use in Service; Use Since Abandonment:                  The tunnel is part of a 15-mile unfinished extension of the JR&amp;K above Buchanan, VA, begun in 1853 and abandoned in 1856 because of lack of funds. This abandonment was at the time considered only temporary. The 15-mile section included two canal tunnels -- one completed (Mason) and one incomplete (Marshall). The Marshall Tunnel was to have been 1900 feet long. The east portal is approached by a 500-foot cut; the east heading is 450 feet in length with a 100-foot filled-in shaft halfway across the ridge. From the west portal, a heading 200 feet in length was excavated with another shaft to the surface. Over a dozen drills, two shovel heads and an awl were found in the east heading. The drills were piled on a heap of broken rock and covered with soil as if for drainage and preservation. Boards placed for wheelbarrow runways are still at the face. It would appear that at the time of abandonment</p>			
<p>Description (Visible Remains at the site): the tunnel, which is through limestone, and without timbering, hit a pocket of clay, and this was being carried away. The west heading has a spring which keeps the floor covered with one or two feet of cold water, which has preserved a number of timbers, two swivel dump carts, and a section of tramway rail used by the carts. An oil wick miners lamp was found in this heading, as well as a piece of fuse calcified by water dripping from the limestone walls. The bed of one of the carts, 6x5½ feet in area, with side boards one foot high was removed from the tunnel and soaked in polyethylene glycol. Some checking has occurred after 5 years. It is hoped that someday the rest can be preserved and a complete canal dumpcart reassembled. Because of the fragile nature of the archeological remains in the tunnel, the owners have asked that no visitors be allowed without written permission from the writer. Others have been turned away. Great potential for further study.</p>			
Other works or events associated with site:			
Present Property Owners:		Location of Deed Description:	
<p>Bibliography (Published, unpublished mss, maps, photographs):                  Alexander Brown, <u>Virginia Cavalcade</u> (Spring 1973).</p>			
Agencies, Individuals Interested in Preservation/Restoration:		National Register/CEHR, Other Recognition:	
		National Register being considered for one-mile section including tunnel.	
Investigation made by: Address: <b>William E. Trout, III</b> <b>1932 Cinco Robles Drive, Duarte, California 91010</b>			Date: <b>26 May 1973</b>
RETURN TO:			

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