

American Canal Society Canal Structure Inventory

Structure MASON TUNNEL		Canal James River & Kanawha	HAER/CEHR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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>		D A T E S O F C O N S T R U C T I O N		
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP <u>BUCHANAN</u>		Start <u>1853</u>	Rebuilding <u>1881</u>	
UTM Coordinates <u>17.610800.4159700</u>		Completion _____	Abandoned <u>in use</u>	
History & Use in Service; Use Since Abandonment: <p>The tunnel is part of a 15-mile unfinished extension of the JR&K above Buchanan, VA, begun in 1853 and abandoned in 1856 because of lack of funds. The 15-mile section included two canal tunnels -- one completed (the Mason) and one incomplete (the Marshall). The 192-foot long Mason Tunnel was enlarged in 1881 by the Richmond and Allegheny Railroad when they placed their bed along the JR&K towpath, and along most of the unfinished route (bypassing the unfinished Marshall tunnel). The railway is now the Chesapeake & Ohio and the tunnel still in use.</p>				
Description (Visible Remains at the site): 				
Other works or events associated with site: 				
Present Property Owners:		Location of Deed Description:		
Bibliography (Published, unpublished mss, maps, photographs): 				
Agencies, Individuals Interested in Preservation/Restoration:		National Register/CEHR, Other Recognition:		
Investigation made by: Address: William E. Trout, III 1932 Cinco Robles Drive, Duarte, CA 91010			Date: 26 May 1975	
RETURN TO:				

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