

American Canal Society Canal Structure Inventory

Structure <b>Mine Falls Park</b>		Canal Nashua Mfg. Co. Former Power Canal	HAER/CEHR Condition <b>Excellent</b>
State/Province <u>N.H.</u> County <u>Hillsborough</u>		Designer(s) <b>James F. Baldwin</b>	
City/Town <u>Nashua, N.H.</u>		Contractor/Builder <b>Same</b>	
Street <u>See below</u>		Source of Material <b>Local</b>	
Associated Waterway <u>Nashua River</u>		DATES OF CONSTRUCTION	
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP _____		Start <u>c. 1824</u>	Rebuilding <u>c. 1886 ?</u>
UTM Coordinates _____		Completion <u>1824-25</u>	Abandoned <u>Approx. 1919</u>
<p>History &amp; Use in Service; Use Since Abandonment:          Built for the purpose of water supply for power at the Nashua Mfg. Co. mills in downtown Nashua. In the early days all mills operated with water wheels of one type or another. This site for power canal location was the result of two surveys proposed. Its location extended west from the City of Nashua (then only the Town of Dunstable) to the Nashua River Rapids about 3 miles west and in virgin territory. At this point a dam was built which was to divert the river but at the same time raising the water level of the Nashua River. On the south side of the dam a gate control was constructed to regulate flow of water into canal which was from 33-36 ft. higher than the river which descended rapidly from Mine Falls Dam. Millpond &amp; Canal are combined as total, canal starts at end of millpond, ends at mill yards.</p> <p>Description (Visible Remains at the site):          This site covers an area of 300 acres from end point to endpoint. It is about 3 miles long. Original canal was 36 ft. wide, 6 1/2 ft. deep. Enlargement was to 60 ft. wide, 8 ft. deep. With a drop in elevation of 33-36 ft. at the mill sites. This Mill Pond and Canal are in excellent condition today. A service road follows its entire length on its north side, and still in use by the caretaker for access to Mine Falls Dam and gate house. Also for use of bicycles and hikers for many years. Site is located right in the City of Nashua, very remote in a way, takes you back to the 1800's. A most unusual historical artifact of a past era. Since abandoned, it served for water processing. This area is not located on any street. Only by access route.</p>			
<p>Other works or events associated with site:          This entire 300 acres has now been purchased by the City of Nashua for a park. Now under development in 6 stages I believe. This will be greatly diversified, picnic areas, bicycling, hiking, boating &amp; canoeing with ice skating in winter. Access bridges over river &amp; canal to service road, boat ramp, and suggested canoe rental house. The finest park in N.E. States, when</p>			
Present Property Owners: <b>The City of Nashua, N.H.</b>		Location of Deed Description: <i>by its type</i> (Completed) <b>Presume same</b>	
<p>Bibliography (Published, unpublished mss, maps, photographs):          Nashua Public Library, Nashua, N.H.          Nashua Historical Society, Nashua, N.H.</p> <p>Both of above well informed (Historically)</p>			
Agencies, Individuals Interested in Preservation/Restoration: Recreational departments of the City of Nashua. The New Hampshire Foundation, address not known at present		National Register/CEHR, Other Recognition:  <b>Doubtful as yet</b>	
Investigation made by: <b>Alden W. Gould (ACS)</b>			Date:
Address: <b>12 Shady Crest Drive, Nashua, N.H. 03060</b>			<b>9/27/75</b>
RETURN TO: <b>Peter Stott</b>			

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

SEE MAP ATTACHED *See this page*