

American Canal Society Canal Index

CANAL: Mouscochuck Canal		STATUS: Abandoned		ACS																									
STATE/PROVINCE: Rhode Island				HAER																									
COUNTIES: Barrington																													
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Brickyard Pond to Narraganset Bay		ENLARGEMENTS	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>DATES IN USE</th> <th>CANAL</th> <th>LENGTH SLACKWATER</th> <th>TOTAL</th> <th>LIFT LOCKS No./ SIZE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 1848-1930's?</td> <td>1</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1/?</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	DATES IN USE	CANAL	LENGTH SLACKWATER	TOTAL	LIFT LOCKS No./ SIZE	1 1848-1930's?	1			1/?	2.					3					4					
DATES IN USE	CANAL		LENGTH SLACKWATER	TOTAL	LIFT LOCKS No./ SIZE																								
1 1848-1930's?	1				1/?																								
2.																													
3																													
4																													
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: Bristol RI 19.305210.4622280-19.304710.4622700																													

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

All of the information on this sheet including the quote below is from RHODE ISLAND: AN INVENTORY OF HISTORIC ENGINEERING & INDUSTRIAL SITES, Gary Kulik, ed., HAER, USGPO, 1978, pp.31-32.

The Mouscochuck Canal was a mile-long waterway and towpath formed from a natural creek by workers of the Nayatt Brick Company. The brickyard opened beside the blue clay deposits of Barrington in 1848. Soon barges were traveling from the mouth on the upper Narragansett Bay. The company built a lock at the mouth to handle tidal levels but later moved it further inland with a deep channel to the bay. Nothing remains of either lock today. Wooden pilings stand along the channel, and bricks litter the beach, but the canal looks much like a creek again. The remains of two barges are said to rest in its bed, and Brickyard Pond covers other artifacts of the manufacturing days. Reincorporated in 1864 as the Nayatt Brick Company, the first brickyard produced an estimated 1,500,000,000 bricks by 1890. In that year, the New England Steam Brick Company built a nearby facility and by

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

1897, owned both brickyards, a rail spur, and its own narrow gauge railroad. In the early 20th century, rail transport replaced the canal. Rum-runners made some use of it during prohibition, and it has outlasted the brickyards which were demolished in the 1940's.

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

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:

BARRINGTON: TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY, Barrington, 1970
 Thomas Bicknell, A HISTORY OF BARRINGTON RHODE ISLAND, 1898
 Interviews with Joseph DeAngeles, James Bianco, Nicholas Gizzarelli, Louis Azza, all of Barrington.

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

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

Retyped on ACS form by

REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: W.E. Trout, III, 1932 Cinco Robles Drive, Duarte CA 91010 DATE: 21 Jan 82

RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o T.K.Woods, 6939 Eastham Circle, Canton, Ohio 44708