CANAL: Newmarket Canal

STATE/PROVINCE: Ontario, Canada

COUNTIES: York

LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal):
From Newmarket to Holland Landing

TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS:
30D/4 East Alliston
30D/3 West Newmarket

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:
This Canal would have been on the East Branch of the East Holland River that comes into Lake Simcoe from the Southwest. The Holland River is shown quite well on Canadian Navigation chart 2022-sheet number 1. Holland Landing is a peninsula of the canal is mentioned but is off the chart. One must use the above mentioned topography maps to see the full way of the Canal on the Holland River from Holland Landing to the Town of Newmarket. Started in 1906 the Canal was expected to be finished in June 1907. Three locks were put in place, but never any gates. The first lock was at the Town of Newmarket, the second was North about 1½ miles and the next lock was at Holland Landing. This is a total of about 4 miles. From Holland landing the part of the River with out locks to Lake Simcoe is nine miles. Most of the nine miles is still navigable and bouyed. At the end of this nine miles you will have to walk or row to Holland Landing to see one of the old locks. I have been told that there still is masonry of the three locks.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:
There now exists three masonry locks. There are no gates on the locks for they were never installed and as far as we know the gates were never manufactured.

In the book History of the Town of Newmarket there is mention of this Canal route by General Surveyor Smith in 1800.

In as much as the mouth of this Canal would have been in the Southwestern part of Lake Simcoe, if the Canal has been completed, it could have been part of the Trent-Severn Canal System as the Trent-Severn Canal System uses the Eastern part of Lake Simcoe for its route.

NAME & ADDRESS OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANAL PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:
York Pioneer and Historical Society, 97 Hannaford St., Toronto, Ont., Canada M4E 3B8
American Canal Society, 539 2nd Ave., New York, N.Y. 10003

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:
York Pioneer and Historical Society, 97 Hannaford St., Toronto, Ont., Canada M4E 3R8
Mr. Louise Boyd was very helpful. History of the Town of Newmarket P272
Simcoe County Archives, R.R. No. 2, Minesing, Ont. Canada LOL T2O
Mr. Peter P. Moran was very helpful

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):

EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):
A marker and paragraph of history

REPORTER’S NAME & ADDRESS: B.W. Morant 61 W. Monita Sierra Madre, CA 91024

RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o F.H. STOTT, HAYES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549

DATE: March 7, 1975