

This is report #1 \*\*\* Number 2 report will follow if necessary.

American Canal Society Canal Index

CANAL (Area report) Roanoke Canal (R.Rapids-Weldon)		STATUS (For transportation 1st) Abandoned industry by 1912		ACS
STATE/PROVINCE: North Carolina		In use		HAER
COUNTIES: Halifax		Canal	LENGTH SLACK/WATER	LIFT LOCKS
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Above-Roanoke Rapids to Weldon Basin.		c.1823-65?	9	9
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: Maps not available		1834-1835	Wooden locks	4-100X16
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The Roanoke Canal construction was underway from 1819-1823 when completed. However, this does not mean the canal was ready for transportation as a waterway for batteaus and barges. It was not until 11 years later when all of its locks and one aqueduct were completed and ready for traffic. It is quite possible that some sections of the waterway might have been in use for a limited distance, even before all locks were complete and ready for navigation in 1834. This canal was designed to overcome the dangerous falls on the Roanoke River just above (present day) "City of Roanoke Rapids". Then to more or less follow the route of the river from Roanoke Rapids via 2-sets of 2-lock combines, then via the canal with high embankments and a towpath to the Weldon Aqueduct (the only one) then still east into downtown Weldon for a drop in elevation of 51ft. via (6 wooden locks to Canal Basin close to river		EMBRACEMENTS	*****	*****
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (Canal drained 1912) (former) The area above Roanoke Rapids is now inundated. The following sites are still standing today- The upper 2-lock combine in Roanoke Rapids is in very good condition. (attractive site) With a former hydro-plant attached to lock. At the lower lock of the upper locks was a former canal basin, now leveled. This lock and canal basin are now dry beds. Basin area kept well mowed. At NC #48 is a Canal Plaque which stands over the route of the canal from the upper locks to the lower locks, a distance of several hundred feet. The condition of this second 2-lock combine is far different. Very difficult to view due to trees and underbrush, no photos could be taken. Lower lock of this 2-lock combine damaged or buried under R.R. tracks that pass through. Not attractive! Area accessible, but rough ground. Consider this unseen lock as being (only) fair at its best. Aqueduct next, then (former) 6 wood locks and		PRESUME granite locks abandoned shortly after the Civil War, about 1865-69?		
NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION: Weldon Basin. N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources, Div. of Archives & History, Raleigh, N.C. 27611 -- American Canal Society, P.O. Box #842, Shepherdstown, WV 25443				
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: The Weldon Aqueduct on this canal is one, if not the finest structure of its type in the United States today. 110 ft. long, with a single arch of 30 ft. between abutments, built of heavy granite blocks and in perfect condition. Exact location of former 6 wooden locks is not known for certain, excavation for new bridge abutments may possibly uncover some of these locks or parts thereof in 1976. The N.C. Department of Highways & Transportation will be on the alert for this (possible discovery). Mayor of Weldon to be notified.				
UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.): N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources, Div. of Archives & History, Raleigh, N.C. 27611 Halifax County Bi-Centennial Commission, Halifax, N.C. 27839 U.S.A. Corps of Engineers (Wilmington Dist.) Wilmington, N.C. 28401 (possible)				
EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.): This 9 mile canal and its several structures are now under consideration for the National Register. At present it is not known just how much of the system will be included eventually by the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives & History, Raleigh, N.C. 27611				
REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Alden W. Gould, 12 Shady Crest Dr. Nashua, N.H. 03060				DATE: 10/76
RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549				

*See report #2 for additional information*