

This is report #2 on the Roanoke Canal. Report #3 may follow

American Canal Society Canal Index

CANAL Roanoke Canal (Area report) (R.Rapids-Weldon)		STATUS Abandoned		ACS
STATE/PROVINCE: North Carolina				HAER
COUNTIES: Halifax		D A T E S I N U S E		L I F T L O C K S
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Above-Roanoke Rapids to Weldon		c. 1823-65?		No. / SIZE
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS: Maps not available		1 ***		4 100X16
		2 1834-35 (6) Wooden locks		121 1/2 X 18
		3		
		4		

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: See Canal Index report #1 for details; This report for recent additions. These were from a new source of information.

In 1812 the N.C. Legislature chartered the Roanoke Navigation Company to clear the river from the Virginia Line to tidewater at Weldon. The Weldon Basin was connected to the Roanoke River for a brief period in 1832-1834. The former 6 wooden locks at Weldon could be seen as late as the year 1889. (See N.C. Geological & Economics Survey #2 Bulletin #8). Original plans for two spans of 30 ft. each at the aqueduct were dropped, final plans for one span of 30 ft. With huge abutments. And built of granite throughout. General Assembly granted permission to discontinue service in 1859. Revived during the Civil War. General Assembly of 1874-75 passed an act to dissolve the Roanoke Navigation Co. In March 1875 was in the ~~hands~~ hands of receivership. All canal property was sold to new owners under the name of the Roanoke Navigation & Water Power Co. Their charter granted on March 2, 1885. To provide waterpower only for the industrial era that followed. In 1890 work started by widening the canal, repairing its canal banks & locks, building headgates and slight work on the aqueduct. Later, a successor to that company the Roanoke River Development Company took over, parts of the canal had filled with silt & debris. But the 2-sets of double locks at Roanoke Rapids, the aqueduct and the Weldon Basin were retained until abandoned.

The complete system for Navigation, later for Power, has been abandoned now for many years. Altho' its 9 miles of canal contains some of the most impressive industrial & engineering sites in the State of North Carolina.

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

See Canal Index Form #1.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:

See Canal Index Form #1

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):

See Canal Index Form #1

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

See Canal Index Form #1

REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Alden W. Gould, 12 Shady Crest Dr. Nashua, N.H. 03060

DATE 3/3/76

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