

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Pennsylvania Canal Guard Lock and Feeder Dam, Raystown Branch

other name/site number: Raystown Branch Feeder Canal

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2. Location

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street & number: 2.5 mi. east of Huntingdon, south of Route 22, on
the Juniata River

city/town: *Henderson*
~~Springfield~~ Township

not for publication: N/A

vicinity: N/A

state: PA county: Huntingdon. code: 061

zip code: 16652

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Structure

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	_____	0 Total
1		
1		

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Industrial Resources of
Huntingdon County

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Transportation

Sub: Water-Related

Current : Vacant/Not In Use

Sub:

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

other

Other Description: feeder canal lock and dam

Materials: foundation stone roof N/A
walls stone other N/A
soil

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) :

Areas of Significance: Engineering
290 Transportation
Historic Non-Aboriginal

Period(s) of Significance: 1831-1870c -

Significant Dates : 1831c

Years of Alterations:

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Pennsylvania Canal
Wickwire, Uriah
Dearmond, Rodearmel and Company

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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 9. Major Bibliographical References
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See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # PA 061.066

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: State Archives, Harrisburg, PA

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 10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property: 2

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	18	247855	4482060	B	18	248835	4481190
C	18	248890	4481130	D	18	247770	4482030

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

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 11. Form Prepared By
 =====

Name/Title: Deborah L. Suciú - Historic Preservation Specialist

Organization: PHMC - BHP

Date: September 1989

Street & Number: Box 1026 State Museum

Telephone: (717) 783-5700

City or Town: Harrisburg

State: PA ZIP: 17108-1000

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Canal Feeder Lock Page #2

DESCRIPTION OF APPEARANCE:

The ruins of the original Raystown Dam, the Raystown Guard Lock and feeder canal remain at this location on the Juniata River just below its junction with the Raystown Branch, two miles east of the Borough of Huntingdon. The feeder canal and the guard lock run parallel to the Juniata River.

The guard lock was constructed in 1831. Two 90-foot-long parallel walls, eight feet high and 15 feet apart, of block-shaped stones in varied sizes, remain at the site of this lock on the northeast bank of the river. Vertical indentations at two to three-foot intervals along the entire length of the walls mark where vertical timbers were inset into the stonework for attaching the horizontal planking which lined the walls and the floor of the lock. A considerable length (about 90 feet) of stone retaining wall also survives along the river at this point, forming, in effect, the backside of the outer lock wall and protecting the narrow bank between the river and the lock from erosion. Some deterioration has occurred to lock and the retaining wall due to the effects of weather and water. Some stones have fallen, hardware has rusted or been removed, and fill has accumulated in the lock and canal bed, however, the resource is readily identified. The canal bed and lock generally holds water during periods of local flooding. A recent log and timber footbridge stretches across the lock.

Extending from the backside of the outer or southern lock wall to an island in the middle of the Juniata River are the stone and earth remnants of the canal feeder dam which once stretched across the entire river using the island as part of the barrier. Timbers from the base of the log cribbing remain visible although submerged in the river bottom between the east bank and the island. Any cribbing that may remain between the west bank of the river and the island was not identified in this survey.

The feeder canal bed and the boundaries of this nomination continue from the east or downstream end of the lock where the stonework curves outward to an earthen channel which runs for 9/10ths of a mile. The tumbled remnants of stonework remain at the eastern terminus of this channel, where the feeder joined the canal proper.

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This stretch of land along the river and canal has retained its rural character although a series of land plots with corresponding houses abut eastern edge of the feeder canal bed right-of-way on the north west end of the district for about 1/4 mile.

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Section number 8

Canal Feeder Lock Page #2

Significance:

This resource is being nominated under Criteria A for its association with local transportation, C as a fine example of the engineering used on the Pennsylvania Canal in Huntingdon County, and D for its potential to yield information on the construction methods used on the Pennsylvania Canal in Huntingdon County.

When contracts were let on November 19, 1828, for sections of the Juniata Division of the Pennsylvania Canal between Lewistown and Huntingdon, Uriah Wickwire was named to build the Raystown Branch feeder and Dearmond, Rodearmel & Co., the Raystown Branch dam. The purpose of the dam and feeder was to maintain the proper water level in the canal between this point and Newton Hamilton to the east, where the next feeder dam was located. In addition to allowing water to enter the system, thus replacing that lost to evaporation and leaks, guard locks were closed to protect the canal from excess water during periods of high water. The feeder canal also supplied water to the canal during periods of drought of inadequate water supply.

The guard lock and feeder were also used to permit boats built on Standing Stone Creek to enter the canal system. A boat built on Standing Stone Creek for Hill and Mayland of Huntingdon entered the newly completed canal by this route on May 18, 1831, and was towed up to the town. Boats for D. Leech's packet line, made at a boatyard on Standing Stone Creek supervised by David and James Stevens, presumably entered the canal through the Raystown feeder. With the closing of the Pennsylvania Canal in the 1870's the feeder canal was abandoned. Since then the canal bed has accumulated debris and natural deterioration has occurred.

Observers of this site have commented on the great length of the canal bed, which presumably has to do with the elevation of the feeder dam in relation to the water level maintained in the canal. Joe Clark of Mount Union, who has walked and photographed the entire Juniata Division of the canal, calls this the best preserved canal remain in Huntingdon County. No other feeder canal locks or beds have been identified in Huntingdon County.

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Canal Feeder Lock

Section number 8 Page 3

The guard lock and feeder canal are significant under Criterion C as a rare example of the engineering used to construct the Pennsylvania Canal through Huntingdon County. Documentary sources at the Pennsylvania State Archives indicate that similar methods of engineering were used to construct canal beds and locks on the Pennsylvania Canal in Huntingdon County. The nominated structure is also significant under Criterion D for the information it can yield on construction methods used locally on the Pennsylvania Canal. In particular, the guard lock provides information on the stone construction, including the vertical indentations used to secure the plank walls and floor of the lock.

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Section number 9

Canal Feeder Lock Page #2

SOURCES:

Africa, J. Simpson. History of Huntingdon and Blair Counties, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1883), pp. 34, 334.

Clark, Joseph, Mount Union, Pa., local canal expert. Interview, 15 November 1988.

Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites, Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service (unpublished, 1988).

McCullough, Robert, and Leuba, Walter. The Pennsylvania Main Line Canal (York, PA: The American Canal and Transportation Center, 1973), pp. 37, 42-43, 46.

Shedd, Nancy S. HAER consultant 1988, President Huntingdon County Historical Society, interviews 1988-1989.

Webb, Dallas, Huntingdon, Pa., owner of the lock and the island in the Juniata. Interview, 23 November 1988.

Records of the Land Office, Canal Commissioners Records, Pennsylvania State Archives.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10

Canal Feeder Lock Page #2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary begins at a point 600 feet south of the intersection of township road 545 and Oneida Street, on the northwest edge of tax parcel #15-13-08.3. The boundary follows south along the eastern edge of tax parcel #15-13-13 which is the eastern edge of the feeder canal bed, and then continues along the eastern edge of the feeder canal bed southerly and then southeasterly for approximately 4800 feet. At that point the boundary turns north for about 100 feet then east for about 100 feet then south for about 200 feet to the northeastern bank of the Juniata River. From there the boundary turns and follows the riverbank north/northwest for about 4650 feet where it turns west for about 200 feet, then 50 feet north then 400 feet east to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundary includes the northern feeder canal lock, the remains of the dam from the lock to the island, the canal bed, and the remains of the lock on the southern end of the feeder canal. The boundary follows the edge of the canal bed and the northeastern bank of the Juniata River. All identified components associated with the feeder canal have been included in the boundaries.

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Canal Feeder Lock

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This nomination contains material taken directly from the unpublished report prepared in 1988 for the Historic American Engineering Record (see Bibliographical References).

The author of that report, Nancy Shedd, is a major contributor to the text of this nomination although not the preparer.

WATER STREET 10 MI.
100 MI 111 1/2 A. C.

STATE

H E N

JUNIATA

484

CABIN BRIDGE
HUNTINGDON CO.
MOUNT UNION QUAD
ZONE 12
E 247020 N 4482280

483

27°30'

PACANAL LOCK & FEEDER
HUNTINGDON CO.
MOUNT UNION QUAD
ZONE 12

E 247855 N 4482060 A
248835 4481190 B
248890 448130 C
247770 4480030 D

482

481

5 1/4" LINE
(HUNTINGDON)

JUNIATA

480

RAISTOWN

Garin

BRANCH

Mountains

