

American Canal Society Canal Index

CANAL CHAMBLY CANAL		STATUS Operational		ACS					
STATE/PROVINCE: Province of Quebec				HAER					
COUNTIES: Chambly		ENLARGEMENTS	DATES IN USE		LENGTH		LIFT LOCKS		
LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal):			CANAL	SLACKWATER	TOTAL	No./		SIZE	
TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS:			1						
			2						
		3							
		4							
<p>HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: The Chambly Canal was designed to bypass the treacherous rapids between St. Jean and Chambly on the Richelieu River to provide a commercial link between the St. Lawrence River and New York City via the Champlain Canal. Construction commenced in 1830 with funds provided by the Government of Lower Canada administered by a board of commissioners. The first phase of construction was supervised by engineer W H Hopkins until lack of funds stopped the work; the second phase, 1840-43, was mostly overseen by George Keefer. The 9 locks were reconstructed from the original all-masonry walls to timber topped with masonry during the 1880s. During this century, much replacement has been in concrete. Now administered by Parks Canada, it is the second oldest continuously operating canal in Canada.</p>									
<p>PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: The canal is 11.78 miles long, of which the southern (about) 7 miles is formed by an embankment and the shore of a long island along the west bank of the Richelieu River. The rest is an artificial cut across country to Chambly Basin. There are 9 locks, one of which is a guard lock, while the others give a combined lift of 74 feet. The lock chambers measure 24 by 120 feet. Most of the locks were modified somewhat in this century with the intrusion of concrete, but they generally reflect the locks as they were reconstructed in the 1880s. Three of the locks are combined at the entrance at Chambly Basin. Today Parks Canada is doing restoration and reconstruction work on the locks.</p>									
<p>Dates of construction 1830-1843. Designer Peter Flemming. Contractor/Builder S&S Andras and Lauder, Whitlaw & Tennant. Local and Ile La Motte, VT stone.</p>									
<p>NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS PRESERVATION/RESTORATION:</p>									
<p>Parks Canada, 400 Laurier Avenue ^{Ottawa} W., Ontario, Canada K1A 0H4</p>									
<p>BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:</p>									
<p>Sandra Gillis "A Structural history of the Locks, Chambly Canal" (Parks Canada, Research Division Ms Report, 1975) Chambly Centenary Committee, The Chambly Canal (Chambly 1943) Primary sources, photos in Public Archives of Canada and Parks Canada</p>									
<p>UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, HABS, Local or Regional Historical Societies, Libraries, etc.):</p>									
<p>(See bibliographical summary)</p>									
<p>EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):</p>									
<p>REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Sandra Gillis, Rm 111C, Parks Canada, 400 Laurier Ave W., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0H4</p>									
<p>R E T U R N T O : CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H.STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549</p>									
								DATE: 11 Aug 75	