

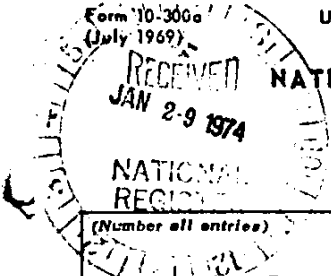
Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 13.

STATE	New Jersey	
COUNTY	Multiple	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
	OCT 1	1974



Morris Canal
New Jersey, Code: 34

8. Significance (cont.)

opposite Courtland Street, New York, industry and shipping were attracted to the town to such an extent and degree that the town suddenly became Jersey City. Like Newark, Jersey City also became a city and port of entry overnight. Its harbor facilities and geographical location then enabled Jersey City to rival New York.

As for New York, it is fair to state that with the canal's delivery of coal for industry, domestic use, and illumination, not to mention steam-powered vessels and locomotives, New York City was given incalculable impetus to industrial, commercial, and demographic supremacy.

The Morris Canal did not only help New York and New Jersey in their rapid rise to prosperity and prominence. Deliveries of Morris and Sussex County ores via the canal to various iron works located along the Lehigh River helped to bring into existence some of the nation's largest iron and steel manufacturers. One of those giants survives in the form of Bethlehem Steel, which, when it was receiving ores by means of the Morris Canal, was the Bethlehem Iron Company.

The Morris Canal and Banking Company began to fail soon after the Civil War. By the turn of the 20th century it was barely operating as a canal and in the 1920's it was disbanded and drained. Extensive development and use of the railroads were the main cause of the canal's decay. In short, the railway was so much more economical and convenient for transporting industrial materials.

Noteworthy, however, was the fact that the communities created by the Morris Canal were much too important to the industrial development of the east to be disregarded. Thus, the railroad constructed tracks nearly parallel to the canal, and, consequently, further insuring the canal's ruin.

The real significance of the Morris Canal lay in this historical background. Before the Appalachians had been overcome by rail; before the pneumatic tire; before petroleum; before bituminous-based coke for making steel; before the discovery of the Mesabi and Vermilion iron ore ranges; before Bessemer - there was Pennsylvania anthracite; there was New Jersey iron ore; and there was the Morris Canal - which in a very real sense helped make all else possible.