

American Canal Society 'Index

<p>CANAL NORTH BRANCH DIVISION, Pa. Canal System</p> <p>STATE/PROVINCE: Penna.</p> <p>COUNTIES: Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Luzerne, Wyoming, and Bradford</p> <p>LOCATION (Endpoints of Canal): Northumberland Canal Basin to NY State line, via WilkesBarre and Towanda</p> <p>TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS:</p>	<p>STATUS (Abandoned)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;"></td> <td style="width: 35%;">DATES IN USE</td> <td style="width: 20%;">CANAL</td> <td style="width: 15%;">SLACKWATER</td> <td style="width: 15%;">TOTAL</td> <td style="width: 20%;">LIFT LOCKS No. / SIZE</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="4" style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: small;">ENLARGEMENTS</td> <td>1 First 1831-1890</td> <td>#1</td> <td></td> <td>55</td> <td>43-17x90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 section 1856-1872</td> <td>#2</td> <td></td> <td>17</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 1831</td> <td></td> <td>→</td> <td>#3</td> <td>97</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 To State line 1856</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Total 169</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		DATES IN USE	CANAL	SLACKWATER	TOTAL	LIFT LOCKS No. / SIZE	ENLARGEMENTS	1 First 1831-1890	#1		55	43-17x90	2 section 1856-1872	#2		17		3 1831		→	#3	97	4 To State line 1856			Total 169	
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<p>HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:</p> <p>The North Branch of the Susquehanna Canal System commenced at the basin at Northumberland which united the Susquehanna, the North Branches and the West Branch. Including the outlet lock to the river at Northumberland, there were a total of nine locks on this section, of the standard 17 feet wide by 90 feet long type. The North Branch originally ran 55 miles to the feeder pool at Nanticoke Falls. Ground was broken at Berwick July 4, 1828 and the work on this section was completed in 1831. The important function of the North Branch was the supplying of coal to the entire Pennsylvania canal system south and west of Nanticoke, an important anthracite distribution point. Interesting features of the original North Branch Canal were: a sizeable aqueduct across Fishing Creek at Rupert, a weigh-lock at Beach Haven, and a dam across the river at Nanticoke.</p>																												
<p>PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:</p> <p>An 1834 project, known as The Wyoming Extension, carried the North Branch another 17 miles northeast, past Wilkes-Barre to Pittston. A further extension of the north branch division, from Pittston along the north branch of the Susquehanna River to Athens and the New York state line, was begun in 1836, and after several long interruptions, due to financial difficulties was finally placed in operation in 1856. This section went through a rather rugged portion of the state and over the entire route (169 miles) between Northumberland and the state line 43 locks were required to overcome 334 feet of elevation. Five river dams were built to provide stretches of slack water navigation, as well as water to feed the canal sections, 29 aqueducts were constructed, and 229 bridges were built to carry local roads over the canal.</p>																												
<p>NAMES & ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANALS</p> <p>Pa. Canal Society</p>																												
<p>BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY:</p> <p>"Amazing Pa. Canals" W. H. Shank, 1977</p>																												
<p>UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, PHOTOS, DRAWINGS (CEHR, HAER, etc.):</p>																												
<p>EXISTING OR RECOMMENDED LANDMARK STATUS (CEHR, National Register, etc.):</p>																												
<p>REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Wm. H. Shank, 809 Rathton Rd., York, Pa. 17403</p>																												
<p>DATE:</p>																												
<p>RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, c/o P.H. STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549</p>																												