

CANAL		PENNSYLVANIA WEST BRANCH CANAL		(FOR ACS USE)	
STATUS		Abandoned		DATES OF CONSTRUCTION & CLOSURE Built 1828-1835 Circa 1891	
LOCATION (ENDPOINTS OF CANAL)				LENGTH (miles)	
Northumberland to Farrandville				CANAL 70 SLACKWATER 3 TOTAL 73	
LIFT LOCKS	NBR.	DIMENSIONS		AQUEDUCTS	
		LOCK CHAMBER 17'	OVERALL about 90'	NBR. 15	SECTION SIZE
TUNNELS					
DESCRIPTION: (Type of navigation, features of note (include USGS coordinates where useful); e.g., feeders (navigable & otherwise), locks other than above, type of locks, use of unusual material or methods of construction, present owner, present use & condition, etc.)					
<p>The West Branch Division made connection with the Susquehanna Division and North Branch Division Canals at Northumberland's canal basin. There was an outlet lock to slackwater across the North Branch of the Susquehanna River, just east of the canal basin. A towpath on the downstream side of the old covered bridge brought boats from the west bank (Susquehanna Division). There was an outlet to the river, via locks #15 and #16, to make connection with Lewisburg (The Lewisburg "cross-Cut Canal") and a similar short connection to the heart of Muncy (The "Muncy Cut"). The 3-mile slackwater section was just south of Muncy. There was a short slackwater section across Loyalsock Creek at Montoursville, an outlet lock to the river in downtown Williamsport, and a guard lock and outlet lock into a short slackwater section opposite Lock Haven, with a connection to the Bald Eagle Navigation on the south side</p>					
<p>NAMES &amp; ADDRESSES OF GROUPS CONCERNED WITH CANAL'S PRESERVATION/RESTORATION: of the river at that point.          Pennsylvania Canal Society, Dick Mix, 338 Lincoln Avenue, Williamsport, Pa.          West Branch Canal Society (inactive) Dr. Sid Davis, Milton, 425 Broadway</p>					
REPORTER'S NAME & ADDRESS:					DATE
William H. Shank, 809 Rathton Rd. York, Pa. 17403					7/17/73
HISTORICAL SUMMARY: (Original aims of company, date of incorporation, prominent engineers, cause of closure, significant alterations to structure or route, height of traffic date, transfers of ownership, etc.)					
<p>The West Branch Division Canal was being built by the Pennsylvania Canal Commissioners at Harrisburg simultaneously with the Pennsylvania Main Line Canal and other state-owned connections to satisfy the tax-payers of upper central Pennsylvania that they were not being neglected in the state-wide canal program. It was hoped originally that this canal would make connection with the upper Allegheny River, but Farrandville was as far as the project was carried. The canal was a key factor in the development of the Pennsylvania lumbering regions in the vicinity of Williamsport, in the mid 1800's. The State of Pennsylvania sold the West Branch Canal to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad (a division of P.R.R.) in 1858. P.R.R. formed a division known as the Pennsylvania Canal Company, which continued to operate the canal for freight until about 1891.</p>					
BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: (Published works relating to Canal)					
<p>Pages 39 thru 41 "Amazing Pennsylvania Canals" W.H.Shank, 1965 Edition.          Pages 77-78 "The Pennsylvania Main Line Canal" McCullough &amp; Leuba, 1973 Edition</p>					
UNPUBLISHED RECORDS, LOCATION OF PHOTOS, DRAWINGS & IMPORTANT PERIODICAL REFERENCES					
<p>Detailed maps in the possession of Richard Mix of Williamsport, Dr. Sidney Davis of Milton and William Shank of York, Pa.</p>					
NATIONAL REGISTER & HAER (HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD) STATUS:					
RETURN TO: CANAL INDEX COMMITTEE, C/O P.H.STOTT, HAINES ROAD, MOUNT KISCO, NEW YORK 10549					

USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS AS NECESSARY.  
 TO MAKE AN INDEX CARD SUITABLE FOR FILING, CUT ALONG THE HEAVY LINES AND FOLD BACK ALONG THE DOTTED LINE.