APPENDIX L

WOOD CREEK CANAL
INFORMATION


Due to the site of preservation at this site, this location is one of the most historic places along the old inland transportation route. Construction of the Barge Canal in the early 20th century was the site of one of the original 13 that survived the still seen along the west side of Route 49 west of Rome.

Archaeological remains of the first of these historic waterways in North America can be seen. Some of the oldest artificial waterways in North America are located along the site of the original 13 canals. Across the necks of the westward-flowing Schenectady Short Canal, crossing the Mohawk River, to the junction of the Mohawk River and Otsego Lake to the west.

In 1792 a private canal company - The Western New York Navigation Company - was formed in New York State to improve this series of inland waterways from prehistoric times until the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825.

Historic Wood Creek: Canal Cut #1 - 1793

The Dunham Project: Fact Sheet for NSWM/DEC Field Trip - September 29, 1998

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM
In the 17th and 18th centuries, the Creek deep due to run-off produced by deforestation. The current modern channel has eroded to many feet deep, while the modern channel has eroded to many feet deep. The abandoned channel is only a couple feet deep. The old channel of Wood Creek in 1793, measured in each view.

An old aerial photograph from the 1930s (left) shows the relationship of this part of the creek to the old route. Another clue to the modern channel of Wood Creek is another clue to the modern channel of Wood Creek. Another clue to the

This historic "canal" on Wood Creek was recorded size of the natural Wood Creek channel. Thus the new "canal" would be flushed by nature. However, the next heavy rain or spring freeze, receded to run through this ditch By the 1793 survey, would erode the ditch to the normal old channel. While the little "canal" could be used for boats at this time, it was shallow and the banks were in danger of slumping.

First the meander to be cut was selected. Then the meanders along the line of the cut were cleared and the sumps dug up. The cuts were recorded during the summer of 1793 by travelers passing down Wood Creek. In maps or settlements existed. The technical consisted of three sides, the descriptions of which were discovered in eyewitness accounts.

These mini canals were created in an era when engineers like this was almost unheard of, and in a wilderness where no roads, it is