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ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL,
AUX SABLE CREEK AQUEDUCT
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor
Morris Vicinity
Grundy County
Illinois

HAER No. IL-47

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Location: I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor
I & M Canal crossing Aux Sable Creek
Aux Sable, Grundy County, Illinois

UTM: 16 E.388780 N.4583330
Quad: Minooka

Date of Construction: 1847; rebuilt 1927

Builder: Unknown

Present Owner: State of Illinois

Significance: The earliest Aqueduct at Aux Sable Creek, built as part of the I & M canal project, was a timber structure completed in 1847. This structure was replaced with the present riveted steel trough in 1927.

Project Information: The Illinois and Michigan Canal was designated a National Heritage Corridor in 1984. The following year HABS/HAER embarked on an extensive inventory and documentation project of the 100 mile-long corridor. Field work for this project was concluded in 1988. Final editing of the documentation was completed in 1992.

Historians: Gray Fitzsimons, David Kelliher, and Timothy Whittaker, 1986.

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Completed around 1847, this aqueduct originally consisted of a two-span, timber Howe truss resting on limestone piers and abutments. The original wooden aqueduct was replaced by the present steel structure in 1927-28. In 1948 the abutments and piers were strengthened by pumping mortar, fine sand, and cement into the interior of the structure. The towpath bridge was also rebuilt at this time, but was removed around 1960.

This aqueduct consists of a trough, constructed of riveted, steel plate girders, resting on ashlar limestone piers and abutments. The two-span structure has a total length of 136' and is 18' wide. South of the trough, a towpath of heavy timber construction was carried on the same piers and abutments that supported the aqueduct. This wooden structure was demolished many years ago.

SOURCES:

State of Illinois, Division of Waterways, Annual Report, for years 1925-26, 1926-27, 1947-48, and 1948-49.