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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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NOTE: Photographs taken by Jet Lowe, photographer, 1986

IL-47-1 SOUTH SIDE OF AQUEDUCT, LOOKING NORTH.

IL-47-2 VIEW OF AQUEDUCT, LOOKING NORTHEAST.

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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.